



**Request for Proposals
Resident Engagement Grants
February 15, 2023**

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving seeks proposals from nonprofits or community groups engaged in or planning efforts in support of local civic participation and change. 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. 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 February 15, 2023 – September 26, 2023. The Foundation estimates applicants will know whether they got a grant approximately 4 to 7 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 rates¹.

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

¹ Abraham, M., Seaberry, C., Ankrah, J., Bourdillon, A., Davila, K., Finn, E., McGann, S., Nathan, A. (2019) Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2019. New Haven, CT: DataHaven. Pg 90.

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 the local participation of and in support of community wide change for the benefit of residents in Greater Hartford. Resident engagement efforts might include activities such as: hosting community meetings, forums, conducting workshops, or retreats, informational outreach campaigns and volunteerism projects.

Efforts can focus on increasing racial/social justice issue awareness, increasing resident leadership on racial/social justice issues, 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.

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

III. Eligibility:

Applicant:

- Applications must be submitted by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Community groups can use 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.
- We will not review an application if a nonprofit organization or community group currently has multi-year core or project support from the Foundation.
- We will not review an application if a nonprofit organization or community group that has already been awarded a grant during the 2023 Community Organizing or Resident Engagement process.
- Organizations and groups with applications denied during the 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.

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:

- 2022 Community Organizing
- 2022 Resident Engagement
- 2022 Access Grants
- 2022 Housing Policy and Advocacy

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 public charities (all 501c3 nonprofits) can engage 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 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 Community Impact Associate Tiana Starks at 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 the 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 2023, this opportunity will be available from February 15, 2023 – September 26, 2023. The Foundation estimates applicants will know whether they got a grant approximately 4 to 7 weeks from the date they submit their application.

VI. Submission:

All interested applicants must e-mail Tiana Starks at tstarks@hfp.org to apply.

For support with your account or password for our online system, contact Grants Administration at GrantsAdministration@hfp.org.

To discuss a project's potential fit, eligibility, or the content of the application, including assistance with identifying outcomes, contact Tiana Starks, Community Impact Associate, at tstarks@hfp.org.