



Request for Proposals (RFP) BCF Youth Development Grant Program – 2023-2024

Grant Applications Due: Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 11:59PM

BCF invests in organizations and efforts building a more inclusive and equitable Brookline.

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.

BCF understands that while Brookline is a well-resourced community, we are not an equitably resourced one. Like many communities across the country, Brookline struggles with poverty, food insecurity, gaps in the social safety net, and more. 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. This includes but is not limited to BIPOC individuals and/or communities who identify as immigrants, women, children, older adults, LGBTQIA+, 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.

Through our grantmaking, we work with organizations, efforts, and initiatives with a shared commitment to advancing equity. Our grant programs – Community Grant Program, Racial Equity Grant Program, Safety Net Grant Program, and Youth Development Grant Program – offer ways to partner with BCF to fortify the local safety net, advance opportunities for individuals and families, support pathways out of poverty, and maintain a vibrant, welcoming community.

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 education including early childhood education, out-of-school time programs, access to academic supports
- 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

Total amount available to grant: This fiscal year, BCF has \$109,300 to distribute within the Youth Development Grant Program.

Maximum Grant Amount: Grant requests are limited to \$30,000 or below this year. For reference, the average Youth Development grant awarded in fiscal year 2023 was ~\$9,600.

BCF is inviting requests for one-year Youth Development grants to be submitted through our FY24 grant application.

Priority Considerations

In alignment with our organizational vision, 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);
- are led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color); and/or
- focus on BIPOC and other vulnerable or marginalized populations, including those populations most impacted by the pandemic

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

Please note: This year, we are asking organizations to submit one application to *either* the Community Grant Program *or* the Youth Development Grant Program. Additionally, for the Community Grant Program and Youth Development Grant Program, we will only accept one application per organization. Organizations who are currently funded through the Safety Net grant program are eligible to also apply to Community Grants or Youth Development Grants

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.

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.

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, color, religion, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, national origin, marital status, military status, or disability.

BCF Values

At the Brookline Community Foundation, our commitment to creating lasting impact is unwavering and is deeply rooted in core values that guide our actions, decisions, and collaborations. We Lead by Listening, understanding that the nuances of our community's strengths, challenges, and needs are best grasped by lending an attentive ear. Our mission is firmly Anchored in Equity, ensuring that our vision and processes consistently hold us accountable to the diverse community we serve. We recognize the importance of Sustainable Support; by investing in Brookline, we are not just addressing the immediate needs but are also building a resilient foundation for generations to come. At the heart of our ethos is the principle of Community First. Your insights, experiences, and feedback shape our endeavors, fostering a collaborative environment where our shared objectives are realized in unison. We invite you to keep these values in mind as you prepare your applications

and partner with BCF. We hope these values serve as a guidepost for our collective journey towards a brighter, more inclusive future for Brookline.

Application Timeline

- December 2023: Youth Development Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) released
- Monday, February 12, 2024: Deadline to submit grant proposals
- February 12, 2024 - April 2024: Grant Review Period; BCF reviewers may contact organizations to schedule a site visit or call during this time
- Early May 2024: Grant decisions announced

How to Apply

Please apply in one of the following ways:

- Through our [online grant application](#), or
- By emailing your application to BCF at grants@brooklinecommunity.org with the subject heading "Grant Application Submission"

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. Please reach out at any time to the Program & Partnerships team at grants@brooklinecommunity.org or 617-566-4442.

We also welcome you to review and utilize the recently released *Understanding Brookline* research publications which include the [Understanding Brookline: Economic Inequality in Brookline Report](#) and the [Understanding Brookline Community Indicators Database](#).

Questions

Please contact us at grants@brooklinecommunity.org with any questions before, during or after the application process.