

**Catalyst Endowment Fund
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Announcement of Request for Proposals | July 2024**

The Catalyst Endowment Fund is excited to announce a competitive funding opportunity to support initiatives focused on Empowering Future Leaders and Community Builders through Youth Sports in Greater Hartford. The fund has \$69,000 available to award. One or more grants will be awarded totaling \$69,000, based on the size of the project, funding need, and the quality of plans responding to the forthcoming RFP. Applicants are requested to complete the online grant application by August 22, 2024.

The Hartford Foundation's Catalyst Endowment Fund is a giving circle of generous, civic-minded donors from the Greater Hartford area. Each year, members select a topic with the goal of making one or more grants that will be **catalytic** in the 29-town region served by the Hartford Foundation. Grants will be awarded to selected applicants after a membership review meeting in late October 2024. All qualifying projects are expected to be completed within a year.

I. Topic:

This year's theme is **Empowering Future Leaders and Community Builders through Youth Sports**. Through a series of learning sessions, Catalyst members explored some of the positive effects youth sports can have on individuals, families, and society as a whole. From fostering teamwork and leadership skills to promoting physical and mental well-being, youth sports play a vital role in shaping resilient, confident, and empowered individuals. Our focus is on sustainable support systems designed to bridge the access gaps to youth sports in Greater Hartford.

II. Proposal Guidelines:

We invite proposals that offer solutions to address the access gap in youth sports. Proposals should focus on **one or more** of the following initiatives, with the overarching goal of creating lasting benefits and resolving access issues beyond a single year. Areas of focus include:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Programs that improve existing sports facilities and equipment in underserved communities, ensuring long-term accessibility for youth sports activities.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Initiatives that train coaches, volunteers, and staff to provide quality sports programs, fostering a sustainable support network for youth sports.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Proposals that create or strengthen partnerships with schools, community organizations, and local businesses to provide ongoing support and resources for youth sports programs.
- **Health and Wellness Integration:** Initiatives that integrate physical and mental health services with youth sports programs to promote holistic well-being and sustained participation.

We seek projects that demonstrate innovative and scalable solutions, aiming to create a lasting impact on the accessibility and quality of youth sports programs in Greater Hartford.

III. Criteria for Consideration:

Strong applications should clearly articulate:

1. **Organizational Capacity/Request:** Briefly describe the mission of the organization, current services, and the purpose and amount of the grant request. The organization must demonstrate at least one year of experience in providing youth sports programs in the Greater Hartford area.
2. **Need/Impact:** What is the need being addressed by the project, and what benefit will the project provide to the community? Discuss evidence of need, number of people to be served, outcomes of existing or similar programs, and related issues. Discuss plans for ensuring that proposed work will be community-informed, catalytic, and impactful.
3. **Approach:** The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving recognizes and honors the expertise and experience of applicants to be able to identify the most effective methods to support this pressing issue. We welcome proposals that support your current innovative work and proposals that enhance or expand existing programming into additional program areas or service locations.

Eligibility:

Nonprofits with a 501c3 designation that are in or provide significant services in the Greater Hartford region are eligible to apply. Community groups, or groups of residents, that do not have a 501c3 tax status, are encouraged to apply through a fiscal sponsor.

Application:

To apply for this grant opportunity, please [click here](#).

Key Dates:

- **Application Due Date:** **August 22, 2024**
- **Final Award Decision made by:** **November 8, 2024**

Please note: After the initial review, finalists will be invited to present their proposals to members of the Catalyst Endowment Fund at a grantmaking meeting on October 29, 2024. Each finalist will give a brief, up-to-10-minute presentation on their proposed project and its catalytic potential, followed by a Q&A session.

Questions can be directed to Ramonita Garcia (rgarcia@hfpg.org).