



Request for Proposals (RFP) Brookline For All Grant Program – 2022-2023

Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis

Mission, Vision & Values

The Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) creates opportunity and promotes equity through the transformative power of giving. We envision a better Brookline for all in which every member of the Brookline community can prosper and thrive.

As an organization, our values are:

- Lead by Listening – Listening helps us deeply understand community strengths, challenges, needs, and opportunities so we can be an effective collaborator and partner.
- Anchored in Equity– Equity is the vision we’re working towards and the processes we’re using to get there that helps hold us accountable to our community and ourselves.
- Sustainable Support – Sustainability is crucial for our nonprofits, our neighbors, and ourselves. Investing in Brookline lets us address needs today and well into the future.
- Community First – Our community guides our work. We use your insights and guidance to design and refine our work so we can reach our shared goals together.

BCF Funding Priorities

As one of the largest funders in Brookline, BCF is committed to partnering with community organizations and programs that advance opportunity for those most impacted by inequities and to focusing our collaborative efforts on addressing challenges head on.

We recognize that the challenges in our community, and elsewhere, have become increasingly acute over the past several years. Black communities, Indigenous communities, other communities of color, and vulnerable populations are disproportionately impacted by these challenges. **That is why our aim for grantmaking is to make transformative investments in organizations and community efforts that create an inclusive and equitable Brookline for all, and prioritize efforts led by and focused on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and other vulnerable populations.** For the purposes of our grant programs, this includes but is not limited to individuals and/or communities who identify as immigrants, women, children, older adults, LGBTQ+, disabled, members of racial, ethnic, religious and/or linguistic minorities, incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, and those consistently excluded from access to resources and services vital for thriving.

While our grants support many types of organizations and activities, they share a common purpose. Through our grantmaking, we aim to work with organizations, efforts, and initiatives with a shared commitment to advancing equity. Our current grant programs – Brookline For All Grant Program, Community Grant Program, Racial Equity Grant Program, Safety Net Grant Program, and Youth Development Grant Program – offer ways to partner with BCF in advancing your work.

Brookline For All Grant Program Overview

The Brookline For All Grant Program aims to provide immediate funding to support initiatives intended to make Brookline a welcoming and inclusive community where the rights and dignity of all community members are upheld and protected.

Grant Program Details

The Brookline For All Grant Program aims to respond to community and organization needs as they arise. We welcome proposals that address, but do not need to be limited to, the following focuses

- Identifying and raising awareness of community needs
- Creating forums for community conversations and education
- Promoting anti-racist education and dialogues about racism
- Advancing and protecting the rights of vulnerable community members
- Increasing representation within local government and leadership bodies
- Addressing issues of discrimination
- Addressing/mitigating disparities
- Providing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and trainings within organizations

Brookline For All grants are general operating grants. BCF will consider funding requests up to \$3,000.

Priority Considerations

In alignment with our organizational vision and funding priorities, as we review proposals, we will give preference to community organizations and groups that:

- are working to advance equity (including removing barriers to opportunities, meeting the immediate individual needs of those impacted by inequities, addressing root causes of inequities - such as poverty or racism);
- are led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color); and/or
- focus on BIPOC and other vulnerable populations.

For this grant program, an organization/group is considered BIPOC-led if they meet at least **one of the following three criteria**:

- The organization/group's Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer or Board Chair identifies as BIPOC.
- 50% or more of the organization's leadership staff or program directors identify as BIPOC.
- 50% or more of board members identify as BIPOC.

Eligibility

501(c)(3) nonprofits organizations, Town departments or agencies, and community groups can apply for funding. If you are a Town department or agency, please see our [additional guidelines](#). Organizations and groups that are currently funded through other BCF grant programs are eligible to apply.

Proposed projects or programs should directly benefit members of the Brookline community, which we define as those who live, learn, work, or play in Brookline.

To be eligible, an applicant must be operated and organized so that it does not discriminate in the hiring of staff or provision of services on the basis of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or disability.

If an organization or project is new and/or not yet tax-exempt (is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit), an application may be submitted through a fiscal sponsorship. BCF can assist applicants in identifying an appropriate fiscal sponsor. If you are interested in pursuing fiscal sponsorship, please refer to our [Grant FAQs](#) for more information or contact BCF.

BCF grants cannot be used to cover travel costs, political campaigns, or lobbying, and we are unable to provide direct support or scholarships to individuals. While we cannot provide direct assistance to individuals, BCF grant programs may fund organizations and groups that provide direct financial support or scholarships to individuals.

Application Timeline

Rolling deadline: Brookline For All Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis, year-round, as funding is available. Grant decisions are announced within two weeks of grant application submission.

How to Apply

Apply through our [online grant application](#) or by mailing or emailing your application to BCF.

Grant application materials:

- Download the full grant application as a Word doc from the [BCF website](#)
- Review our [Grant FAQs](#)
- Access budget and fiscal sponsorship [templates](#)

Application Support / Technical Assistance (TA)

We encourage all applicants to contact us prior to submitting your application so that we may support you, as needed, in your submission. We also welcome you to attend our optional Grant Information Session, posted on our website, to learn more about our grant programs and application process. A recording of the Grant Information Session will be available after the event.

Contact

Please contact us with any questions before or during the application process for any of BCF's grant programs. We are available to discuss ideas prior to submission.

Katie DesBois, Director of Program & Partnerships
Zaria Karakashian-Jones, Manager of Program and Partnerships
[Brookline Community Foundation](#)
40 Webster Place
Brookline, MA 02445
grants@brooklinecommunity.org
617-566-4442