

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Request for Proposals

August 2022

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity focused on supporting policy and advocacy activities (such as administrative advocacy, state legislative advocacy and municipal advocacy) aimed at preventing/addressing homelessness and creating pathways to more accessible, affordable, stable and higher quality housing for residents of color, low-income residents, and/or residents experiencing unique housing barriers (such as returning citizens). Proposals may be focused on advocacy at the state level and/or the Greater Hartford region. The Foundation welcomes requests of up to **\$25,000** for activities to be implemented over the course of the next year or sooner, particularly activities focused on the next legislative session in Winter/Spring 2023. Applicants are requested to complete the online grant application. **Grant applications are due on Friday, September 9th (11:59pm) and grant awards will be announced by end of October 2022. A virtual information session will be held on August 2nd at 11:00am, [please register](#) to join.**

I. Background:

Through its strategic plan focused on reducing racial, geographic, and income disparities, the Hartford Foundation seeks to increase the numbers of current Hartford residents living in higher opportunity neighborhoods. The Foundation believes this must be achieved both by increasing the opportunity level of Hartford neighborhoods through increased investment, and by increasing the agency of Hartford residents to choose to move to other higher opportunity areas throughout the Greater Hartford region.

While the homeless population has decreased in Connecticut, every day approximately 3,000 people still do not have a home of their own. In Hartford, 57 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Issues of homelessness are directly related to the availability, quality and stability of permanent affordable housing throughout the Greater Hartford region. An Urban Institute report estimated that Connecticut has an 86,000-unit gap in affordable housing just for very-low income households¹. Furthermore, affordable housing that exists is concentrated in CT's urban centers. Most affordable housing in the region is concentrated in the City of Hartford with relatively little affordable housing existing in the surrounding towns. While 38% of the housing stock in Hartford is affordable housing, 22 towns in the Foundation's 29-town funding region have less than 10%.² Statewide, 73% of Blacks and Latinos live in low and very low opportunity areas compared to 26% of Whites and 36% of Asians.³ Additionally, as reflected in the Commission in Equity and Opportunity's Reentry Working Group report, people of color are still disproportionately incarcerated relative to

¹ Urban Institute. Housing Connecticut's Future (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/housing-connecticuts-future-meeting-states-affordable-and-accessible-housing-needs>

² Connecticut State Department of Housing. Affordable Housing Appeals Listing. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOH/Final-Appeals-Summary-2018.pdf?la=en>

³ Out of Balance Report (2017). Retrieved from https://www.ctoca.org/outofbalance_summary

whites in Connecticut. As a result of this and ongoing discrimination in housing and employment, people of color in Connecticut experience high rates of homelessness and housing instability⁴.

This segregation of our community and disparity of outcomes by income and race/ethnicity was caused and exacerbated by a wide variety of structural barriers created by our state's history of redlining, as well as currently enforced local zoning codes and other land use laws, government subsidy programs and a variety of other factors. In order for the region to make progress in reversing this history of discrimination and segregation, systemic changes at the state and local level must be enacted.

II. Proposal Requirements:

Grants will fund activities to take place for up to one year, with a potential focus on the Winter/Spring 2023 legislative session. Grants may support advocacy around a variety of housing issues facing residents of color and low-income residents including, but not limited to, preventing and addressing homelessness, housing segregation, housing choice, housing quality, housing stability, reentry housing and pathways to more inclusive housing development. These efforts may include administrative lobbying, state- or municipal-level legislative and/or grassroots lobbying, as defined by Connecticut law. These efforts may also include resident and/or policymaker education through the creation of materials, forums, videos, etc. The Foundation does not support or oppose candidates for public office or make expenditures related to election ballots.

All proposals will be asked to describe to what extent activities are led/informed by resident voice, as well as the research basis for the proposed policy recommendations. Priority will be given to proposals that promote the leadership and voice of Hartford residents and residents who are persons of color.

- **Form of Support:** The Hartford Foundation is open to requests for support of up to \$25,000 that may include, but are not limited to: temporary staffing or stipends for volunteers, contracting for professional services, materials, marketing, costs for virtual or in-person convenings (as long as they are in compliance with all federal and state public health regulations), as well as indirect costs.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Nonprofits with a 501c3 designation engaged in eligible activities that are located in or provide significant services in the Greater Hartford region are eligible to apply. Community groups, including faith-based groups that do not have a 501c3 tax status, are encouraged to apply through a fiscal agent. Nonprofits that already receive multi-year core support through the Hartford Foundation may not be as competitive within this grant opportunity, unless the request is on behalf of, or in support of, a coalition or other group of residents/stakeholders engaged in policy/advocacy work (vs. a policy agenda identified and moved by the organization alone). Note that applicants that received a grant for policy/advocacy activities during the 2022 legislative session must have submitted a final report to be eligible for another award. If there are any questions around eligibility, please contact Foundation staff.

⁴ Commission in Equity and Opportunity's Reentry Working Group (2019). Hope for Success: Returning Home. <https://wp.cga.ct.gov/cwseo/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CEO-Report-Hope-for-Success-Returning-Home.pdf>

- **Expected Outcomes and/or Outputs:** Funded proposals will be asked to track and report on the outcomes of advocacy activities, as well as the following outputs (as applicable): 1) description of the type of activities conducted, 2) materials developed as part of advocacy and/or lobbying activities (if applicable), 3) number and demographics of stakeholders engaged (residents and/or policymakers), 4) frequency and type of engagement, and 5) qualitative reporting on feedback from residents and/or policy makers and action items identified.

We encourage applicants to consider any adaptations or costs that might be required to comply with state and federal COVID-19 safety regulations and to incorporate flexibility in requests.

Questions can be directed to Erika Frank, senior community impact officer, at efrank@hfpg.org. Any technical questions regarding completing the online application should be directed to Grants Administration at grantsadministration@hfpg.org.

Applicants should complete all required questions on the [online](#) application. Each agency is invited to submit one proposal. **Proposals must be received by 11:59 P.M. on September 9th, 2022.**