



**Request for Proposals**  
**Resident Engagement Grants**  
April 8, 2025

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving seeks proposals from nonprofits or community groups engaged in or planning of efforts to increase local civic participation in support of community wide social and/or civic change for the benefit of residents in Greater Hartford. This RFP complements our Community Organizing RFP which seeks to support change efforts led by people of color and/or people representing communities that have been traditionally marginalized or underrepresented to increase power sharing between them and the institutions meant to serve them. Information about that opportunity is available [here](#).

Requests can address issues such as the advancement of racial/social justice, increasing awareness of racial/social justice issues, housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons, or other issues as identified by the community. Scope of work considered could take place over the course of **one year**. This is to acknowledge the shifting nature of community work. Grant awards will range from **\$1,000 - \$25,000**.

**Timing:** This opportunity is available from April 8, 2025 – September 9, 2025. The Foundation estimates applicants will know whether they receive a grant approximately 9 to 13 weeks from the date they submit their application.

I. **Background:**

The Hartford Foundation seeks to create lasting solutions that result in vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities for all residents in Greater Hartford. To achieve this the Foundation seeks to advance equitable economic and social mobility and contribute to the dismantling structural racism. For more information about the Foundation's current strategic priorities, please visit our website (<https://www.hfpg.org/index.php/what-we-do/our-strategic-commitment>).

The Foundation recognizes civic participation as one of the most impactful ways to create lasting and positive change in one's everyday life. Higher levels of civic trust, participation and engagement are correlated with both more equitable economic outcomes and many positive health

outcomes, such as lower mortality rates and improved mental and physical health and lower crime rates<sup>1</sup>.

The Foundation is looking to support civic spaces where people engage in mutual experiences that increase social issue awareness and promote allyship with marginalized communities. We recognize the need for community members to get together, lend collective resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge to improve overall quality of life locally.

## II. **Project Description:**

The Foundation is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations or community groups with a fiscal sponsor to engage residents in efforts to increase local civic participation in support of community wide social and/or civic change for the benefit of residents in Greater Hartford. Resident engagement efforts might include activities such as: hosting community meetings, bringing in experts for facilitated learning opportunities, forums, conducting workshops, retreats, informational outreach campaigns and volunteerism projects.

Efforts can focus on issues such as increasing racial/social justice issue awareness and increasing civic education/issue awareness. Projects can address issues such as housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons among other things. Click [here](#) for additional information on resident engagement.

Applications will be assessed against a rubric which is available [here](#).

## III. **Eligibility:**

### **Applicant:**

- Applications must be submitted by 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Community groups can work with an organization with a 501(c)(3) designation as a fiscal sponsor.
- A nonprofit or community group may only have one application under consideration at a time. Nonprofits, however, may serve as a fiscal agent for multiple projects.
- The Foundation does not consider the typical activities of professional networking groups and associations to be community organizing (e.g. professional networking, business-related skill building).
- We will not review an application if a nonprofit organization or community group currently has core or project support from the Foundation.
- We will not review an application of a nonprofit organization or community group that has already been awarded a grant during the 2025 Community Organizing or Resident Engagement earlier in the open and rolling period.

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<sup>1</sup> Abram, M., Seaberry, C., Ankra, J., Bourdillon, A., Davila K., Finn, E., McGann. S., Nathan, A. (2019) Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2019. New Haven, CT: DataHaven. Pg 90.

- Organizations and groups with applications denied for a Resident Engagement grant during the 2025 open process should contact Foundations staff before submitting another application to make sure the initial denial wasn't based on something you can't change.
- Organizations and groups denied for a 2025 Community Organizing grant are not eligible to apply for a 2025 Resident Engagement grant.

In addition, if your group or organization has an open grant through the following recently passed funding opportunities, contact your grant's Community Impact Officer before applying to this RFP:

- 2024 Community Organizing
- 2024 Resident Engagement

### **Use of Funds:**

Line items requested from the Foundation may include but are not limited to: materials, software or equipment, stipends for residents, payment for professional services, organizational staffing and overhead. The Foundation will not support the hiring of new, permanent staffing with this funding opportunity.

Please note, should the proposed project involve activities some deem political, be aware public charities (all 501c3 nonprofits) can engage in mobilization activities provided that these activities are conducted in a nonpartisan manner that is not biased in favor or against any particular candidate or political party. Foundation funds cannot be used to support activities that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring or providing a benefit to a candidate, group of candidates, or political party.

### **Budget:**

Grants will be awarded for work carried out over the course of a year and will range in size from **\$1,000 to \$25,000**, dependent on the scope of work outlined in the project. **Few applications will be funded at the full \$25,000 level**, and the Foundation hopes to attract a variety of proposals at all levels of support.

### IV. **Impact and Reporting:**

The Foundation is interested in understanding how nonprofit partners and community groups see the impact they are making in their communities. As you complete the Foundation's application you will be asked to identify the outcomes you intend to accomplish throughout your grant. We will also ask you how you will know you are making progress toward those outcomes. Our preference is that groups and organizations use information they already collect or information they believe would be helpful for them to collect as evidence of progress and impact. As a part of the review process, we might work with you to clarify/confirm your intended outcomes and what information you can reasonably report that demonstrates your progress and impact.

In addition, if you receive a grant you will be given the option to provide a written final report or to have a follow-up conversation at the end of the grant period. If, as you are completing your application, you are not sure how to identify intended outcomes contact Senior Community Impact

Associate Tiana Starks at [tstarks@hfpg.org](mailto:tstarks@hfpg.org) including “Resident Engagement: Outcome Help” in the subject line so they can assist you.

Some outcomes or indicators we have seen organizations report in the past have included:

- Number of residents participating in attendance at community conversations
- Number of residents participating in advocacy efforts
- Number of volunteers
- Description of volunteerism efforts and the positive effects of volunteerism
- Examples of newly established or improved outreach, messaging, and public/social media campaigns
- Description of local improvements or policy changes or practices, at the municipal and state level due to efforts.

V. **Timeline:**

In 2025, this opportunity will be available from April 8, 2025 – September 9, 2025. The Foundation estimates applicants will know whether they receive a grant approximately 9 to 13 weeks from the date they submit their application.

VI. **Submission:**

Interested applicants must contact Senior Community Impact Associate, Tiana Starks, [tstarks@hfpg.org](mailto:tstarks@hfpg.org) to discuss a project’s potential fit, eligibility, or the content of the application, including assistance with identifying outcomes. An access code is required to apply.

For support with your account or password for our online system, contact Grants Administration at [GrantsAdministration@hfpg.org](mailto:GrantsAdministration@hfpg.org).