



**JEWISH**  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# Community Grants Program

## The Foundation and Its Role

The Jewish Community Foundation has a responsibility to invest its community grant dollars in the long-term strength and vitality of our community. Grants should support strategic programs and services that address a clear need in the Jewish community of Greater Hartford. As a general matter, the Foundation does not fund ongoing operations, but rather looks for unique opportunities, that without the Foundation's support might not otherwise be possible. Generally, the Foundation's community grants focus on Jewish organizations in the Greater Hartford area, for one or more of the following purposes:

- ➔ seed funding for innovative programs or programs that fill a need or service gap in the community
- ➔ capacity building support
- ➔ in limited circumstances, one-time programs (maximum \$10,000)

## Priority Issue Areas

The Foundation prioritizes four key funding areas, although it does not exclude consideration of grants for other purposes.

- ➔ Jewish Learning - formal and informal education experiences for people of all ages
- ➔ Outreach - engagement of the broader Jewish community
- ➔ Seniors - addressing the demographic trend toward aging residents and the special services they require
- ➔ Capacity Building - strengthening the governance, operations, and finances of an organization

## Grant Making Process

The Jewish Community Foundation accepts grant proposals on a rolling basis and are reviewed by Foundation staff, a Grants Committee comprised of volunteer community members, and approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Grant decisions are typically shared within 3-6 months of submission, depending on the follow-up required. The Grants Committee generally meets 4-5 times per year. Grant proposals are due the first week of the following months: August, November, January, March and May. Prior to applying, the Executive Director or chief staff person should consult with the Foundation's grants department. Additionally any questions about the grant application process should be directed to the grants department at [grants@jcfhartford.org](mailto:grants@jcfhartford.org).



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When applying to the Foundation, consider the following:

- ➔ A limit of one grant application from an organization will be considered each grant cycle.
- ➔ Focus on the strategic impact of the grant and its alignment with the long-term goals of the program and/or project. Grant reviewers require a comprehensive understanding of the 'why' behind the proposal, not just the 'what'.
- ➔ Put yourself in the position of a grants committee member who is not familiar with your program. Anticipate the questions they might have and endeavor to address these in the written proposal.
- ➔ Do not apply for a grant for a project to which you've already committed.
- ➔ The logic model and indicators are important in the consideration of any grant. If you need assistance, please contact the Center for Innovative Philanthropy at the Foundation which can be reached via email at [cip@jcfhartford.org](mailto:cip@jcfhartford.org).
- ➔ The submission of a grant does not guarantee funding in part, or in whole, by the Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to fund a grant at whatever level it deems appropriate.