

Avon Community Fund
Request for Proposals
April 1, 2021

The Avon Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity offering a total of up to **\$20,000** for one or more nonprofits proposing projects to benefit the residents of Avon. All interested applicants must complete the application here: www.hfpg.org/avoncf

Applications are due **Friday, May 14.**

I. Background:

In 2019, the [Hartford Foundation for Public Giving](http://www.hartfordfoundation.org) established \$100,000 community funds for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes the town of Avon. The purpose of Avon's Community Fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in the town and encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement. In 2020, Avon's Community Fund Advisory Committee was selected. The list of current members is available [here](#). This is the first call for proposals in Avon.

II. Eligibility

Any nonprofit registered as a 501c3 organization that serves the residents of Avon is eligible to apply. Groups of town residents may prepare an application in partnership with a registered nonprofit that has agreed to serve as a fiscal agent for the proposed project. Nonprofits do not need to be based in Avon. The Town of Avon may also serve as a fiscal agent for applicants. If a group of town residents has an idea for a project and needs help identifying a fiscal agent, please email the Advisory Committee at avontogetherfund@gmail.com.

Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply. Civic organizations that do not have a 501c3 IRS designation are not eligible to apply.

II. Proposal Requirements:

A grant from the Avon Community Fund must benefit residents of Avon. 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 why 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 with application.]

III. Criteria for Consideration:

- The number of town residents to be impacted by the project (estimates acceptable)
- The sustainability of the project (for how long will the project benefit/impact town residents?)
- Likelihood of success. Does the nonprofit or the individuals 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 the maximum amount available \$20,000 nor can they be for less than \$250.*

V. Additional Information

Background: Committee members conducted research in February 2021 to identify what was important to Avon residents. 246 survey responses were collected from an online survey, and 11 residents participated in a focus group activity. Here are the findings:

- From the survey:
 - Recreation was the biggest area of need from respondents.
 - Addressing Mental Health and Human Needs was also important to respondents.
- From the focus group:
 - Desire for more events and programs to unify the community.
 - Desire to make Avon more diverse and equitable for all.

The full survey and focus group reports are available [here](#) to help guide you in the types of projects the Advisory Committee may be looking to fund.

For all inquiries: Please email the Advisory Committee at avontogetherfund@gmail.com with questions at any time.

Proposals should complete all required questions of the application: Each applying organization may only submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is **May 14, 2021**.

VI. Key Dates

Release of Request for Applications: **April 1, 2021**

Applications Due: **May 14, 2021**

Committee Decision Due: **July 20, 2021**

Expected Grant Start Date: **August 1, 2021***

*Grant awardees are expected to expend the funds within a year of the grant start date. The Advisory Committee would like an update on how the funds are being used in August 2022.