



2026 Basic Human Needs Emergency Assistance Grants Fact Sheet

The Foundation is seeking requests to directly provide emergency services and assistance that address the most basic of human needs of Greater Hartford residents in our [29-town](#) service area, as outlined below:

- Food or food assistance
- Emergency clothing needs (e.g., shoes, school uniforms, coats)
- Personal care items (e.g., deodorant, diapers, sanitary products)
- Emergency financial assistance (e.g., rent and/or mortgage assistance and utility expense assistance, childcare assistance, bus fare/tokens, gas money)
- Emergency medical aid or immediate expense assistance (e.g., dental, medical, mental health supports, and prescription expenses)
- Aftercare programs for victims of domestic violence
- Emergency and/or informal case management services

Ineligible requests include the following:

- College-specific expenses such as textbooks or tuition
- Requests for the benefit of animals
- Applications from individual people in crisis
- Applications to cover an individual's legal services

Some things to know

- We are accepting applications for **Round 1** between March 11 and April 15. We expect to announce grants no later than the end of July.
- We are accepting applications for **Round 2** between July 21 and August 25. We expect to announce grants no later than the end of November.
- We will be awarding \$1,000-\$20,000 for individual projects and up to \$30,000 for collaborative projects.
 - For this grant, a collaborative project is one where grant funds will be spent by multiple organizations, OR services/items will be provided at multiple independent coordinated sites.
- This year, in addition to awarding one-year grants, the Foundation will award two-year grants to a select number of applicants. Two-year grants will be awarded to organizations based on the Foundation's discretion and the following criteria:
 - The organization is a previous BHN Emergency Assistance grantee for the past 3 years (must have received a grant in 2023, 2024, and 2025).
 - The organization submitted final reports for each BHN Emergency Assistance grant received.
 - The organization is applying for funding support for existing work, not new programming.

- The primary purpose of the requested funds is to increase food security.

Officers will contact applicants during the review process if the potential for a two-year grant arises.

- Nonprofits or community groups can submit applications. If your organization does not have a 501(c)(3) you will need an organization with a 501(c)(3) to be your fiscal sponsor.
 - If your agency is recognized by the IRS as a church, you do not need a fiscal sponsor.
- Applicants who did not receive a BHN EA grant in 2025 can submit **one application each round** but may only **receive one grant a year**. Applicants who received a BHN EA grant in Round 1 of 2025 can apply in Round 1 or Round 2 of 2026. Applicants who received a BHN EA grant in Round 2 of 2025 can apply in Round 2 of 2026 or Round 1 of 2027.
- Organizations currently receiving core or program grants from the Foundation are **not** eligible to receive a grant.
- Funds will support organizations and programs that have been implemented successfully for at least one year or more.
- While the Foundation acknowledges that all the needs on the list above are important for a person's wellbeing, it must also be acknowledged that the food security needs of the region are persistent. Most of the funds distributed are likely to be for efforts focused on increasing food security.

Important Contacts

If you need help getting into the application through the [Grants Portal](#), username, password, accessing the right application, contact:

- *Grants Administration* – grantsadministration@greaterhartfordgives.org

If you have questions about project fit or eligibility or need help with application forms (attachments) or questions, contact:

- *Susan Hills, Community Impact Manager* - shills@greaterhartfordgives.org or 860-339-3565 (Direct line)

The Foundation will host an information session via Zoom on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 PM about this opportunity. Register [here](#).