

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a request for proposals?

A request for proposal (RFP) is a document that solicits proposals or project ideas by nonprofits or a group of individuals working with a fiscal agent.

Who can receive a grant?

Any registered nonprofit that has a 501(c)3 designation as a public charity is eligible to receive a grant. Grants may also be made to units of government, such as a municipal government.

Who can't receive a grant?

Individuals and for-profit entities (companies) cannot receive grants. Private non-operating foundations and civic organizations that do not have a 501(c)3 designation are also not eligible.

How can I find out if a nonprofit is a 501(c)3?

Your Hartford Foundation liaison will confirm the status of a nonprofit requesting support.

What kinds of activities can our grants support?

Grants can support any project, program or activity that benefits the residents of your town. Programs or activities that benefit residents of other towns, as well as of your town, can receive partial funding that corresponds with the percent of services received by residents of your town. Successful grant requests could support an ongoing activity or program, a one-time event or activity, or a capital investment (such as the construction or repair of a structure or object). The Foundation cannot legally support activities that have a sectarian (religious) purpose.

What is a Fiscal Agent?

A fiscal agent is an established 501(c)3 nonprofit (tax-exempt) organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of a group that is not registered as a nonprofit. The fiscal agent must submit the application on behalf of the group and is legally responsible to account for the funds used. Best practice recommends that the fiscal agent and the group have a written agreement on how they will work together. (sometimes called a memorandum of understanding, or MOU). Municipal governments may also serve as fiscal agents.

What resources are available to learn more about fiscal agency/fiscal sponsorship relationships?

- National Council of Nonprofits, [Fiscal Sponsorship for Nonprofits](#)
- Nonprofit Quarterly, [Fiscal Sponsorship: A Balanced Overview](#)

- Any nonprofit can choose to be a fiscal agent/sponsor for another group, but there are also nonprofits like [TSNE MissionWorks](#) in Boston and now [Advancing CT Together](#) that provide fiscal agent/sponsorship services for a variety of nonprofits.
- [Pro Bono Partnership](#) provides free non-litigation legal services to nonprofits in Connecticut.
- [Sample fiscal sponsor agreement](#) (The Colorado Trust)

Where can we find information on nonprofits in or serving our town?

You can look at guidestar.org, or you can get a list from the CT. Department of Consumer Protection: <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Licensing/Generate-a-Roster-of-Licenses-Permits-Registrations>.

In some towns, town employees, such as a social services coordinator, maintain a list of nonprofit organizations serving town residents. Your Hartford Foundation staff liaison may also be able to provide a list of nonprofit organizations from your town who have applied for and/or received grants from the Foundation in the past.

How much money is available for grantmaking right now?

Your Hartford Foundation liaison can provide the Committee with fund statements for both the endowed and immediate use funds that will indicate the exact amount available for grantmaking at any given time.

How much can a grant award be?

A grant award can be as much as the Community Fund has available in its immediate or current use fund. Your Hartford Foundation staff liaison can provide a fund statement to confirm the amount available. The minimum amount for a grant award is \$250.