



Request for Proposals (RFP) Youth Development Grant Program 2022/2023

Grant Applications Due: Monday, February 6, 2023 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.

Youth Development Grant Program Overview

The Brookline Youth Fund, which supports Brookline's youth and youth-related activities through the Youth Development Grant Program, is the Brookline Community Foundation's largest endowed, donor-advised fund. The Fund was established in 1999 through the generosity of The Country Club (TCC). In addition to the initial endowment, which was drawn from proceeds from the 33rd Ryder Cup, TCC continues to build the fund by sponsoring an annual charitable golf tournament.

Grant Program Details

The Youth Development Grant Program aims to ensure equal access to opportunities for all youth in Brookline, and support and enhance the well-being of youth and their families. The Youth Development Grant Program seeks to promote activities that are inclusive and represent the diversity within the Brookline community, with a focus on Brookline youth whose families earn less than the town's median annual income or are underserved. Examples of the types of youth-related activities that may be considered for funding include:

- Programs that fill programmatic gaps, particularly for middle school aged youth and youth from low-income families
- Programs that develop youth leadership and/or create job and internship opportunities
- Programs focusing on arts and culture, environmental education, or health and fitness
- Programs that support early childhood education
- Programs that help ensure the basic needs of Brookline's youth are being met
- Programs that address the opportunity gap exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Programs that support the social, emotional and mental health needs of Brookline youth

Grant structure: We will consider one-year requests for project 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

- October 18, 2022: Youth Development Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) released
- Monday, February 6, 2023: Deadline to submit grant proposals
- February 6, 2023 - March 2023: Grant Review Period; BCF reviewers may contact organizations to schedule a site visit or call during this time
- Early April 2023: Grant decisions announced

How to Apply

Apply through our [online grant application](#) or by 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.

Contact

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