

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Request for Proposals

September 2020

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity designed to engage, educate and organize Greater Hartford residents on issues of housing segregation and pathways to more inclusive housing development in local communities. The Foundation welcomes requests of **\$2,500-\$25,000** for activities to be implemented over one year. Applicants are requested to complete the [online grant application](#) by **October 23**. Grants will be announced on or before **November 20**. The Foundation expects to award 5 to 8 grants of varying sizes depending on the scope of the requests received.

I. Background:

High opportunity neighborhoods are defined by a variety of factors including low unemployment, better performing schools, lower crime and greater availability of quality, affordable housing stock. Children growing up in high opportunity neighborhoods generally have better opportunities for [upward economic mobility](#), as well as better health outcomes and higher educational attainment. In Hartford, low-income, people of color are disproportionately facing the challenges of living in low opportunity neighborhoods which contributes to negative long-term educational, economic and health outcomes.

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.

According to a 2015 federal study of 21 states, Connecticut had the second highest concentration of affordable housing in high-poverty neighborhoods, behind only Mississippi¹. 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 Asians³. This segregation of our community 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.

¹ Multidisciplinary Research Team (MDRT) (2015). Effect of QAP Incentives on the Location of LIHTC Properties. [A report prepared for The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#).

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

There is currently a renewed focus on the critical role housing plays on the racial disparities plaguing our region and state. The key to successful change at the policy level will be the education of residents on the economic imperative of racial equity in housing, the history of housing segregation and the current housing needs of local communities, including both urban and suburban towns.

II. **Proposal Requirements:**

Grants will fund activities over one year that support the engagement, education and/or organizing of Greater Hartford residents on issues of housing segregation, housing choice, housing quality, and pathways to more inclusive housing development in their local communities. The Foundation does not fund legislative lobbying and does not support or oppose candidates for public office or make expenditures related to election ballots.

- **Target Populations and Activities:** Activities to be conducted in the proposal may target any one of the following populations:
 - Residents of towns within the Hartford Foundation’s funding region with less than 10% affordable housing including: Andover, Avon, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hebron, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, or Windsor Locks. The proposal should outline activities to support educating and/or organizing residents around issues of housing segregation and pathways to more inclusive housing development in their local communities.
 - Residents of Hartford. The proposal should outline activities to support educating and/or organizing residents around issues of housing quality and neighborhood investment in the City of Hartford.
 - Residents who are persons of color throughout the region. The proposal should outline activities to support educating and/or organizing residents around issues of housing affordability, quality, and choice.

All proposals will be asked to describe to what extent activities are resident led and/or informed. Priority will be given to proposals that promote the leadership of Hartford residents and residents who are persons of color.

- **Form of Support:** The Hartford Foundation is open to requests for support of resident led efforts in individual towns (\$2,500 – \$5,000) that may include, but are not limited to, stipends for volunteers, contracting professional speakers or other professional services, materials, marketing, or costs for virtual or in-person convenings (as long as they are in compliance with all federal and state public health regulations).

The Hartford Foundation is also open to requests from nonprofits for projects that support resident led efforts in multiple towns (up to \$25,000) that may include, but are not limited to, staffing, contracting for services, materials, marketing, or costs for virtual or in-person convenings (as long as they are in compliance with all federal and state public health regulations).

- **Eligible Applicants:** All 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.

- **Expected Outputs:** Funded proposals will be asked to track and report on the following outputs: 1) educational content created (if applicable), 2) number of residents engaged, 3) frequency and type of engagement, 4) qualitative reporting on feedback and/or action items identified by residents.
- **Learning Opportunities:** Funded organizations may be asked to participate in up to two remote learning opportunities focused on sharing local resources and best practices.

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 at efrank@hfp.org. Any technical questions regarding completing the online application should be directed to Grants Administration at grantsadministration@hfp.org.

Applicants should complete all required questions on the [online application](#). Each agency is invited to submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is end of day (11:59 p.m.) **Friday, October 23, 2020.**