

MAIN STREET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The Main Street Community Foundation, Inc. is a Community Foundation serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott. Donors give to the Foundation with the security of knowing that their gifts will be protected with competent, prudent management and distributed to meet the changing needs of the community. Programs and policies of the Foundation continually evolve in order to remain responsive to the community. Donors and organizations may also ask the Main Street Community Foundation to act as administrator for their funds, making sure that their money is given prudently to organizations that are serving present needs.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

Grants are made to either a public institution or private tax-exempt organization engaged in charitable activities as defined by Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Either the organization or the program for which funding is requested, must be located in the foundation's service area and be of benefit to its residents. Strong documentation must be provided from out-of-area agencies that individuals from our towns are served, and such requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

GRANTMAKING CATEGORIES

Each year the Main Street Community Foundation Board of Directors will meet to establish funding priorities based upon the special needs of the communities to be served. Presently the Foundation will focus on the following fields: community outreach, arts/culture, youth programs, education, health, human services, and environment. Requests which address these needs will be given priority. Additionally, each request will have to include stated outcomes and criteria by which they will be evaluated.

In general, grants are made for future, planned expenditures and not to cover operating deficits or previously incurred obligations. As stated above, the Main Street Community Foundation is interested in many fields of community activity and favors new, pilot, or enhanced programs designed to meet the needs of the community in accordance with Article II, Section 1 of the Foundation By-laws.

Grants for capital expenditures will be given consideration if the project is designed to directly benefit programs which meet the foundation's guidelines. The Main Street Community Foundation, at its sole discretion, may provide outright grants, challenge grants, or grants which require matching funds.

PROJECTS NOT FUNDED

Projects not generally funded by the Foundation include, but are not limited to the following: Operating/budgets deficits, day-to-day operating expenses, previously incurred obligations, fundraising events, endowments, research, political and/or lobbying activities, property repairs and maintenance, loans and memorials.

Grants will not be made to governmental agencies unless it is determined that overriding special circumstances exist. If a requesting organization exists on tax-based funding, the Foundation will treat each request on a case-by-case basis, and evaluate the particular nature and need expressed in their proposal. Grants are not made to individuals except through the scholarship program. Religiously affiliated or supported organizations may solicit grants for secular non-sectarian projects, however, grants for religious activities will not be entertained.

FUNDS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE

The Main Street Community Foundation is presently handling the administration of a variety of funds which are available for distribution to 501(c)(3) organizations. It is not necessary to apply to a specific fund regarding your project. The Main Street Community Foundation Distribution Committee will match grants with available funds. If you are interested in learning more about specific funds, information can be found in the Main Street Community Foundation's Annual Report and website www.mainstreetfoundation.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: MARCH 30ST and SEPTEMBER 28TH

General grants are usually given by the Foundation twice a year based on available funds. Current application deadlines are March 30st and September 28th.

Grantmaking decisions for all general grant funds will be made by June 15th and December 15th. Repeat requests from agencies are certainly welcome. If an agency's request for funding is approved two years in a row, the agency is asked to wait one year before submitting another request for funding

Please submit your application for all funds using the attached application forms. If you have any questions about this process, or about the Main Street Community Foundation, please call Jarre Betts at the Foundation office at (860) 583-6363. The Main Street Community Foundation reserves the right to make changes in policy from time to time.