



Impact Fairfield County Announces 2020 Grant Opportunity

Impact Fairfield County is pleased to announce a \$100,000 grant opportunity. Grants will be awarded to non-profits for significant projects or programs that reach under-served populations and highlight unmet needs in our area. It is anticipated that Impact Fairfield County will award 1-2 grants of \$100,000 each, determined by our membership on May 5, 2020.

To apply for an Impact Grant, organizations must be:

- A non-profit that operates in Fairfield County, Connecticut
- Applying for a new project or program or the significant expansion of an existing program that solely serves residents of Fairfield County

Applying for a grant starts with a Letter of Inquiry. Organizations may only submit one application each grant cycle. Letters of Inquiry will only be accepted online beginning October 16, 2019 and will be due November 13, 2019.

Potential applicants may attend an optional information session. The Applicant Information Session will be held on September 26, 2019 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at the offices of the Fairfield County's Community Foundation, 40 Richards Avenue, 4th Floor, Norwalk, CT. New this year- at the end of the information session applicants will have the opportunity to brainstorm application ideas and obtain feedback from Impact Board Members. RSVP is required by September 20th to grants@impactffc.org. ****DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH ORGANIZATION MAY ATTEND.**

About Impact Fairfield County

Impact Fairfield County is a collective giving circle that engages women of Fairfield County, Connecticut in local philanthropy on a deeper level. We collectively raise funds to allow organizations to “dream big” and annually award \$100,000+ grants to local non-profits. Total funding is determined by the amount of members who contribute \$1,000 each toward the grants. Excess membership funds will be divided among the non-winning finalists of the grant process for general operating support. Grant finalists are determined through a detailed process of proposal review and evaluation by members, and the grant recipients are chosen by a vote of the membership at the Impact Fairfield County Annual Meeting in May.



Eligibility Requirements

We encourage you to review the following eligibility requirements and frequently asked questions on our website under Non-Profits to determine whether both the organization and the project or program meet the criteria for an Impact Grant.

Organizations eligible to apply for an Impact Fairfield County grant must be:

- Classified as a “public charity” with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Operating in Fairfield County, Connecticut
- In possession of three years of independently prepared, audited financial statements
- Not a recipient of an Impact Fairfield County \$100,000 grant within the past three years

Preference will be given to organizations that:

- Have limited access to large grants and do not have the resources of larger non-profits

Projects or Programs eligible for an Impact Fairfield County grant must:

- Serve residents of and expend funds fully in Fairfield County, Connecticut
- Be a new project or program, the significant expansion of an existing program, or a new or significantly expanded collaboration
- Have a total project or program budget of at least \$100,000
- Use the full amount of the grant within 24 months
- Target under-served populations

Preference will be given to projects or programs that:

- Highlight unmet needs in our area
- Will have a high impact on the beneficiaries
- Are lesser known initiatives

Impact Fairfield County will not provide grants for:

- Debt reduction, operating deficits, or interim or bridge funding
- Endowment funding
- Individuals or private foundations
- Scholarship funding
- Activities that are religious, or partisan, legislative or political in nature
- Fundraising events, fund drives, or annual appeals
- General capital campaigns (unrelated to the specific project or program)
- Research
- Organizations that do not provide direct services



Grant Application Process

Impact Fairfield County has a four-step grant application process:

Step 1 – Letter of Inquiry

Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) using the Impact Fairfield County online application due by November 13, 2019. We will be open to accept LOIs beginning October 16, 2019. Applicants are allowed to submit only one application per grant year. Following the review of the LOIs, Impact Fairfield County will select certain applicants to submit a Full Proposal. A list of questions and attachments included in the LOI can be found on our website at www.impactffc.org under Non-Profits.

Step 2 – Full Proposal

Applicant organizations will be notified by January 13, 2020 whether or not they have been selected to complete a Full Proposal. Full Proposals are by invitation only and will be due by February 5, 2020. Full Proposals will be completed online through our grant management system. A list of questions and attachments included in the Full Proposal can be found on our website. Following a review of the Full Proposals, certain applicants will be selected for site visits.

Step 3 – Site Visit

Impact Fairfield County will select certain applicants to host site visits. Impact members will contact applicants to schedule the site visits, which will take place from March 10 - April 9, 2020. The objective of the site visit is to complete the due diligence review and investigate and resolve any final questions. Site visits will generally last 90 minutes and should include the participation of the Executive Director, Project or Program Manager, CFO or financials representative, as well as a Board Member. Following the site visit, Impact Fairfield County will select its grant finalists.

Step 4 – Final Presentations and Awards

Finalists will be announced by April 22, 2020. They will receive instructions for making presentations to the Impact membership at its Annual Meeting to be held on May 5, 2020. Impact Fairfield County members will vote at the Annual Meeting (or by absentee ballot in advance of the meeting) to select the \$100,000 grant recipient(s). The votes will be tabulated and announced at the event. Excess membership funds beyond the \$100,000 Grant Award will be provided as general operating grants to the other finalists.

Prior to the release of funds to the \$100,000 Impact Grantee, the recipient must execute a Grant Agreement. Depending on the nature of the project or program, Impact may distribute the grant funds in installments. Impact grantees must submit periodic reports on the project or program to Impact Fairfield County as specified in the Grant Agreement. A sample Grant Agreement can be found on our website.

Important Dates



Please see the list of dates below for the upcoming Impact Fairfield County grant cycle.

Optional Applicant Information Session:

September 26, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 am;
Fairfield County's Community Foundation, 4th Floor, 40 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT
****DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE PER ORGANIZATION
MAY ATTEND – RSVP DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**

Letters of Inquiry Accepted On-Line
As of October 16, 2019

Letters of Inquiry Due Date
November 13, 2019

Invitation to Submit Full Proposals
Notification by January 13, 2020

Full Proposals Due
February 5, 2020

Site Visits Conducted
March 10 – April 9, 2020

Finalists Announced
By April 22, 2020

Finalists' Presentations & Grant Awards
Annual Meeting, May 5, 2020



Request to Grant Applicants

Please do not call or contact Impact Fairfield County members, as all members are asked to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the grant process. Please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions from Applicants on our website at www.impactffc.org under Non-Profits. Other questions about the Impact Fairfield County grant process may only be sent to grants@impactffc.org.

For press inquiries only, please contact info@impactffc.org.