



Hartford Foundation

FOR PUBLIC GIVING

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**Request for Proposals
Resident Engagement Grants**

January 25, 2022

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving seeks proposals from nonprofits or community groups engaged in or planning efforts in support of local civic participation and change. This RFP complements our Community Organizing RFP which seeks to support change efforts led by people of color and/or people representing communities that have been traditionally marginalized or underrepresented. Information about that opportunity is available [here](#).

Requests can address issues such as the advancement of racial/social justice, increasing awareness of racial/social justice issues, housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons, or other issues as identified by the community. Scope of work considered could take place over the span of **one year or up to a 24-month period**. This is to acknowledge the shifting nature of community work. Grant awards will range from **\$1,000 - \$25,000**.

Deadline: March 8, 2022 - Click [here](#) to complete the application.

I. Background:

The Hartford Foundation seeks to create lasting solutions that result in vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities for all residents in Greater Hartford. To achieve this the Foundation seeks to advance equitable economic and social mobility and dismantle structural racism. For more information about the Foundation's current strategic priorities, please visit our website (<https://www.hfpg.org/index.php/what-we-do/our-strategic-commitment>).

The Foundation recognizes civic participation as one of the most impactful ways to create lasting and positive change in one's everyday life. Higher levels of civic trust, participation and engagement are correlated with both more equitable economic outcomes and many positive health outcomes, such as lower mortality rates and improved mental and physical health and lower crime rates¹.

Civic spaces where everyone participates or allow for decision-makers (e.g., local nonprofits and state and local government entities) to address societal problems more effectively and comprehensively, coming up with solutions that incorporate critical input from the people they serve. The Foundation recognizes the need for community members to assemble, lend collective resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge to improve overall quality of life locally.

¹ Abraham, M., Seaberry, C., Ankrah, J., Bourdillon, A., Davila, K., Finn, E., McGann, S., Nathan, A. (2019) Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2019. New Haven, CT: DataHaven. Pg 90.

II. Project Description:

The Foundation is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations or community groups with a fiscal sponsor to engage residents in efforts to increase local civic participation the local participation of and in support of community wide change for the benefit of residents in Greater Hartford. Resident engagement efforts might include activities such as: hosting community meetings, forums, conducting workshops, or retreats, informational outreach campaigns and volunteerism projects.

Efforts can focus on increasing racial/social justice issue awareness, increasing resident leadership on racial/social justice issues, increasing civic education/issue awareness. Projects can address issues such as housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons among other things.

Applications will be assessed against a rubric which is available [here](#).

III. Eligibility:

Applicant:

- Applications must be submitted by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Community groups can use an organization with a 501(c)(3) designation as a fiscal sponsor.
- A nonprofit or community group may only have one application under consideration at a time. Nonprofits, however, may serve as a fiscal agent for multiple projects.
- Must not be a current recipient of core support for community organizing programming from the Foundation.

Use of Funds:

Line items requested from the Foundation may include but are not limited to: materials, software or equipment, stipends for residents, payment for other professional services, organizational staffing and overhead. The Foundation will not support the hiring of new, permanent staffing with this funding opportunity.

Budget:

Grants will be awarded for work carried out from a year to a 24-month period and will range in size from **\$1,000** to **\$25,000**, dependent on the scope of work outlined in the project. **Few applications will be funded at the full \$25,000 level**, and the Foundation hopes to attract a variety of proposals at all levels of support.

IV. Impact and Reporting:

The Foundation is interested in understanding how nonprofit partners and community groups understand the impact of their work in communities. We are asking nonprofits and community groups to identify the intended outcomes of your project and how you will know if you make

progress toward or achieve those outcomes. If you are awarded a grant, we will work with you to confirm your intended outcomes and what information you can feasibly report that demonstrates your progress and impact. In addition to reporting on agreed outcomes at the end of the grant period, the Foundation will plan a follow up conversation to learn more about your experience both with your program and with us. If you are not sure how to identify intended outcomes or how to use the information you already collect to understand your progress or impact, please give the Foundation a call as you complete your application.

Some outcomes or indicators we have seen organizations report in the past have included:

- Number of residents participating in attendance at community conversations
- Number of residents participating in advocacy efforts
- Number of volunteers
- Description of volunteerism efforts and the positive effects of the volunteerism
- Examples of newly established or improved outreach, messaging, and public/social media campaigns
- Description of local improvements or policy changes or practices, at the municipal and state level due to efforts.

V. Anticipated Timeline:

January 25, 2022	RFP distribution
February 3, 2022 (10:00 a.m. EST)	Informational Session via Zoom
March 8, 2022 (11:59 p.m. EST)	Proposal submission deadline
April 2022	Grant awards announced

VI. Submission:

Click here to apply: <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/xmi7ex>

For support with your account or password for our online system, contact Grants Administration at GrantsAdministration@hfpg.org.

To discuss a project's potential fit, eligibility, or the content of the application, including assistance with identifying outcomes, contact Cierra Stancil, Senior Community Impact Officer, at cstancil@hfpg.org.