

Catalyst Endowment Fund
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Request for Proposals
July 2020

The Catalyst Endowment Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity for projects to improve outcomes for young women and girls of color (ages 5 to 18) in the Hartford region. The Fund welcomes requests **of up to \$28,500**.

The Hartford Foundation's Catalyst Endowment Fund is a giving circle of generous, civic-minded donors from the Greater Hartford area. Each year, members select a topic to discuss, with the goal of making one or more grants that will be *catalytic* in the 29-town region served by the Hartford Foundation. This year's topic is ***Let's Hear It For the Girls!*** By the end of October, members of the Catalyst Endowment Fund will announce awards. Projects should be completed within a year.

I. Topic:

In 2020, Catalyst members have had the opportunity to learn about some of the unique challenges facing young women and girls caused by trauma, racism, bias, and economic disadvantage. The intersectionality of race, poverty, and gender eliminates opportunities, preventing young women and girls in Greater Hartford from reaching their full potential. In recent months, the health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified deep and historic inequities, exacerbating the challenges many young women and girls confront.

Catalyst members seek to identify those gaps in services or programming that support young women and girls of color, ages 5-18. We want to leverage available funding to help these young women and girls do more than just survive, but rather to thrive, by overcoming obstacles and becoming tomorrow's leaders.

II. Application components:

Applicants are requested to complete the [online grant application](#) by **August 28, 2020**. The proposal requirements are listed below.

III. Proposal Requirements:

A grant from the Catalyst Endowment Fund will support programs that improve outcomes for young women and girls of color (ages 5 to 18) in Greater Hartford. Programs must specifically target young women and girls, predominately serving girls of color, ages 5-18. While we invite proposals that address **one or more** of the following components, the Foundation will rely on the expertise and experience of your agency to identify the highest need and the most effective method to support those young women and girls that face the greatest challenges to thrive.

- 1) **Leadership and empowerment**, including through civic education
- 2) **Academic Achievement and Enrichment**, including tutoring programs, early career and postsecondary education exposure, STEAM skills, etc.

- 3) **Lifelong health and well-being**, including both physical and mental health, trauma recovery, social and emotional support

Recognizing the value of positive role models in girls' lives, we welcome the inclusion of **mentoring as a strategy** across any and all of the program components outlined above.

Projects seeking support for school-based programs or that might supplant public funding will not be considered. Support for out-of-school time programs, such as after school or weekend programs, will be considered.

We encourage applicants to consider any adaptations to programming that might be required to comply with state and federal COVID-19 safety regulations, including how to include girls under conditions of remote participation, if necessary, and to incorporate flexibility in requests.

Criteria for Consideration:

- Organizations should have experience working with and an ability to connect with young women and girls facing the greatest barriers to success.
- To address the particular goal of the Catalyst Endowment Fund, your proposal should show how your project will be **catalytic**, promoting positive change for young women and girls, within the community you serve.
- Organizations are strongly encouraged to collaborate with other entities to achieve more effective outcomes and/or to leverage additional dollars.

An information session, via Zoom webinar, will be held on **August 4 at 1pm**. [Click here to register](#). Questions can also be directed to Megan Burke at mburke@hfgp.org or Betty Ann Grady at bagrady@hfgp.org. Any technical questions regarding completing the online application should be directed to Grants Administration (grantsadministration@hfgp.org).

Proposals should complete all required questions of the online application: Each agency is invited to submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is **Friday, August 28, 2020**.