



Request for Proposals
Community Organizing Grants
January 25, 2022

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving seeks proposals from nonprofits or community groups conducting community organizing efforts led by people of color and/or people representing communities traditionally marginalized as they engage and activate residents locally for the purpose of more inclusive civic participation.

Successful proposals could support 1) community organizing efforts, broadly or around specific issue campaigns, 2) increasing community organizing group or organizational capacity, and/or 3) community organizing infrastructure to benefit the field in Greater Hartford.

The Foundation acknowledges that while residents frequently assemble to achieve shared community goals, community organizing as a practice has the additional goal of increasing the collective power and internal capacity of people of color and traditionally marginalized and/or underrepresented populations. This RFP will support organizations or community groups with a mission to increase power sharing between underserved communities and the institutions meant to serve them, for example, state or municipal governments.

Requests can address issues such as housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons, or other issues identified by community members with **preference given for efforts related to the advancement of racial justice**. 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, emergent, and responsive nature of community organizing work. Grant awards will range from **\$5,000 - \$60,000**.

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. The Foundation's broad strategic goals seek 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>).

II. Project Description:

The Foundation is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations or community groups with a fiscal sponsor for community organizing efforts, increasing community organizing group or organizational capacity, and/or community organizing infrastructure to benefit the field in Greater Hartford.

Community organizing efforts might include: conducting one on ones, information gathering and research meetings, hosting community meetings or forums, leadership training and supporting community members as they identify common problems, develop strategies to address them, and support for community members as they participate in civic activities including advocacy.

Funded requests could include but are not limited to efforts that increase racial/social justice issue awareness, increase civic education/issue awareness, increase community organizing organizational capacity (e.g., software, working with a consultant), increase resident leadership on racial/social justice issues, and/or increase community organizing network infrastructure to maximize effectiveness among multiple organizations. Examples of shared field infrastructure could include shared technology, meeting space or training providers/materials across groups in the Greater Hartford region.

Requests can address issues such as housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons or other issues as identified by community members. **Preference will be given for efforts related to the advancement of racial justice.**

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 a 501(c)(3) organization as a fiscal sponsor.
- Board of directors and staff must be reflective of the racial/ethnic diversity of the community members engaged. If not a 501(c)(3), community group leadership must be reflective of the racial/ethnic diversity of the population served.
- Nonprofits may serve as a fiscal agent for multiple projects.
- Applications can be submitted for projects that support more than one group or nonprofit.

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 **\$5,000 to \$60,000**, dependent on the scope of work outlined in the project. **Few applications will be funded at the full \$60,000 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 advocacy efforts
- Description of resident involvement and input to shaping organizing narratives, language, and dialogue
- Description and timeline of campaigns waged
- Degree of change in resident awareness and/or perceived personal level of influence (self-report)
- Number of and/or description of relationships (e.g., government officials, community leaders), partnerships, collaborations, networks, strategic alliances established, expanded, or strengthened
- Examples of newly established or improved outreach, messaging, and public/social media campaigns
- Description of improvements or changes in policy and practices, at the municipal and/or state level due to organizing efforts
- Number and description of leadership trainings held.

V. Anticipated Timeline:

January 25, 2022	RFP distribution
February 1, 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/fcCDXq>

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 estancil@hfpg.org.