



THE BRISTOL EDITION

An independent, nonprofit community online newspaper.



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HOME TBE

NEWS

ARTS & CULTURE

SPORTS

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

EVENTS

BUSINESS

HISTORY

OPINIONS

OBITUARIES

HOT TOPICS

FEBRUARY 10, 2026 | BRISTOL EASTERN GIRLS BASKETBALL WINS FIFTH

SEARCH ...

HOME

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Main Street Community Foundation opens general grant cycle

TOPICS: Bristol CT Main Street Community Foundation



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Recipients from last year's Main Street Community Foundation scholarships number 194, with \$360,000 in awards. | MSCF

POSTED BY: LAURA BAILEY FEBRUARY 11, 2026

by Laura Bailey | TBE news editor | February 11, 2026 |

Main Street Community Foundation has opened its annual general grant cycle and is accepting applications from eligible nonprofit organizations.

“Main Street Community Foundation is now accepting grant applications from organizations serving the residents of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott,” said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer.

The application deadline is March 27, 2026. Grants from the foundation have supported hundreds of nonprofit organizations since it was established in 1995.

Grant requests must fall within the program areas of basic needs, access to opportunity or vibrant communities, and must benefit residents within the foundation’s service area. Preference will be given to organizations with programs or

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without duplicating efforts, or enhance existing programs to encourage sustainability.

In addition to those program areas, funding is available for specific uses, including care and support of animals, sports field maintenance in Bristol and Burlington, programs and projects benefiting the Burlington community, and non-sport, noncompetitive programs and activities for children attending elementary and middle schools in Southington.

Main Street Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations in the communities it serves. Founded by private citizens, the foundation works with donors to build permanent charitable endowments that support local needs. Since its founding, the foundation has awarded more than \$33.6 million in grants and scholarships.

Organizations interested in applying can find application guidelines and eligibility criteria at www.mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant.

Applicants are required to contact Whitney Shufelt, director of grants and programs, or Alicia Krar, grants manager, at 860-583-6363 for a preliminary discussion at least one week before the application deadline. Shufelt can be reached at whitney@mainstreetfoundation.org and Krar at alicia@mainstreetfoundation.org.

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