



Hartford Foundation

FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Together for good.™

Greater Together Community Funds

To support the community in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in each town.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the Hartford Foundation create the Greater Together Community Funds?

In 2018, the Hartford Foundation embarked on a listening tour to hear from the residents of the 29 towns the Foundation serves.

Residents shared what they loved about their communities, what changes they would like to make and how the Hartford Foundation might help. One common theme was the idea that residents understand the challenges they face in their communities, but are often constrained by a lack of resources. This lack of resources included the need for more opportunities to meet with one another, share concerns and work together with all members of the community to develop solutions. These community conversations led the Hartford Foundation to create the Greater Together Community Funds.

The concept of community funds is not unique to Greater Hartford. The Foundation has learned from several other community foundations and community-based participatory decision-making models, adapting these experiences to the realities in Greater Hartford.

How much money will be available in each fund?

Each Greater Together Community Fund has \$100,000. Half of the fund's money - \$50,000 - will be available for current, or immediate, use. The other \$50,000 is endowed, meaning a percentage of the dollars will be available every year to grant, following the Hartford Foundation's spending policy.

All dollars are being held at the Hartford Foundation until they are awarded as grants.

What is a Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee?

Each community fund will be handled by an advisory committee of town residents that must be inclusive and reflective of all of the residents of that community.

In order to establish the initial advisory committee in each town, the Hartford Foundation is conducting broad outreach to town residents, informing them of the opportunity to be a part of a selection committee that will determine a process for appointing the initial advisory committee members.

The advisory committees will identify the greatest needs in their communities and design a grantmaking process aimed to ensure that the community funds can have the greatest impact for the benefit of town residents. Hartford Foundation staff will provide guidance on topics such as participatory decision making, grantmaking and fund development, as needed.

Each town's advisory committee may work differently and will operate independently.

How do I volunteer or nominate someone for the advisory committee?

If you are interested in participating in the advisory committee or would like to nominate someone to participate, we would love to hear from you. You can reach us by email at CommunityFunds@hfpg.org or by phone at 860-548-1888.

When will the Greater Together Community Fund program begin?

Rollout began in spring 2019. However, before any funds are granted, an advisory committee must be formed and a grantmaking process must be put in place. Selection committees, tasked with creating the initial advisory committee, will begin forming in the fall of 2019. Made up primarily of town residents, they will be tasked with creating the initial advisory committees. Timelines will ultimately be determined by each town based on how much time they need to get started.

Can I contribute to my town's fund?

Individuals and organizations can make tax-deductible contributions to any of the 29 Community Funds through our website, hfpg.org/donate or by sending a check written out to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving with the memo line indicating "(name of town) Community Fund." *If mailing a check, please indicate if you would like to contribute to the current use or the endowed portion of the town's community fund.* Contributions can be mailed to:

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
10 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford CT 06106

If you'd like to talk with us about your contribution, feel free to reach us by email at CommunityFunds@hfpg.org or by phone at 860-548-1888.

I am an individual living in one of the 29 towns where community funds have been established. Can I apply for funding?

Once your town's advisory committee and its grantmaking processes are established, grants from your town's community fund will be available to registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and, in some cases, to municipalities. Grants will not be available to individuals or for-profit companies.

My nonprofit serves the residents of one or more the towns where there is a Greater Together Community Fund.

- **How can I apply for funding on behalf of my nonprofit?**
Before any funds are granted, an inclusive advisory committee made up of town residents and an inclusive grantmaking process must be established in each town. Once these two requirements are in place, information will be shared town-wide as to how to apply for funding consideration.
- **When will funds be available?**
We expect that some towns will be ready to make grants sooner than others. If you would like to learn about grant opportunities in a particular town, please indicate your interest on our web form for each of the towns your nonprofit serves. We can share this information with advisory committee members once they have been established.
- **Can my nonprofit receive funding from more than one community fund?**
It will be up to the residents of each town to decide, through an inclusive grantmaking process, which projects benefit the town and will ultimately be funded. Whether a nonprofit is receiving community funds monies from other towns is one of several factors that town residents may choose to consider as they make their funding decision.
- **Are there other opportunities to seek funding from the Hartford Foundation for my nonprofit?**
The Hartford Foundation considers requests for funding from all nonprofits that meet our basic eligibility requirements. To see if your nonprofit qualifies and to learn how to get started to request funding, please visit our Basic Guidelines page on our website, www.hfpg.org.

What each Community Fund is not:

This is not a fund for municipal town governments. Grants will not be administered or awarded by a town or municipal authority.