

**Canton's Greater Together Community Fund
Request for Proposals
February 1, 2023**

Canton's Greater Together Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity offering a total of up to \$30,000 for nonprofits proposing projects to benefit the residents of Canton. Applications are due **March 15**. Fillable applications may be downloaded from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Canton Community Fund page at www.hfpg.org/cantoncf. Completed applications may be emailed to CommunityFundCantonCT@gmail.com or dropped off at a dedicated collection box at the Canton Public Library.

I. Background:

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established \$100,000 community funds for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes the town of Canton. The purpose of Canton's Community Fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in our town and encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement. In 2021, people who live and work in Canton selected, from a group of residents who volunteered to serve, Canton's Community Fund Advisory Committee. The list of current members is available at www.hfpg.org/cantoncf. The Fund made grants totaling \$25,500 in spring 2022. This is the second call for grant proposals in Canton.

II. Eligibility

Any nonprofit registered as a 501(c)(3) organization that serves the residents of Canton is eligible to apply. Nonprofits do not need to be based in Canton. Groups of town residents may prepare an application in partnership with a registered nonprofit that has agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for the proposed project. If a group of town residents has an idea for a project and needs help identifying a fiscal sponsor, please email the Advisory Committee at CommunityFundCantonCT@gmail.com.

Each organization or group may submit only one application. However, please note that a nonprofit may submit its own application AND serve as a fiscal sponsor for one or more separate projects as well.

Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. Civic organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) IRS designation are not eligible to apply without a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

III. Proposal Requirements:

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

Applicants will be asked to:

- **Describe why this project is needed.**

- Describe the expected benefit, both who will benefit and for how long.
- Describe why the applicant is well suited to implement this project.
- Explain what the project will cost. (A budget template is provided.)

Canton Community Fund's 2022 grantees also will be required to submit a report of how their grant funds were used in order to be eligible to apply for 2023 funding.

Please see the application at www.hfpg.org/cantoncf for the complete list of questions and requirements.

Projects must have a starting date of no sooner than June 1. Grant funds cannot be used for projects that have been completed already.

IV. Criteria for Consideration:

- The number of town residents to be impacted by the project.
- The sustainability of the project. (For how long will the project benefit/impact town residents?)
- Likelihood of success. (Does the organization or the group involved have a good plan for how to implement the project? Do they have experience or knowledge that makes success likely?)
- Does the cost seem reasonable for the expected impact or benefit? *Grant requests cannot exceed \$10,000 nor can they be for less than \$500.*

Please note that members of Canton's Community Fund Advisory Committee will follow the Fund's Conflict of Interest policy and recuse themselves from consideration of any project with which they have an affiliation.

V. Additional Information

Information session: An optional information session to answer any questions that potential applicants may have will be held on **February 9 at 7 p.m.** at the Canton Community Center.

Questions can be directed to CommunityFundCantonCT@gmail.com at any time.

Applicants should complete all required questions on the application, and submit additional materials as required. The deadline for proposals is **March 15.**

VI. Key Dates

Release of Request for Applications: Feb. 1

Information session: Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Canton Community Center

Applications Due: March 15 at 5 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted.

Expected Grant Start Date: June 1