

Avon Community Fund
Request for Proposals
January 10, 2023

The Avon Greater Together Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity total of up to **\$50,000** for one or more nonprofits proposing projects to benefit the residents of Avon, with the overall goal to encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement. Grant requests cannot exceed the maximum amount available \$50,000 nor can they be for less than \$250. All interested applicants must complete the application here: www.hfpg.org/avoncf

Applications are due **Wednesday, March 1.**

I. Background:

In 2019, the [Hartford Foundation for Public Giving](http://www.hfpg.org) established \$100,000 community funds for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes the town of Avon. In 2022, the fund received another \$50,000 totaling an investment of \$150,000. The purpose of Avon's Community Fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in the town and encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement. In 2020, Avon's Community Fund Advisory Committee was selected. The list of current members is available [here](#).

This is the second call for proposals in Avon. The inaugural grant awards were distributed in July 2021 when six nonprofits were awarded in the aggregate a total of \$20,000 for programs and events that addressed a range of needs for Avon and its residents. See grantee proposals from 2021 [here](#).

In this second funding cycle, we have identified these key focal areas: Recreation, Environmental, Conservation, Mental Health, Human Needs, DEI, Addiction, LGBTQIA+ Support, and Career Assistance. All applications are welcome but these areas will be given particular and weighted consideration.

All applications will be viewed with a lens of encouraging broad and inclusive civic engagement in Avon by striving to reach as many diverse groups as possible.

II. Eligibility

Any nonprofit registered as a 501c3 organization that serves the residents of Avon is eligible to apply. Groups of town residents may prepare an application in partnership with a registered nonprofit that has agreed to serve as a fiscal agent for the proposed

project. Nonprofits do not need to be based in Avon. The Town of Avon may also serve as a fiscal agent for applicants. If a group of town residents has an idea for a project and needs help identifying a fiscal agent, please email the Advisory Committee at avontgetherfund@gmail.com.

Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. Civic organizations that do not have a 501c3 IRS designation are not eligible to apply.

The committee is hosting an information session on fiscal sponsorship on Wednesday, February 1 (time and location TBD). Please reach out to avontgetherfund@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

III. Proposal Requirements:

A grant from the Avon Community Fund must benefit residents of Avon. Project proposals must demonstrate the opportunity for all town residents to benefit without discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation or any other protected class. Projects do not necessarily need to benefit every town resident if the proposal can demonstrate why it addresses a need for a portion of the town's population and does not discriminate among residents who share that need.

Applicants will also need to:

- Submit a projected budget for the project, using the provided budget template
- Expend any awarded funds within one-year of the grant start date; and
- Report on how awarded funds were expended/applied

IV. Criteria for Consideration

Key considerations for grantmaking include but are not limited to the proposed project's:

- Alignment with the Avon Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee [mission and vision](#)
- Impact on the Town residents including the estimated number of individuals served or affected
- Sustainability including for how long will the project benefit/impact town residents and the project's longevity if funding is not continued
- Likelihood of success including does the applicant have a realistic plan for implementation and how will the applicant's experience or access to resources support the success of the project

- Estimated cost including the reasonableness of the expenses to achieve the expected impact or benefit. *Note that grant requests cannot exceed the maximum amount available \$50,000 nor can they be for less than \$250.*
- *Focus on one of the targeted focal areas: Recreation, Environmental, Conservation, Mental Health, Human Needs, DEI, Addiction, LGBTQIA+ Support, and Career Assistance. All applications are welcome but these areas will be given particular and weighted consideration.*

V. Additional Information

Background: Committee members conducted a town-wide survey in April 2022 to identify what was important to Avon residents.

The full survey report out is available [here](#) to help guide you in the types of projects the Advisory Committee may be looking to fund.

For all inquiries: Please email the Advisory Committee at avontgetherfund@gmail.com with questions at any time.

Proposals should complete all required questions of the application: Each applying organization may only submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is **March 1, 2023**.

VI. Key Dates

Release of Request for Proposals: **January 10, 2023**

Community Brainstorming Session: **January 25, 2023**

Information Session on Application Completion & Fiscal Sponsorship: **February 1, 2023**

Applications Due: **March 1, 2023**

Committee Grant Award Decisions Due: **March 31, 2023**

Expected Grant Start Date: **April 15, 2023**

Report on Fund Expenditures/Usage: **April 15, 2024***

*Grant awardees are expected to expend the funds within a year of the grant start date. The Advisory Committee would like an update on how the funds are being used in April 2024.

Please Note: Additional information may be requested on the submitted applications. The Advisory Committee may have questions or seek clarification on the proposed project through supplemental communication including through:

- phone/video conferences;
- brief presentations or
- site visits, as feasible *Grant awardees are expected to expend the funds within a year of the grant start date. The Advisory Committee would like an update on how the funds are being used in April 2024.