

## Operating Support for Small Nonprofits Grant Opportunity

### Overview:

The Hartford Foundation's [Nonprofit Support Program \(NSP\)](#) provides comprehensive resources that help nonprofit leaders think strategically, manage, and govern effectively, and connect with other leaders.

Small, emergent, and/or all-volunteer nonprofit organizations often express unique needs as they develop their infrastructure, programs, and strive to be sustainable and thrive. Having this understanding, NSP has intentionally developed offerings to small nonprofit organizations in Greater Hartford **with annual revenues under \$300,000** that considers where an organization is in their development – supports and offerings are contextual, flexible, and allows leaders and teams to learn and grow in their roles. Operating support grants is one type of support offered to small nonprofit organizations. For more information, [visit here](#).

### Opportunity:

This operating support opportunity offers **up to \$15,000 over a two-year period** to support an organization's stability and institutional strengthening, as outlined in its organizational strategic plans and goals. Organizations must have an established record of service to their communities and meet eligibility criteria of the Foundation. While funding can be used at the organization's discretion, it is highly encouraged that organizations strategically allocate funding towards operational/organizational strengthening needs.

Grant amount is based on, but not limited to, a.) the % of services/work in the foundation's funding region, b.) the impact of this grant on the organization's functional areas, c.) other resources an organization may have for capacity building needs, and d.) fiscal sponsor administrative fees, if applicable. Most grants **will not** be awarded the full amount of \$15,000.

**Note:** This operating support opportunity is distinct and separate from any other grantmaking process at the foundation. If you are a current grantee and have any questions about applying for this opportunity, please contact your current assigned officer.

### Eligibility:

- Must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or a fiscally sponsored organization by a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
- Must have annual revenues of under \$300,000.
- Must have established record of service within communities in the Greater Hartford region.

- Must provide evidence of organizational planning (annual goals, work plan, strategic plan, or another document)
- Preference will be given to organizations whose mission and work aligns with the [strategic priorities of the Foundation](#).

### Process:

1. Organization reviews opportunity description with leadership and key stakeholders. **Important discussions to prepare for the application process and decide if this opportunity is a good fit include:**
  - a. Do we qualify for this opportunity (see eligibility criteria)?
  - b. How does our mission and work align with the [strategic priorities of the Foundation](#)?
  - c. Do we have organizational goals in place for the next 1-3 years?
    - i. Is stability and institutional strengthening part of these goals?
    - ii. Do we have the capacity to implement our goals?
  - d. Given this opportunity is over a two-year period, what are our current needs and when is the best time to apply for this opportunity?
  - e. What will be the impact for our organization in receiving an operating support grant?
2. Organization contacts Lucas Codognolla, Senior Community Impact Officer, at [LCodognolla@hfp.org](mailto:LCodognolla@hfp.org) to discuss interest and opportunity – If organization deemed eligible to apply, intake will be made, and application is opened to the organization. **Note:** at this stage, grant amount will be discussed and decided upon.
3. Organization fills out application using the [HFPG grant portal](#) and submits supporting materials for review by NSP – [Please see application questions list here](#).
4. NSP reviews application. Our goal is to review and approve applications **within 6 weeks of submittal**. Organization is then notified of grant decision.
5. Once decision is made, organization is contacted by the Foundation's grant administration team to process grant award.

**For more information contact Lucas Codognolla, Senior Community Impact Officer, at [LCodognolla@hfp.org](mailto:LCodognolla@hfp.org)**