



## Request for Proposals (RFP) BCF Safety Net 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.

## Safety Net Grant Program Overview

The Safety Net Grant Program supports organizations and community groups with providing, adapting, and/or expanding vital services to the Brookline community. Safety Net grants can be used to support a wide range of activities related to increasing access to essential services, supporting an organization's unanticipated operating or program expenses, and/or addressing crises such as fires or pandemics.

## Grant Program Details

Safety Net grants support organizations, projects, and efforts that provide essential services to individuals and families who live, learn, work, and play in the Brookline community. Essential services can include, but are not limited to:

- Direct cash assistance
- Rental assistance
- Food access
- Utility payments
- Child care assistance
- Health care access
- Mental health support
- Public benefit enrollment
- Continuing education
- Other acute financial needs

Please note that BCF is unable to provide direct cash assistance to individuals, but can fund organizations that offer direct cash assistance to individuals and families. Additionally, organizations or community groups may apply for Safety Net grants to support unexpected operating or program expenses, such as unanticipated technology upgrades or adapting a program to meet a new or evolving community need.

In the context of this grant program, essential services are defined as being any and all resources essential to promoting and maintaining health, wellness, safety and belonging. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Healthy food
- Safe, stable, and affordable housing
- Access to medical and mental health care
- Primary and continuing education
- Quality affordable childcare or out-of-school time programming
- Social support services
- Language and translation services

## 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: Safety Net 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**

- Contact BCF to discuss your proposal and confirm eligibility. This may be done via email or a phone conversation.
- Once eligibility is confirmed, please apply in one of the following three ways:
  - Through our [online grant application](#);
  - By mailing or emailing your application to BCF, or;
  - By setting up a call or Zoom meeting with a member of our team.

If you would like to apply via a conversation with a member of the BCF team, please reach out to us to schedule the phone or video conversation. Please be prepared to respond to the application questions live during the scheduled phone or Zoom conversation. The call/Zoom will be recorded, with your permission, so that we can share your responses with grant reviewers. You may also be asked to email or mail any additional application materials (such as a budget) 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.

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