

Somers Greater Together Community Fund

Request for Proposals

June 1, 2021

The Somers Greater Together Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity available to nonprofits and municipalities. Grant awards will be up to \$10,000. Interested applicants can obtain the grant application here: www.hfpg.org/somerscf.

I. Background:

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has generously established a \$100,000 community fund for each of the 29 communities they serve. In 2018, the Hartford Foundation embarked on a listening tour to hear from the residents of the 29 towns the Foundation serves. Residents shared what they loved about their communities, what changes they would like to make and how the Hartford Foundation might help. One common theme was the idea that residents understand the challenges they face in their communities, but are often constrained by a lack of resources. This lack of resources included the need for more opportunities to meet with one another, share concerns and work together with all members of the community to develop solutions. These community conversations led the Hartford Foundation to create the Greater Together Community Funds.

The Somers Community Funds Advisory Committee was then established and a Community Needs Assessment was conducted in February 2021. Of the 515 responses, the highest level priority areas identified by the residents of Somers were the following:

- Outdoor recreation projects
- Mental health services
- Establish a Farmers' Market
- Additional after school activities/Teen Center
- Small business development

II. Eligibility and Exclusions

Any 501c3 nonprofit organization or municipality that serves the residents of Somers is eligible to apply. Civic organizations or 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. Organizations do not need to be based in Somers. Sectarian/religious programs, individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible to apply.

III. Proposal Requirements:

A grant from the Somers Community Fund must only benefit the residents of Somers. Each applying organization may submit more than one proposal, however the maximum total award to an organization is \$10,000. The proposal must fall within the five priority areas identified in the Community Needs Assessment:

- Outdoor recreation projects
- Mental health services
- Establish a Farmers' Market
- Additional after school activities/Teen Center
- Small business development

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The project proposal 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 provide the following:

- Describe the importance of the project and why it is needed.
- Describe the expected benefit, both who will benefit and for how long.
- Describe why the applicant is well suited to implement the project.
- Describe the how the project will remain sustainable long term.
- Provide a detailed budget outlining the costs associated with the project. [A budget template is provided with application.]
- Complete a final report upon expenditure of funds.

IV. Criteria for Consideration:

- Number of town residents to be impacted by the project (estimate 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 of \$10,000 nor can they be less than \$250.
- Greater consideration will be given to project proposals that impact more than one priority area.

V. Selection Schedule:

- Release of Request for Proposals: June 1, 2021
- Application Questions Deadline: All questions regarding the grant application must be submitted by July 1st to Somerscommunityfund@gmail.com
- Applications Due: July 15, 2021
- Notice of Award: September 20, 2021
- Expected Grant Start Date: October 1, 2021 (Grantees are expected to expend the funds within a year of the grant start date)