

Grant Guidelines

Liberty Bank Foundation was established in 1997 as an extension of Liberty Bank's commitment to the communities it has served since 1825. We invest in organizations that our neighbors depend on to build strong and vibrant communities.

Our Mission

To improve the lives of our customers, teammates, and communities for generations to come.

Geographic Area Served

The Liberty Bank Foundation supports organizations and programs that operate in [communities served by Liberty Bank](#).

Funding Priorities

Our funding is focused on supporting historically underserved communities and low-to-moderate income individuals and families in the following priority areas:

Education & Training: Our Education & Training grants support K-12 programs aimed at improving academic performance and preparing students for college or careers after graduation. We also focus on Adult Workforce Development, funding programs that help unemployed or underemployed individuals secure stable, well-paying jobs. Additionally, we support small businesses, often through grants to Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs), recognizing their role in strengthening communities and local economies.

Affordable Housing: Connecticut still faces an affordable housing shortage, despite recent progress. Eligible programs for affordable housing grants include:

- Development of low/moderate-income housing, with or without supportive services
- Technical assistance for nonprofit affordable housing developers
- Education to build support for affordable and supportive housing
- Foreclosure prevention and homeowner counseling
- Homebuyer and landlord education for low/moderate-income individuals

Food: We provide a limited number of grants, typically ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, to the primary food pantry or soup kitchen in each community. Our main effort to address food insecurity is through our [Liberty Bank Rotary Club Thanksgiving Drive](#).

Eligibility for Grants

When reviewing grant applications, here's what we take into consideration:

- Number of people served
- The level of need of the people to be served. Are they of low/moderate income? Do they represent historically underserved communities?
- Measurable Impact. Will the program generate long-term change by preventing a potential problem from occurring, or only provide temporary relief? Will it create meaningful change in the community or for the individuals involved?

The following types of organizations are eligible for grants from the foundation:

- Nonprofit organizations recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Municipal Agencies

For the most part, we prefer to fund specific programs. On rare occasions, we may consider requests for capital projects or equipment.

Liberty Bank Foundation does not make grants to support the following:

- Annual fundraisers or campaigns (except United Way)
- Animal Causes
- Childcare/Daycare Agencies
- Subsidies/Scholarships
- Civic Organizations
- Consultants
- Debt reduction
- Endowments
- Fundraising activities (specifically golf tournaments, road races, etc.)
- Organizations serving limited/small number of individuals
- Pilots, new initiatives, new organizations
- Activism or community organizing
- Advocacy
- Private scholarships/tuition
- Religious organizations, unless supporting non-sectarian broad based community issues
- Research and feasibility studies
- Team sponsorships
- Third parties raising funds for a charity
- Trips, tours or conferences
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Lobbying

We receive many requests and aim to give fair consideration to all. Support in one year does not guarantee future funding, and we can only accept one application per organization per year. For eligibility questions, please contact the Foundation.

Grant Size and Duration

The minimum grant amount is \$5,000. Most grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 and are made on a one-time basis.

Applying for a Grant

To begin the application process, [email](#) the Foundation to set up a time to discuss your project, even if you've received funding for it before. We will confirm if your project aligns with our funding priorities and answer any questions. Contact details for Foundation staff are on the last page. All applications must be submitted online. Once eligible, we will provide instructions on accessing the online application. Grant requests are reviewed three times a year.

Application Deadline	Decision Timeframe
February 1	May
May 1	August
November 1	February

Application Checklist

In order for us to consider your grant request, the following supporting information and documents must be uploaded with your grant application. To avoid a delay in considering your request, please check that all the documents below have been uploaded before clicking "submit."

- A copy of the IRS letter documenting the 501(c)(3) status of your organization
- A list of your board of directors or trustees, with their affiliations
- A complete budget for the project for which you are requesting funding (including both pending and secured income and expenses)
- The annual operating budget for your organization for the fiscal year in which the project will take place
- Most recent audited financial statements, with management letter. If you don't have audited statements, we will need a statement of financial position, statement of activities, and cash flow statement.
- A copy of your most recent Form 990 return (include all pages).

If any of the above documents are unavailable or inapplicable, please upload a document telling us the reason why you are unable to provide it. You can do the same if you don't have the appropriate document now but plan to submit it later; in that case, please let us know the date by which you expect to email it. *Please note that our system will not accept your grant request unless every document has been uploaded.* **Note: If you have previously received a grant from our foundation and have not submitted a final report, you will need to do so in order for a future grant to be considered.**

Contact Information

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