GREATER HARTFORD GIVES FOUNDATION | Nonprofit Support Program

A bulletin for nonprofit leaders from the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation

November 2026

NSP Team Welcomes Doug Sudell

The NSP team is pleased to welcome the newest member of our team, Doug Sudell, Senior Community Impact Officer. His primary role is to help organizations to strengthen their financial management, improve their strategic technology use, access organizational assessment, and build their evaluation capacity.

Doug has spent much of his career in nonprofit leadership, from serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras, to leading Hands on Hartford, to consulting with nonprofits nationally on mission-driven growth strategies. He holds a Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management from NYU's Wagner School, and a bachelor's degree from University of Connecticut.

When he is not traveling, you will usually find him in the garden, the woodshop, or knee-deep in a project with his kids. Please join us in welcoming Doug to the team!

Our colleague, **Amy Studwell**, has transitioned to a part-time schedule, with a reduced portfolio focused on Community Impact department operations, and much of Amy's portfolio of work has transitioned to Doug. We thank Amy for her extensive contributions to NSP and the Foundation over many years, and wish her well in her new role!

NSP Launches New Offering – Cybersecurity Mini Grants

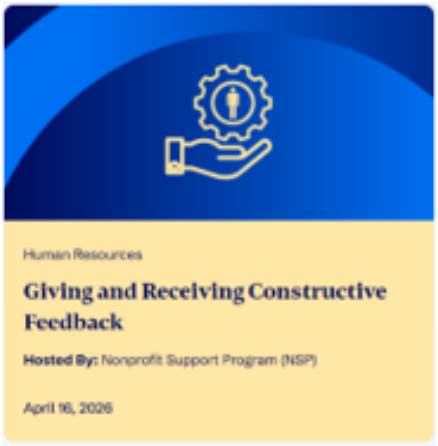
Small and mid-sized nonprofits face growing cybersecurity threats, and even one breach can interrupt services, expose donor or client information, and erode community trust. Greater Hartford Gives Foundation is launching Cybersecurity Mini Grants to help eligible nonprofits strengthen their defenses.

Funding may support security assessments; upgrades to firewalls, antivirus protection, data backup systems, or multi-factor authentication; staff and board training; cybersecurity policy development; and cybersecurity insurance. Awards are based on an organization's annual budget and range from $1,500 for organizations with budgets under $300,000 to $15,000 for organizations with budgets between $3 million and $10 million.

Nonprofits are eligible if they have annual budgets under $10 million, are in the Foundation's 29-town region, and do not currently have an open Strategic or Small Organization Technology Grant. Priority will be given to organizations aligned with the Foundation's strategic priorities. Receiving a Cybersecurity Mini Grant will not prevent an organization from seeking other capacity-building support, including technology assistance.

To learn more and apply, click here.

If you have questions, contact Doug Sudell, Senior Community Impact Officer at dsudell@greaterhartfordgives.org.



NSP Launches New Learning Opportunities Resource

NSP has been recording its workshop sessions since COVID began and Zoom workshops became far more commonplace. As a result, we now have a library of over 100 workshop recordings and materials, which are available for anyone to access at their convenience, and share with other staff and board at their organizations.

The list is searchable by topic area, and also includes workshops for emerging nonprofits offered by Hartford Public Library in partnership with NSP. Topics include: cybersecurity, fundraising, human resources, financial management, governance, strategic alliances, succession planning, data and evaluation, and more.

Click HERE to access this free resource.

Hartford Public Library Workshops & Resources for Emerging Nonprofits

In partnership with NSP, Hartford Public Library (HPL) offers a range of basic organizational capacity building workshops aimed at smaller, emerging nonprofits. Upcoming workshops include Growing Your Nonprofit's People Capacity on November 11th.

Click here to learn more and view additional workshops as they're added to the calendar.

With support from the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation, HPL now offers free access at all HPL locations to the Candid online platform, which includes the Foundation Directory and Guidestar. The Directory can help you identify prospects, evaluate whether those prospects are a good fit for your needs, and promote your nonprofit's visibility and credibility through GuideStar.

Strengthen Your Nonprofit's Future with an Agency Fund

An Agency Fund with Greater Hartford Gives Foundation can help your nonprofit create a reliable income stream that supplements annual fundraising and builds reserves for the years ahead. It also signals fiscal responsibility to your supporters, building donor confidence and opening the door to planned and complex gifts, which the Foundation helps you manage. Your fund benefits from proven investment strategies within our diversified $1.3 billion endowment, along with regulatory reporting and full administrative support, freeing your team to focus on your mission. You stay in control throughout - your board decides how distributions are used, has full access to fund activity, and can grow or withdraw funds as your needs change.

Learn more about Agency Funds, or contact Greater Hartford Gives Direct at direct@greaterhartfordgives.org or (860) 548-

3100 to explore what an Agency Fund could mean for your organization.

CTData Offers Data for Democracy Conference

The conference will provide attendees with ideas and practical data skills that lead to stronger data practices. Participants will learn how to: Improve data governance, security, and quality; Implement collection practices that work in real-world settings; Create efficiency through data management best practices; Collect reliable data that can be linked to other datasets to understand long-term program impact; Engage communities in the creation and communication of data.

The conference takes place on December 3rd at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Click here for more information.

Click here to see CTData's event calendar which includes other workshop offerings.

$19.5M in State Aid Available to Nonprofits for Capital Improvement Projects

The state is offering an additional $19.5 million in funding to support a ninth round of grants under Connecticut's Nonprofit Grant Program. Administered by the state Office of Policy and Management, the program provides grants to nonprofit providers to make needed capital improvements. The first eight rounds awarded approximately $166 million to support more than 700 capital improvement projects at nonprofits statewide.

Examples of projects eligible for grants include:

- Facility alterations, renovations, improvements, additions and new construction
- Health and safety improvements, including projects supporting compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Energy conservation and efficiency improvements
- Information technology infrastructure and systems
- Technology that promotes client independence
- Purchase of vehicles necessary to support service delivery, and acquisition of property

The deadline to apply is January 5th. Grant awards are expected to be announced in spring 2027. Application materials and instructions are available here.

Does Your Nonprofit Onboard New Board Members Effectively?

Hear from nonprofit leaders as they share practical, real-world onboarding strategies for new board members - click here

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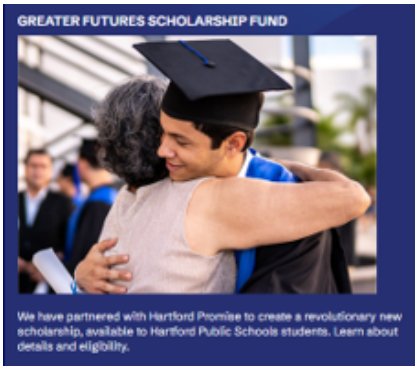
Why Is Civic Engagement Important?

This piece written by Foundation staff explores how strong civic life in Greater Hartford contributes to better health, economic opportunity, and social mobility while also strengthening our democracy. Click here.



Greater Hartford Gives' Scholarship Application Portal Opens December 15th

Scholarship applications for the 2027-28 academic year will open on December 15th. Meanwhile, you may browse a list of available scholarships, and sign up to be notified when the application opens. Click here.

The NSP Team

Meher Shulman, Associate Director
Lucas Codognolla, Senior Community Impact Officer
Doug Sudell, Senior Community Impact Officer

Amy Studwell, Senior Community Impact Officer
Monica Kelly, Community Impact Program Manager
Traci Resler, Senior Community Impact Associate

Visit our new website: GreaterHartfordGives.org

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