



**Request for Proposals**  
**Resident Engagement Grants**  
*April 2026*

The Greater Hartford Gives Foundation seeks proposals from nonprofits or community groups engaged in or planning efforts to increase local civic participation in support of community wide social and/or civic change for the benefit of residents in [Greater Hartford 29 town region](#). This RFP complements our Community Organizing RFP which seeks to support change efforts led by people of color and/or people representing communities that have been traditionally marginalized or underrepresented to increase power sharing between them and the institutions meant to serve them. Information about that opportunity is available [here](#).

Requests can address issues such as the advancement of racial/social justice, increasing awareness of racial/social justice issues, housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons, or other issues as identified by the community. Scope of work considered could take place over the course of **one year**. Grant awards will range from **\$1,000 - \$25,000**.

**Timing:** This opportunity is available from **April 14, 2026 – September 23, 2026**. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions within approximately 9 to 13 weeks from the date they submit their application.

I. **Background:**

The Greater Hartford Gives Foundation seeks to create lasting solutions that result in vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities for all residents in Greater Hartford. To achieve this the Foundation seeks to advance equitable economic and social mobility and contribute to dismantling structural racism. Please visit our website for more information about the Foundation's [current strategic priorities](#).

The Foundation recognizes civic participation as one of the most impactful ways to create lasting and positive change in one's everyday life. Higher levels of civic trust, participation and engagement are correlated with both more equitable economic outcomes and many positive health

outcomes, such as lower mortality rates and improved mental and physical health and lower crime rates<sup>1</sup>.

The Foundation is looking to support civic spaces where people engage in mutual experiences that increase social issue awareness and promote allyship with marginalized communities. We recognize the need for community members to get together, lend collective resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge to improve overall quality of life locally. This is also in support of civic life defined broadly as the attitudes, activities and investments that build on collective resources, skills, expertise, and knowledge to improve citizens' quality of life in community.

## II. **Project Description:**

The Foundation is seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations or community groups with a fiscal sponsor to engage residents in efforts to increase local civic participation in support of community wide social and/or civic change for the benefit of residents in Greater Hartford.

Efforts can focus on issues such as increasing racial/social justice issue awareness and increasing civic education/issue awareness. Projects can address issues such as housing, education, health care, the concerns of returning citizens, and issues affecting LGBTQIA+ persons among other things.

Resident engagement efforts might include activities such as:

- Community conversations or workshops designed to engage and challenge residents in their own personal thinking around attitudes and beliefs aligned with our mission
- Volunteerism designed to build good will among varying groups of people
- Informational outreach campaigns that encourage social cohesiveness – in alignment with the Foundation's mission
- Projects with civic and municipal leaders on behalf of marginalized/underrepresented communities

Resident Engagement efforts may not include activities such as:

- Out of school time recreational youth activities
- Neighborhood clubs or groups
- Senior engagement activities not designed for broader civic life participation
- Business or networking groups

Applications will be assessed against a rubric which is available [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Abram, M., Seaberry, C., Ankra, J., Bourdillon, A., Davila K., Finn, E., McGann. S., Nathan, A. (2019) Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index 2019. New Haven, CT: DataHaven. Pg 90.

### III. **Eligibility:**

#### **Applicant:**

- Applications must be submitted by 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Community groups can work with an organization with a 501(c)(3) designation as a fiscal sponsor.
- Organization must be formed one year or more prior to applying.
- A nonprofit or community group may only have one application under consideration at a time. Nonprofits, however, may serve as a fiscal agent for multiple projects.
- The Foundation does not consider the typical activities of professional networking groups and associations to be resident engagement (e.g. professional networking, business-related skill building).
- Core support or multi-year grant recipients are not eligible to apply for this opportunity.
- Applicants are not eligible if they have already been awarded a grant from Community Organizing or Resident Engagement in the same year.
- Organizations and groups denied for a Resident Engagement grant during the 2026 process should contact Foundation staff before reapplying to discuss their proposed project.
- Organizations and groups denied for a 2026 Community Organizing grant are not eligible to apply for a 2026 Resident Engagement grant.
- In addition, if your group or organization has an open grant through the following funding opportunities, contact your grant's Community Impact Officer before applying to this RFP:
  - 2024 or 2025 Community Organizing
  - 2024 or 2025 Resident Engagement

#### **Use of Funds:**

Line items requested from the Foundation may include but are not limited to: materials, software or equipment, stipends for residents, payment for professional services, organizational staffing and overhead. The Foundation will not support the hiring of new, permanent staffing with this funding opportunity.

Please note, should the proposed project involve activities some deem political, be aware public charities (all 501c3 nonprofits) can engage in mobilization activities provided that these activities are conducted in a nonpartisan manner that is not biased in favor or against any particular candidate or political party. Foundation funds cannot be used to support activities that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring or providing a benefit to a candidate, group of candidates, or political party.

#### **Budget:**

Grants will be awarded for projects occurring over the course of a year and will range in size from **\$1,000** to **\$25,000**, dependent on the scope of work outlined in the project. Only a limited number of applications will receive the full \$25,000 award, and the Foundation encourages submissions across a range of funding levels.

#### IV. **Impact and Reporting:**

The Foundation is interested in understanding how nonprofit partners and community groups see the impact they are making in their communities. As you complete the Foundation’s application you will be asked to identify the outcomes you intend to accomplish throughout your grant. We will also ask you how you will know you are making progress toward those outcomes. Our preference is that groups and organizations use information they already collect or information they believe would be helpful for them to collect as evidence of progress and impact. As a part of the review process, we might work with you to clarify/confirm your intended outcomes and what information you can reasonably report that demonstrates your progress and impact.

In addition, if you receive a grant, you will be given the option to provide a written final report or to have a follow-up conversation at the end of the grant period. If, as you are completing your application, you are not sure how to identify intended outcomes contact Senior Community Impact Associate Tiana Starks at [tstarks@greaterhartfordgives.org](mailto:tstarks@greaterhartfordgives.org) including “Resident Engagement: Outcome Help” in the subject line so they can assist you.

Some outcomes or indicators we have seen organizations report in the past have included:

- Number of residents participating in attendance at community conversations
- Number of residents participating in advocacy efforts
- Number of volunteers
- Description of volunteerism efforts and the positive effects of the volunteerism
- Examples of newly established or improved outreach, messaging, and public/social media campaigns
- Description of local improvements or policy changes or practices, at the municipal and state level due to efforts.

#### V. **Timeline:**

In 2026, this opportunity will be available from **April 14, 2026 – September 23, 2026**. The Foundation estimates applicants will be notified of grant decisions approximately 9 to 13 weeks from the date they submit their application.

#### VI. **Submission:**

Previous ‘Resident Engagement’ grant recipients may contact Cynthia Wills, Community Impact Officer, [CWills@greaterhartfordgives.org](mailto:CWills@greaterhartfordgives.org) to apply. New applicants must schedule an eligibility interview to discuss proposal criteria, [click here to schedule](#). For questions on criteria contact Senior Community Impact Associate, Tiana Starks, [TStarks@greaterhartfordgives.org](mailto:TStarks@greaterhartfordgives.org). An access code to apply will be provided after an eligibility interview.

For support with your account or password for our online system, contact Grants Administration at [GrantsAdministration@greaterhartfordgives.org](mailto:GrantsAdministration@greaterhartfordgives.org).