



Avon Greater Together Community Fund

Request for Proposals

January 19, 2024

The Avon Greater Together Community Fund is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity for one or more nonprofits proposing projects to benefit the residents of Avon, with the overall goal to encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement. Each applying organization may submit more than one proposal, however, the maximum total award to an organization is \$10,000.

Grant applications should request a minimum of \$250 and not exceed \$10,000. All interested applicants must complete the application here: www.hfpg.org/avoncf

Applications are due Friday, March 8, 2024.

I. **Background:**

In 2019, the [Hartford Foundation for Public Giving](http://www.hfpg.org) (**the Hartford Foundation**) established \$100,000 community funds for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, including the town of Avon (**the Avon Community Fund**). In 2022, the Avon Community Fund received another \$50,000 totaling an investment of \$150,000. The purpose of the Avon Community Fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in the town and encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement.

This is the third call for proposals in Avon. From 2021-2023, the Avon Community Fund awarded grants to 15 nonprofits, with aggregated distributions of \$70,000. Funding was awarded to organizations servicing a wide array of local needs including community building, environmental stewardship, financial literacy, mental health, food security and other basic human and educational needs. For more about the Avon Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee (**the Avon Committee**), which administers and reviews grant proposals, and the list of grantees to date, please see [here](#).

Based on 2023 community survey research, projects focusing on the following areas will receive weighted consideration in 2024: *Recreation, Environmental Projects, Mental Health Services, Youth Services, Education and Conservation*. However, all applications are welcome.

All applications will be viewed with a lens of encouraging broad and inclusive civic engagement in Avon by striving to reach as many diverse groups as possible. Consistent with the Hartford Foundation's outcome goals, the Avon Fund endeavors to support the basic needs of Avon residents including systems and programs that address food and housing, physical and mental health and the digital divide.

II. Eligibility

Any nonprofit registered as a 501c3 organization that serves the residents of Avon 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 Avon, however, the proposal must benefit persons working and residing in Avon. The Town of Avon 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 Avon Committee at avontgetherfund@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.

Prior grantees are eligible to apply.

The Avon Committee is hosting an information session on application completion on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Please reach out to avontgetherfund@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

III. Proposal Requirements:

A grant from the Avon Community Fund must benefit persons working and residing in Avon. Proposals must demonstrate the opportunity for all town residents to benefit without discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation or any other protected class. Proposals 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 also need to:

- Submit a projected budget for the proposal, using the provided budget template
- Plan to expend any awarded funds within one-year of the grant start date; and
- Report on how the awarded funds were expended/applied

IV. Criteria for Consideration

Key considerations for grantmaking include but are not limited to the proposal's:

- Alignment with the Avon Community Committee [mission and vision](#)
- Benefit and impact on the town residents and how, if at all, will the proposal create a permanent program/infrastructure for the town? Briefly, describe the impact/outcome if the proposal is not funded. To the extent feasible, include the estimated number of individuals served or affected by the proposal.



- Likelihood of success including does the applicant have a reasonable plan for implementation and how will the applicant's experience or access to resources support the success of the proposal
- *Focus on one or more of the targeted focal areas: Environmental Projects, Mental Health Services, Youth Services, Education and Conservation. However, all applications are welcome.*

V. Additional Information

Background: Committee members conducted a town-wide survey in October 2023 to identify what was important to Avon residents.

The full survey report is available [here](#) to help guide you in the types of projects the Advisory Committee may be looking to fund.

For all inquiries: Please email the Committee at avontgetherfund@gmail.com with questions at any time.

Proposals should complete all required questions of the application: Each applying organization may only submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is March 8, 2024.

Optional video: Applicants may submit a video of the proposed project and/or overview of the nonprofit's mission and background, Videos should not exceed 10 minutes in length and are viewed as supplemental to and not in lieu of the written application. All applicants must complete the written, online application. Videos are optional and may be submitted to avontgetherfund@gmail.com.

VI. Key Dates

Release of Request for Proposals: **January 19, 2024**

Information Session on Application Completion: **February 5, 2024**

Applications Due: **March 8, 2024**

Committee Grant Award Decisions No Later Than: **June 1, 2024**

Expected Grant Start Date: **June 15, 2024**

Report on Fund Expenditures/Usage: **June 2025***

*Grant awardees are expected to plan to expend the funds within a year of the grant Start date. Grant Awardees are expected to provide the Committee a report on fund utilization by June 2025.