



2023 SCF Community Grant 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. As a fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, the SCF is a source of funding to support community needs and opportunities in the areas of Human Services, Arts and Culture, Education*, Environment, and Community Building.

The 2023 SCF Community Grant Program will provide one-time grants from \$500 to \$10,000 to organizations in the areas of Human Services, Arts & Culture, Environment, and Community Building. Grants of more than \$10,000 may be considered on a case-by-case basis for projects of exceptional merit.

**Please note that SCF provides separate processes to fund initiatives in the area of Education. To learn more about these opportunities, please [visit our website](#).*

GRANT PROCESS

SCF, with the leadership, expertise, and support of the Foundation, will provide a source of funding exclusively for the town of Southborough. SCF's Community Board is responsible for evaluating and allocating grant awards. The 2023 SCF Community Grant Program grant process includes an online application and possible follow up communication, and is based on the following timeline:

- August 14, 9:00 AM.....Application opens online: www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
- September 15, 5:00 PM..... Application deadline
- Late September – mid-October.....Community Board review (*potential follow-up communication***)
- Mid-November.....Applicants notified of decision

***Please note that there is limited capacity to follow up with applicants. If you don't receive any follow-up communication from the SCF Board, it does not mean there is a lack of interest in considering or funding your application.*

ELIGIBILITY

SCF will consider applications from organizations that meet the following:

- Wholly or significantly serves Southborough residents
- Has 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
- Does not limit service based on an individual's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability.

At this time, SCF will **not** accept applications from:

- Southborough schools
 - Applications for [Southborough Community Fund Education Grants](#) (formerly provided through Southborough Education Foundation) will be available in January.
 - [Education Mini-Grants](#) of \$750 or under are rolling.
- Organized youth sports programs

WHAT SCF WILL FUND

Proposals may be submitted for:

- Programming (existing, pilot, or expanded)

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Southborough Community Fund: a Fund of the Foundation for MetroWest



- Capacity-building efforts including, but not limited to:
 - Strategic planning
 - Data and evaluation
 - Organizational development
 - Communications and marketing
 - Governance/Board Development

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 the government or other 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.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
 - b. See <https://bit.ly/applicanttutorialffmw> for a short video tutorial.
2. If your organization has applied to SCF or the Foundation for MetroWest in the past, please log into your existing account. If you do not remember your credentials, do not create a new account. Email grants@foundationformetrowest.org.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
3. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
4. Select **2023 SCF Community**.

TO APPLY: WWW.BIT.LY/FFMW_FOUNDANT

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 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.