



NEWTOWN-SANDY HOOK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 194 | NEWTOWN, CT 06470 | NSHCF.ORG

Sandy Hook School Support Fund Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation is soliciting grant applications for its second round of grant making from the Sandy Hook School Support Fund (the Fund). Funding is available for specific events or activities that support recovery and resiliency as described in the focus area for funding below. To qualify for funding, all applicants or their fiscal sponsors must have current 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status through the Internal Revenue Service. It is anticipated that a total of \$100,000 will be available for this grant cycle and that grants to individual organizations will range between \$5,000 and \$20,000. However, grant awards may vary depending on the scope and type of project.

Background

The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation) was formed in late February 2013 at the request of the United Way of Western CT and the Newtown Savings Bank to receive the Sandy Hook School Support Fund (SHSS) dollars and develop a locally controlled and separate organization responsible for how the monies ultimately would be distributed. The Board of Directors allocates set dollar amounts to distribution committees who in turn solicit public input and develop spending plans that are in line with the Foundation's mission and current community needs. The mission of the Foundation is to devote itself to furthering and supporting **operations and activities which address the short and long-term unmet needs of individuals and the Newtown community arising from the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012**. For information about the Foundation, the Fund, or the process for determining community needs, please visit our website at www.nshcf.org.

Focus Area for Funding

In most cases, individual therapeutic interventions are not enough to overcome the scope and magnitude of the trauma faced by the Newtown community and those most impacted by the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Research on resilience and recovery from trauma emphasizes the need for strong, supportive relationships that connect people to one another. While individual treatment may be one important component, "the most traumatic aspects of all disasters involve the shattering of human connections" (Dr. Bruce Perry). Growth, improved functioning, and healing cannot occur in isolation and strong, supportive social networks have proven to act as a buffer to the negative effects of trauma. Therefore, the Foundation is interested in helping to support and cultivate programs and initiatives that work to build and strengthen interpersonal connections with children, youth, and adults throughout the community.



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Research also shows that relief from trauma symptoms is often experienced when individuals become part of something bigger than themselves. Getting involved in an effort that in some way gives back to the community has proven to be incredibly healing. It restores a sense of control and connects individuals to a larger mission. Therefore applications are also encouraged from groups that incorporate this work into their missions.

Recognizing that resources to support recovery are finite, it is increasingly important that grants are focused on services and programs that are able to demonstrate sustainability over time. Applicants must clearly articulate, through supportive research, how proposed programs and/or interventions contribute to the short and long-term recovery needs of the community and how they are to be maintained over time.

How Grant Decisions Are Made & Funding Notification

This is a competitive grant process. All proposals will be reviewed by the SHSSF Distribution Committee. Each proposal is evaluated with respect to available dollars and alignment with our priority areas for this round of funding. During the review process, staff or committee members may initiate contact with an organization if additional information is needed or if a site visit is requested. After careful review members of the Distribution Committee of the Fund will make recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Directors for final approval. It is expected that all applicants will be notified by e-mail or mail no later than the third week in February 2015 regarding funding decisions.

Application Process

To be considered for funding, we ask that you submit a two-three page proposal based on the attached guidelines. For questions about this grant opportunity please contact Jennifer Barahona, Executive Director by email (jbarahona@nshcf.org) or phone (203-460-0687). **Proposals must be submitted by the deadline of 5:00pm on December 19, 2014.** Submissions may be sent electronically to jbarahona@nshcf.org.



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**SANDY HOOK SCHOOL SUPPORT FUND
Grant Application Guidelines**

Please prepare a two-three page proposal that includes the following:

1. Name and address of organization, including telephone, email, name and title of Executive Director (or equivalent) and the name and title of the contact person for this application.
2. A brief description (1-2 paragraphs) of the organization's mission, primary programs and services and the results have you achieved for the people you serve in the past two years.
3. The specific purpose for which funds will be used (1-2 sentences) including the total cost of the project and the amount you are requesting. Please include a line item income and expense budget, in-kind, and cash support.
4. Description of the project including specific results you are committed to achieving. What will be the primary benefit to the participants as a result of your program? Please be very specific about the level of change that will constitute success. (By results we ask that you not focus on your activities or services, but rather, what people gain from them.)
5. Description of the method or approach you will use to achieve these results. Please let us know why you choose this approach and what evidence supports using it. Please also provide a description of how you will document your results
6. Description of how your organization, staff, and organizational leaders (including Board) have been trained in trauma-informed care and services.
7. If awarded a grant, indicate how your project/program will be sustained after the award period. *Please note: due to the limited resources of the Fund, sustainability is incredibly important to the review committee.*
8. Indicate if the organization has applied for other sources of funding for this project. If so, how much was requested and what is the status of the application(s)?

Attachments

Include the following additional information for your organization or the organization that will serve as your fiscal agent with your application.

- Project budget (income and expenses, including names of other funding sources)
- Current and most recent year's annual operating budget for the organization (income and expenses)
- Most recent audited financial statements
- IRS 501(c)(3) ruling letter
- Signed Certificate of Non-Discrimination (attached)
- Letters of agreement **if** this is a collaborative proposal (not letters of support)



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CERTIFICATE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION*

The governing board of _____ maintains the following policy of non-discrimination:

1. No person is excluded from agency programs or benefits because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, medical condition, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law.
2. There is no discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, medical condition, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law with regard to hiring, assignment, promotion or other conditions of staff employment.
3. There is no discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, medical condition, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law on the agency’s governing body.

I certify that the practices of this organization conform to the policy of non-discrimination stated above.

Typed or printed name of President or Board Chairperson

Date

Signature of President or Authorized Official

*The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation will not knowingly support organizations, projects and programs that discriminate in their employment practices or delivery of programs or services on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, medical condition, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law. We therefore require that all grant applicants submit a signed Certificate of Non-Discrimination confirming compliance with all applicable local, state and federal anti-discrimination laws.