



Somers Community Fund at Greater Hartford Gives

Request for Proposals (RFP)

May 29, 2026

Background & Summary

The **Somers Community Fund** invites local organizations, municipal departments, and resident-led groups ([working with a fiscal sponsor](#)) to apply for funding that strengthens the well being, vibrancy, and resilience of the Somers community. This grant opportunity supports projects that directly benefit town residents and reflect the priorities, aspirations, and lived experiences of the community.

[Community Funds at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation](#) was created to empower residents with resources to identify needs and champion solutions in their own towns. Each fund is guided by a committee of volunteer residents who review applications, elevate local voices, and recommend grants that respond to emerging issues, longstanding disparities, or new opportunities for improvement. These committees bring deep local knowledge and a commitment to strengthening the places they call home.

Through this RFP, **the Somers Community Fund seeks proposals that are responsive, community-centered, and feasible within a one-year grant period.** Applicants will be asked to articulate how their project addresses a clear local need, engages or benefits residents, and contributes to a stronger, healthier, or more connected community.

Applications are Due: July 31, 2026, 11:59 pm

Read More About the Opportunity Details Below

The Somers Community Fund welcomes proposals from any eligible organization (eligibility criteria listed below) whose work directly benefits residents of Somers. **While this is an open call, the committee will give particular consideration to projects and organizations that align with the priority considerations below.** Applicants are encouraged to describe how their project aligns with these priorities, if applicable.

Priorities Considerations for this Grant Cycle

Organizations with the following characteristics will receive priority consideration:

- Activities for Youth Engagement
- After School/Outdoor Activities
- Local Sports for Youth & Adults
- Community Classes/Senior Activities
- Environmental Projects
- Arts & Entertainment/Cultural Activities

Projects that address the following focus areas will receive priority consideration:

- Grants that affect the residents of the Town of Somers, CT
- Organizations that have not received grants given out by the Somers Community Fund in the past.

Data Source(s): 2024 Somers Community Fund Community Survey, see appendix A.

Eligibility Requirements

Organizations eligible to receive grants through Community Funds include:

- **Organizations with a 501(c)3 designation** as a public charity, private operating foundations, or those fiscally sponsored by an entity with a 501(c)3 designation. *Please Note: 509(a)3 organizations are eligible. Private non-operating foundations and 501(c)4 organizations are not eligible*
- **Municipalities and other local governmental agencies** seeking funding for purposes **not typically funded by public revenue sources** (including taxpayer contributions).
- **Religious organizations** seeking support for **non-religious purposes** that do not include efforts to convert or influence participants' religious beliefs.

Groups comprised of town residents may prepare an application in partnership with an organization with a 501(c)3 designation that has agreed to serve as a fiscal sponsor for the proposed project.

Not Eligible: Individuals not connected to an organization or fiscal sponsor, for-profit businesses, and civic organizations engaging in partisan work.

Funding Amounts & Grant Term

The committee will award up to a **total of \$8,000** during this grant cycle, with the number and size of awards dependent on available funds and the pool of applications received.

All grants are **one-year, project-based awards** and may include reasonable administrative or overhead costs. Funded organizations are required to complete a **final report** at the completion of the project or within **13 months** of the award date (whichever is sooner).

When resources are limited, the committee may issue **partial awards**. Applicants will be asked to indicate which elements of their project can still be meaningfully implemented with a reduced amount.

Application Requirements

All applicants must submit the **Community Funds Common Grant Application** through the Foundation's [online grant portal](#). The application includes both standard organizational information and project-specific details needed for the committee to evaluate alignment with local priorities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review this RFP in full before submitting their application

You can [review application questions here](#).

Additional Application Requirements & Guidance:

- **Project Focus:** Proposed projects must benefit residents of the town you are applying to. Example: If you are applying to the Somers Community Fund, the project must serve Somers residents.
- **Number of Applications:** Eligible entities may submit one application per town per cycle but may apply to multiple towns in the same cycle if activities serve residents of each respective town. Multiple organizations using the same fiscal sponsor or departments within the same town may each submit their own application, as long as each request represents a distinct project or service.
- **Compliance:** Eligible entities must hold any required licenses, permits, or approvals necessary to carry out the proposed project activities.

Key Dates

- **RFP Released:** Friday, May 29, 2026
- **Information Session:** Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- **Application Deadline:** Friday, July 31, 2026
- **Review Period:** August thru September
- **Expected Grant Award Notifications:** October 30, 2026

How to Apply

All applicants must submit the Community Funds Common Grant Application through the Foundation's online grant portal. Applications must be completed and submitted by the deadline, Friday, July 31, 2026, 11:59 pm.

Step 1: Review this RFP

Before completing the application, applicants must **review this RFP in full**, including:

- Local community fund priorities
- Funding amounts and grant term
- Eligibility requirements
- Application requirements

At the end of the application, applicants will confirm that they have read and aligned their proposal with the town's RFP.

Step 2: Access the Online Application

Applicants can begin a new application by using the Foundation's online grant portal:

Grant Portal Application link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Access code: 26CommFds%

Please enter the code in the **Access Code bar** for the Community Funds common grant application opportunity to appear. You will be able to preview the application questions by clicking "Preview". By clicking "Apply", it will prompt you to log in or create an account, if your organization has not previously applied through the portal

Step 3: Complete All Required Sections and Submit Before the Deadline

Applicants must complete all required components of the Common Application, including organizational information, project details, budget upload, populations served, and measurement plans. Required sections must be completed to be eligible for consideration.

Completed applications must be submitted **by Friday, July 31, 2026**

Applicants are *encouraged to submit early* to avoid technical issues close to the deadline

Assistance and Questions

For questions about **this RFP, local priorities or project fit**, contact the **Somers Community Fund Committee** at: **Somers@greaterhartfordgivesCF.org**

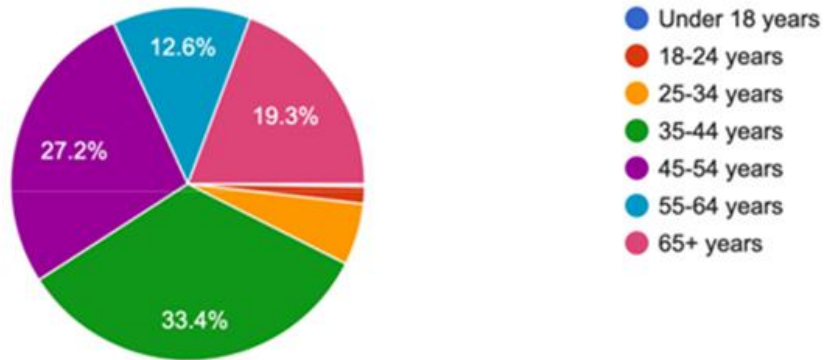
For questions about the **grant portal** or technical issues with the application, contact: **CFGrants@greaterhartfordgives.org**.

Appendix A:
Somers Community Fund 2024 Community Survey
April 24, 2024

There were 389 Responses to the Community Survey with the following data

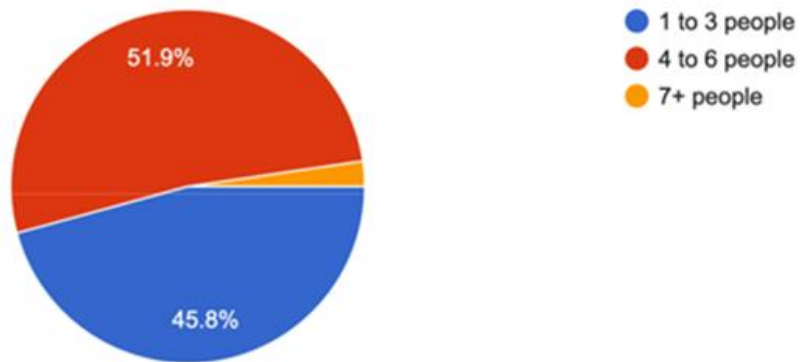
What is your age?

389 responses



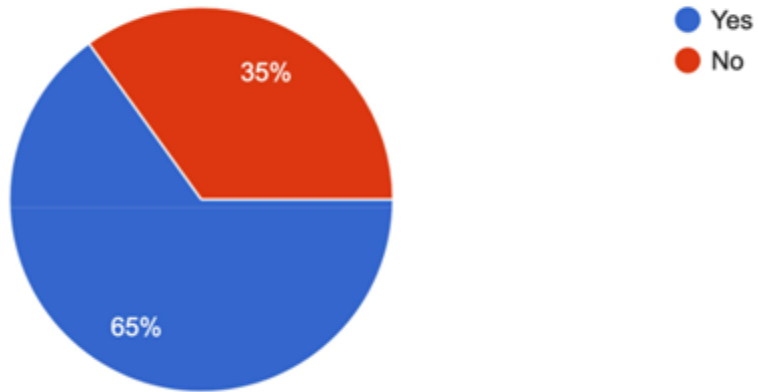
How many people currently live in your household?

389 responses



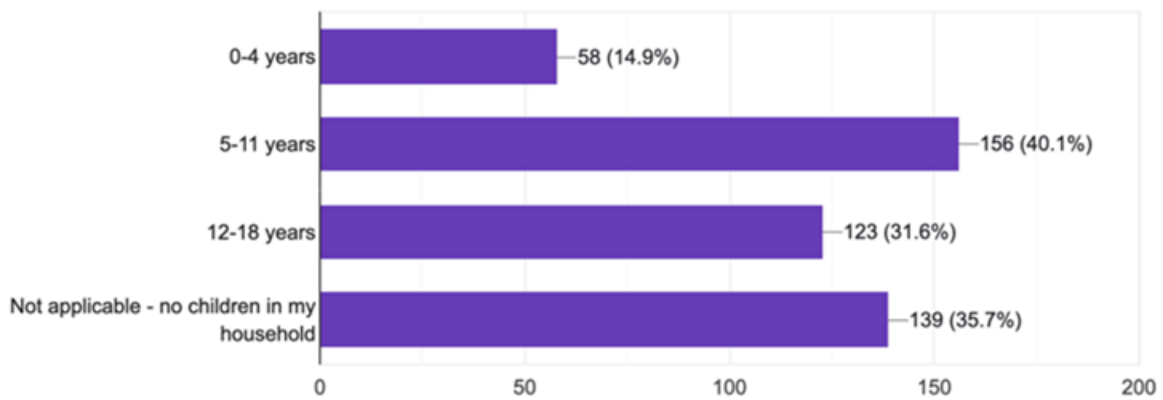
Do you have children living in your household?

389 responses



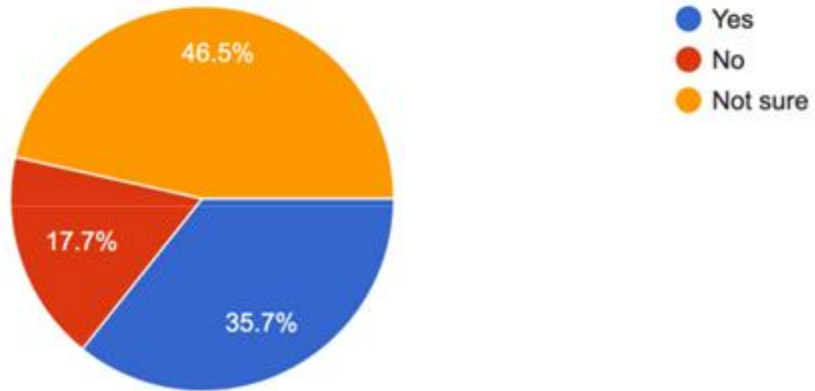
If you do have children in your household, what are the ages of the children?

389 responses

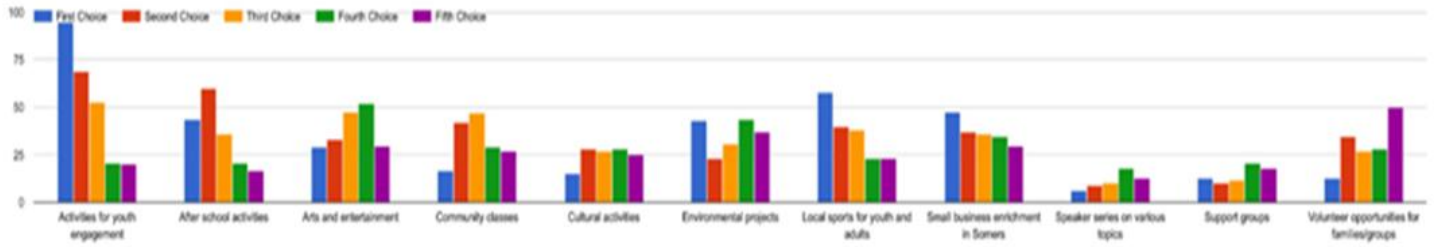


Did you respond to the 2020 community survey?

389 responses



Below is a list of community needs. Please select up to five needs that you would like to see created, improved and/or enhanced here in Somers.



Weighted Average to Identify Top Choice Categories- highlighted in green

Topic	1st %	First #	2nd %	2nd #	Total 1+2	3rd %	3rd #	4th %	4th #	5th %	5th #	Wavg	Total Resp
Activities for Youth Engagement	23.41%	96	17.88%	69		14.52%	53	6.56%	21	6.90%	20	3.77	259
After School/Outdoor Activities	12.93%	53	15.54%	60		9.86%	36	6.56%	21	5.86%	17	3.59	187
Local Sports for youth and adults	14.15%	58	10.36%	40		10.41%	38	7.19%	23	7.93%	23	3.48	182
Small Business Enrichment in Somers	11.71%	48	9.59%	37		9.86%	36	10.94%	35	10.34%	30	3.20	186
Community Classes/Senior Activities	6.59%	27	10.88%	42		12.88%	47	9.06%	29	9.31%	27	3.08	172
Environmental projects	10.49%	43	5.96%	23		8.49%	31	13.75%	44	12.76%	37	2.95	178
Arts and Entertainment	7.07%	29	8.55%	33		13.15%	48	16.25%	52	10.34%	30	2.89	192
Cultural Activities	3.66%	15	7.25%	28		7.40%	27	8.75%	28	8.62%	25	2.84	123
Support groups/Mental Health	3.41%	14	2.59%	10		3.29%	12	6.56%	21	6.21%	18	2.75	75
Speaker Series on various topics	1.46%	6	2.33%	9		2.74%	10	5.63%	18	4.48%	13	2.59	56
Volunteer opportunities for families/groups	3.17%	13	9.07%	35		7.40%	27	8.75%	28	17.24%	50	2.56	153
		402		386			365		320		290		
Number of people who responded as highest priority													
Highest Weighted Average across all respondents													
Formulas:													
Weighted Average - Each question response is counted equally. The score is calculated by summing each question's count of scorable responses multiplied by the question's average score, which is then divided by the total sum of scorable response counts.	Example for Activities to Engage Youth is $(965+69 \times 4 + 53 \times 3 + 21 \times 2 + 20 \times 1) / 259$												
First Choice = 5													
Second Choice = 4													
Third Choice = 3													
Fourth Choice = 2													
Fifth Choice = 1													

Categorization of Individual Survey Comments

Comments	Category	Categories
Fun activities for youth	Activities for youth engagement	Mental Health Services
Fun after school activities	Activities for youth engagement	Outdoor Activities
Place for teens to connect and chat	Activities for youth engagement	Speaker Series on various topics
Positive activities for youth	Activities for youth engagement	Cultural Activities
Teen programs	Activities for youth engagement	Community Classes
Expanded adult activities	Community Classes	After School Activities
Programs to educate adults with disabilities around services	Community Classes	Play Groups for young children
Tai Chi at senior center	Community Classes	Support Groups
Tai Chi at senior center	Community Classes	Volunteer opportunities for families/groups
Watercolor classes	Community Classes	Environmental projects
Community/Senior Center	Community/Senior Center	Town communication methods
Community/Senior Center	Community/Senior Center	Activities for youth engagement
Senior Center	Community/Senior Center	Arts and entertainment
Senior Center	Community/Senior Center	Local Sports- youth and adults
Senior Center Activities	Community/Senior Center	
Senior Center with walking trails	Community/Senior Center	
Senior classes	Community/Senior Center	
Senior programs	Community/Senior Center	
Senior/Community Center	Community/Senior Center	
Clean up at high school as environmental project	Environmental projects	
Earth Day activities	Environmental projects	
Improve environment	Environmental projects	
Littering fine signs	Environmental projects	
Nice town center	Environmental projects	
Roadside clean up	Environmental projects	
Vision blvd - facelift- flowers, clean signs, paint buildings	Environmental projects	
Sports fields	Local Sports- youth and adults	
Sports fields and lighting	Local Sports- youth and adults	
Sports/Athletic fields	Local Sports- youth and adults	
Sports/softball fields	Local Sports- youth and adults	
Sports/Softball playing fields	Local Sports- youth and adults	
Mental Health resources	Mental Health Services	
Dog Park	Other	
Handyman to help seniors	Other	
Revamp 190 especially apartments	Other	
School supplies	Other	
New business for coffee/baked goods	Other/Business	
Town support small businesses- get permits approved	Other/Business	
More speed limit signs	Other/Safety	
Side walks	Other/Safety	
Sidewalks	Other/Safety	
Sidewalks	Other/Safety	
Sidewalks	Other/Safety	
Sidewalks on main street	Other/Safety	
Street lights	Other/Safety	
Summer Camp	Other/Summer Camp	
Summer camp full time options for Middle School	Other/Summer Camp	
Bike path	Outdoor Activities	
Bike path	Outdoor Activities	
Enhancing recreational opportunities at Lake Aya-Po	Outdoor Activities	
Ice skating rink	Outdoor Activities	
Permanent Pickleball courts	Outdoor Activities	
Town trips by recreation department	Outdoor Activities	
Walking path	Outdoor Activities	
Pre-schoolers enrichment programs	Play Groups for young children	
Better coordination between town departments around community	Town communication methods	

Based on the Community Survey data the Somers Community Fund Committee selected the following as priority areas for the 2025 Request for Proposals

1. Activities for Youth Engagement
2. After School/Outdoor Activities
3. Local Sports for Youth and Adults
4. Small Business Enrichment in Somers
5. Community Classes/Senior Activities
6. Environmental Projects
7. Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Activities