**Wethersfield Community Fund**

Request for Proposals

April 16th, 2021

The Wethersfield Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity offering a total of up to **$30,000** for one or more nonprofits proposing projects to benefit the residents of Wethersfield. All interested applicants must complete the application here: <https://www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/wethersfield>. Applications are due **Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

**I. Background:**

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

**II. Eligibility**

Any nonprofit registered as a 501c3 organization that serves the residents of Wethersfield 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 Wethersfield. The Town of Wethersfield 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 WethersfieldAdvisoryFund@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.

**III. Proposal Requirements:**

A grant from the Wethersfield Community Fund must benefit residents of Wethersfield. 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. Grants are awarded for a period of 12 months.

All eligible applications will be considered, with preference given to those applications which address one or more of the greatest areas of concern identified by a survey which was administered from January 24th to March 1st, 2021. Those areas are:

* Support Services, including but not limited to: food assistance, energy assistance, at-risk youth programs, support for victims of domestic violence, support for disabled, elderly, or low-income residents
* Mental Health Services
* Public Safety
* Diversity and Equity
* Food Insecurity
* Affordable Childcare
* Economic Development

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 sample budget template is provided with application.]
* **Identify any other funding sources for this project**

**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 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 can not exceed the maximum amount available $30,000 nor can they be for less than $500.*

**V. Additional Information**

Questions can be directed to WethersfieldAdvisoryFund@gmail.com at any time. If there is sufficient interest, an optional information session will be held. Applicants will be notified by email with a date and time for the session if it is scheduled. Questions should be submitted by May 17th.

**Proposals should complete all required questions of the application:**  Each applying organization may only submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is **Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

**VI. Key Dates**

Release of Request for Applications: April 16, 2021

Information session/FAQ video: TBD

Applications Due: June 2, 2021

Grant recipients announced: July 1, 2021

Expected Grant Start Date: August 2021