



2024 Grant Opportunities Info Session Q&A Follow Up

Thank you to everyone who attended the Hartford Foundation's 2024 Grant Opportunities Info Session on Tuesday, January 30. [You can watch the full recording of the meeting on our website.](#) Due to the volume of questions, we were unable to answer everyone during the Q&A. Below are written answers to questions posed during the event. Nonprofits are encouraged to email applications@hfpg.org with additional questions about our grantmaking process.

Q. Do organizations need to have a current grant with the Foundation in order to apply for Nonprofit Support Program grants and programs?

A. No, organizations do not need to be receiving any grant from the Foundation to apply for a Nonprofit Support Program (NSP) grant or activity. The [Foundation's website](#) can also lead you to the [NSP landing page](#) that offers a range of resources available to all organizations, including [recordings of prior capacity building webinars and programs.](#)

Q. Does the Foundation offer support for nonprofits to learn how to write grants?

A. The Foundation hosted a Grant Writing 101 workshop through its partnership with Hartford Public Library. That workshop can be found in NSP's previously recorded workshops webpage link [here](#) under "Hartford Public Library: Fall 2023 Virtual Webinars." We will be hosting another grant writing workshop in 2024 – be on the lookout for announcements!

Q. Do you still offer Small Grants Express?

A. This info session primarily referenced Foundation-directed grantmaking opportunities. We also have many donors who also direct funds from their donor advised funds. The Grants Express has been a tool deployed by Foundation staff to inform these donor advisors about one-time, small requests. Organizations should start your grant inquiry with Tara Sundie, Community Impact Manager, at tsundie@hfpg.org, who can work with the Foundation's donor-advisory team to refer requests that may be aligned with a donor's interest.

Q. You mentioned Access Grants will no longer be an RFP opportunity. How will Open Door be similar?

A. We ask that you stay tuned for Open Door announcements on our website [here](#) during the first week of March 2024. Open Door will be a funding opportunity available to organizations that have programs or projects in broad alignment with our strategic framework to help dismantle structural racism and/or more broadly advance equity in ways that benefit the Greater Hartford region. The Open Door grant opportunity will be available to organizations who are not receiving resources through one of the Foundation's priority outcome areas and available on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Q. Do you accept fiscal sponsor for organizations that are not yet registered nonprofits?

A. Yes! Organizations that do not have their IRS-designated 501c3 status can apply for funding using an eligible fiscal sponsor. The fiscal sponsor will need to be a registered 501c3.

Q. With your finger on the community pulse, are you noticing any slight decrease in donations to nonprofits in 2023 vs 2022?

A. We know from national data sources such as The Fundraising Effectiveness Project, that a decrease in donors and dollars given was evident across all donor types in 2023. While individual giving can fluctuate from year to year, in our community, we know that we have very committed donors who continue to give generously.

Q. If an organization has a current or upcoming core support grant, is it prevented from applying for other Foundation grants?

A. Organizations that have a current and anticipated core support grant, we encourage you to please contact your community impact officer before applying for other funding at the Foundation. Typically, due to the flexible nature of how organizations can spend grant dollars through a core support grant, organizations are usually ineligible for other funding opportunities available at the Foundation; however, there are some exceptions, including grants through the Nonprofit Support Program (NSP), and donor-advised grantmaking.

Q. For small organizations interested in applying for a small agency operating grant, should we begin a grant inquiry first or can we submit a small agency operating grant right away?

A. Operating support grants for small nonprofits is one type of capacity building support offered by the Foundation's [Nonprofit Support Program](#). The process begins with an inquiry conversation with an NSP staff member. You can find more information about the operating support for small nonprofits opportunity and process [here](#).

Q. To what extent are you working with community-based organizations to solicit and make use of community members' input in planning and evaluating programs and services?

A. The Foundation uses all available information to inform its strategic priorities and grantmaking. This includes publicly available data resources such as the Census, CTData's Connecticut Town Profiles and topic area data reports, Datahaven's Greater Hartford Community Well-being Index as well as learning from grantee reports and other community partner engagements. We convene nonprofits and residents to provide sensemaking for data reports and evaluations to deepen our understanding of community needs and the impact of strategies. We also have rich content expertise among our community impact staff, many of whom have deep nonprofit, community organizing, and public policy professional experience prior to joining the Foundation.

Q. Do you recommend that organizations meet with a community impact officer prior to submitting a grant application, such as the Community and Resident Engagement RFP grant opportunity or other RFP-based grant opportunities coming up?

A. Not all RFP application processes are quite the same. For example, the Community and Resident Engagement RFP opportunity includes an inquiry conversation as part of the application process. For other RFPs, organizations directly access the online application. Current grantees, especially those with core support funding, are encouraged to connect with your community impact officer in order to assess eligibility.

Organizations are always welcome to reach out to the lead officer affiliated with an RFP who is typically identified in the RFP announcement or reach out to Tara Sundie, Community Impact Manager, at tsundie@hfpg.org to ask eligibility questions or other factors related to your RFP application before applying.

It is not necessary, expected, nor factored into any decision that an organization meet with a community impact officer in order to successfully apply to an open RFP opportunity.

Q. How much time does it take once an organization has been approved for a grant for the organization to receive the funds?

A. For grant awards of \$50,000 and under and grants awarded through an RFP process (regardless of the award amount), the Foundation aims to process grant payment within 15 business days of the award date.

Grants that do not fall into this category will receive a grant award letter with instructions to sign and return to Grants Administration staff at grantsadministration@hfpg.org. In these instances, payment is processed within 30 days of Grants Administration staff receiving the signed award letter. The Foundation offers payment through ACH, which can help speed up receipt of funds.

Please do not send your banking information to us by email: follow [this link](#) for more information.

Q. How do your RFP deadlines work?

A. RFP deadlines are typically 11:59 p.m. on the date of the announced deadline. Our grants system does not register *seconds*. This means if you submit after 11:59 p.m. but before midnight, your application will not be successfully submitted. Glitches and technical issues can occur during submission, so we highly suggest attempting to submit before close of business on the deadline date.

For any technical questions pertaining to the grants portal or submitting an application, please reach out to the Grants Administration team at grantsadministration@hfpg.org; feel free to copy the contact officer for the RFP.

The Foundation does not typically offer deadline extensions. Doing what you can to ensure your RFP application is submitted hours before the funding opportunity closes is the ideal way to avoid submission mishaps!

Q. Who should we contact if we do not have a community impact officer?

A. You are welcome to send general questions to applications@hfpg.org, but you can also begin a general inquiry directly with Tara Sundie, Community Impact Manager, at tsundie@hfpg.org.

Q. Can you give more information on the role of a community impact officer? Are they available only if you have a grant with the Foundation?

A. Community impact officers work with nonprofits and other community partners to deploy our Foundation-directed resources (e.g., not donor-advised/donor-directed dollars).

Once an organization is awarded a grant, a community impact officer is assigned who serves as both the organization's point of contact with the Foundation and collaborative learning partner for agreed-upon outcomes. Your officer can help you navigate funding opportunities as they learn and understand your organization's mission, programs and desired outcomes, and can connect you to other funders, program partners, and nonprofit support opportunities.

The Foundation expects assigned community impact officers to build trusting relationships with organizations from the initial meeting and through ongoing communications and connections. Your community impact officer will be identified in any award letter you receive. On occasion, depending on your grants, you could have more than one community impact officer, though the Foundation attempts to keep organizations consistently assigned to the same officer for continuity and clarity whenever possible.

If you do not have a current grant but previously had a grant, you can generally consider your prior community impact officer as your de facto officer for the time being as you begin a new inquiry or conversation. If you do not know or remember your officer, reference your grant's award letter. You can always begin a new inquiry with Tara Sundie, Community Impact Manager, at tsundie@hfpg.org, who can also reference or identify your previous officer relationships.

Q. Will the faith-based grant ever be offered again to support the work faith communities do?

A. The Foundation does not anticipate releasing a competitive faith-based RFP. The prior faith-based grant opportunity confirmed the essential role that communities of faith play in catalyzing their congregants and the broader community around social and racial justice issues. To that end, faith-based organizations are now eligible for all Foundation grant opportunities.

The Foundation will not fund activities that promote religious doctrine, and we will want to understand how the faith-based organization's programs and services benefit the community beyond the organization's congregation.