



Request for Proposals (RFP) BCF Community Grant Program – Fall 2022

Grant Applications Due: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 11:59pm

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.

Community Grant Program Overview

The Community Grant Program provides funding to programs and efforts that help build a better Brookline for all who live, learn, work, and play here.

Grant Program Details

As one of BCF's largest grant programs, the Community Grant Program aims to support a wide range of efforts that create opportunity and promote equity. We welcome proposals that address a variety of community needs such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Health & Wellness
- Climate Sustainability
- Arts & Culture
- Healthy Aging
- Wealth Building and Economic Advancement Programs
- Housing (including capital improvements, access to affordable housing)
- Children & Families (including access to reliable and quality childcare programs)
- Education (including access to academic supports, afterschool programs, support for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs)
- Crisis Intervention Services (including services that address mental, emotional, and physical health)
- Organizational Capacity Building activities (including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training & Support)

BCF will consider requests for the following: general operating support, project and program funding, capacity building efforts, capital improvements, sector-building efforts, and community- and movement-building initiatives. Please see the [Grant FAQs](#) on our website for examples of projects within these categories. We will also consider requests for one year or multi-year grants (as funding is available). We encourage you to connect with our team in advance of submitting a proposal if you are interested in multi-year support.

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

- Tuesday, July 12, 2022: Community Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) released
- Monday, September 12, 2022: Deadline to submit grant proposals
- September 13, 2022 – October 31, 2022: Grant Review Period; BCF reviewers may contact organizations to schedule a site visit or call during this time
- November 1, 2022: Grant decisions announced

How to Apply

Apply through our [online grant application](#) or by mailing or emailing your application to BCF. All applications must be received by the grant deadline.

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 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 one of our *optional* Applicant Support / TA sessions.

Attend our Virtual Information Session to learn about BCF's grant programs and application process. A recording will be available after the Information Session.

- [Register to attend on Wednesday, August 10th at 9am.](#)

Sign up for a 1:1 Working Session / Office Hours to discuss ideas and ask questions about the application process.

- [Thursday, July 21, 11am-2pm](#)
- [Thursday, August 11, 11am-2pm](#)
- [Thursday, August 25, 11am-2pm](#)
- [Thursday, September 8, 11am-2pm](#)

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