

Avon Greater Together Community Fund

Request for Proposals

February 3, 2025

The Avon Greater Together Community Fund (AGTCF) 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 and make Avon a more equitable community that promotes healthy, just and humane outcomes for all.

New in 2025: Diversification of Pool Applicants

In an effort to diversify the pool of applicants, eligible applicants may not have received more than two consecutive years of AGTCF awards (**Consecutive Grantees**). Consecutive Grantees are required to wait one year before participating in another cycle of AGTCF grant funding. Below are examples of application of the new policy:

- Organizations awarded an AGTCF grant in 2023 and 2024 would not be eligible to apply for AGTCF funding in 2025, but would be eligible to apply in 2026;
- Organizations awarded an AGTCF grant in 2024 and 2025 would not be eligible to apply for AGTCF funding until 2027; and
- Organizations awarded an AGTCF grant in 2021 and 2024 (**Staggered Grantees**) would be eligible to apply for AGTCF funding in 2025.

Grant applications should request a minimum of \$1,000. All interested applicants must complete the application here: www.hfpg.org/avoncf

Application deadline is Monday, March 17, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

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**). To date, the Avon Community Fund has received an additional \$150,000, totaling an investment of \$250,000. The purpose of the Avon Community Fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs of its town and encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement.

This is the fourth request for proposals in Avon. From 2021-2024, the Avon Community Fund awarded grants to 22 nonprofits, with aggregated distributions of almost \$110,000. Funding was awarded to organizations servicing a wide array of local needs including community building, environmental stewardship, financial literacy, mental health, food security, racial equity, and other basic human and educational needs. For more about the Avon Greater Together Community Fund Committee (**the Avon Committee**), which administers and reviews grant proposals, and the list of grantees to date, please see [here](#).

New in 2025: Broader Funding Objectives

We are soliciting proposals that seek to make Avon a more equitable community that promotes healthy, just and humane outcomes for all. As such, we have eliminated the focal areas identified in prior years and broadened the objectives for funding.

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. The Avon Committee endeavors to support the needs of Avon residents including services and programs that address food insecurity, housing, employment, healthcare, mental health, literacy and linguistic fluency, environmental/climate issues and transportation needs.

II. Eligibility

Any nonprofit registered as a 501c3 organization that serves the residents of Avon is eligible to apply. Groups of town residents, which do not have 501c3 status, 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 or 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 avon@hfpgcommunityfunds.org.

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.

In an effort to diversify the pool of applicants, eligible applicants may not have received more than two consecutive years of AGTCF awards (**Consecutive Grantees**). Consecutive Grantees are required to wait one year before participating in another cycle of AGTCF grant funding. For examples of the new policy, please see the section, **New in 2025: Diversification of Pool Applicants**. If your organization has been previously funded by AGTCF and are uncertain of your current eligibility, please email us at avon@hfpgcommunityfunds.org.

The Avon Committee is hosting an information session on application completion on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Please reach out to avon@hfpgcommunityfunds.org 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 identity 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
- Submit a Final Report on how the awarded funds were expended/applied. For the template of the **Final Report**, please visit www.hfpg.org/avoncf

IV. Criteria for Consideration

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

- Alignment with the Avon Greater Together Community Fund Committee [mission and vision](#)
- Benefit and impact on the town residents and how, if at all, the proposal will 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 whether the applicant has a reasonable plan for implementation and how the applicant's experience or access to resources will support the success of the proposal.

V. Additional Information

For all inquiries: Please email the Avon Greater Together Community Fund Committee at avon@hfpgcommunityfunds.org with questions at any time.

Proposals should complete all required questions of the application: Submission deadline is Monday, March 17, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

VI. Key Dates

Release of Request for Proposals: **Monday, February 3, 2025**

Information Session on Application Completion: **Monday, February 24, 2025**

Applications Due: **Monday, March 17, 2025**

Expected Grant Award Decisions by no later than: **Monday, June 2, 2025**

Expected Grant Start Date (i.e., disbursement of funds): **Thursday, June 12, 2025**

Grantee Final Report Due: **Thursday, June 12, 2026**

Request for Extension to Use Funds, if needed: **June 12, 2026**

Expected to Use Funds by no later than: **December 31, 2026**

New in 2025: Consideration of Use of Funds Extension

Grantees are expected to use the funds by December 31, 2026, unless a written request for extension has been approved by the Avon Committee. Failure to use the funds or request an extension constitutes forfeiture of the award and requires return of the funds to AGTCF.

Grant awardees are expected to complete the AGTCF's Final Report by June 12, 2026 (even if the funds have not been expended by this time, the Final Report must be completed detailing how funds *will* be spent by December 31, 2026). Applicants are also invited to supplement their written report with any photos, videos, and testimonials regarding the funded project.

Grantees are expected to use the funds by no later than December 31, 2026, unless the applicant is granted an extension for use of the funds due to extenuating circumstances. If needed, the Applicant shall submit a written request to AGTCF no later than June 12, 2026, explaining the reason for the delay in use of the funds and the plan for future spend by a date certain. Failure to use the funds by the required date or request a written extension constitutes forfeiture of the award. Applicants shall be required to return the forfeited funds to AGTCF.