2020 Grant Cycle Guidelines

The Southborough Community Fund (SCF) promotes a spirit of philanthropic giving to support organizations that are working to create solutions for current needs and that are implementing new ideas that will improve Southborough for the future. We encourage grant applications that bring innovative thinking to big issues and small ones.

Grants range from $1,000 to $10,000; grants of more than $10,000 may be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects of exceptional merit.

In these unprecedented times, the Southborough Community Fund would like to make the grant application and process as easy as possible. We are looking forward to hearing your innovative and creative ideas.

GRANT PROCESS

SCF is a fund of the Foundation for MetroWest with a separate Community Board that is responsible for evaluating and allocating grant awards. The 2020 grant cycle includes an online application and potential follow-up meeting. Follow-up meetings will focus on understanding alignment between SCF funding interests and applicant programming. SCF encourages open dialogue and active brainstorming during these conversations to ensure projects and solutions are innovative and comprehensive. The grant process is based on the following timeline:

- August 7, 9:00 AM...............................Application opens online: www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
- September, 11, 5:00 PM.......................... Application deadline
- Mid to late September........................ Potential Follow-up meetings
- By mid-to late October........................... Applicants notified of decision

Due to COVID-19, all meetings will be virtual. Unfortunately, we will not be able to host a grant celebration this year due to the pandemic.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must have:

- 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization OR have an eligible fiscal sponsor OR be a Town of Southborough department, board, or commission
- Programming that wholly or predominantly serves Southborough residents

At this time, SCF will not accept applications from:

- Southborough schools
- Organized youth sport programs

WHAT SCF WILL FUND

Proposals may be submitted for:

- Programming (existing, pilot, or expanded)
- Capacity-building efforts including, but not limited to:
  - Strategic planning
  - Data and evaluation
  - Organizational development
  - Communications and marketing
  - Board of Directors (e.g., succession planning)
On a limited basis, the SCF will consider funding operations and general support. Organizations seeking operations and general support should be prepared to explain any decreases in funding from government sources, as well as plans to sustain going forward.

Capital requests will **not** be considered.

**FOCUS AREAS**

- **HUMAN SERVICES**
  
  To support families, youth, seniors, and underserved populations in creating pathways that improve overall quality of life.

- **ARTS & CULTURE**
  
  To support the cultural vitality of the Southborough community, including the visual arts, the performing arts, and historic preservation.

- **ENVIRONMENT**
  
  To preserve Southborough’s natural resources and to increase environmental awareness, education, and engagement.

- **COMMUNITY BUILDING**
  
  To support increased volunteerism and community involvement, to strengthen civic engagement, and to emphasize collaborations that enhance community initiatives.

**HOW TO APPLY**

1. If your organization is new to SCF or the Foundation for MetroWest, please create an account.
2. If your organization has applied to SCF or the Foundation for MetroWest in the past, please log into your existing account.
3. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
4. Select **2020 SCF Grant Program**.

**TO APPLY:** [WWW.BIT.LY/FFMW_FOUNDANT](http://WWW.BIT.LY/FFMW_FOUNDANT)

**DEADLINE:** **SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 AT 5:00PM**

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your proposal, we encourage you to email grants@foundationformetrowest.org as early as possible to schedule a time to discuss.