



FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

Human Services Grant Program: 2023 Guidelines

Foundation for MetroWest (FFMW) envisions a region that provides equitable access to critical and life-enhancing resources to improve the quality of life for all neighbors. Our mission for the 2023 Human Services Grant Program is to invest in local nonprofit organizations whose primary mission is to deliver basic needs and wrap-around social services to individuals and households in MetroWest that address identified community challenges. The Foundation has a strong interest in supporting organizations focused on prevention-based models.

This year, the Foundation for MetroWest seeks to award **one-time general operating grants of up to \$20,000*** to support human services organizations in MetroWest. Grant decisions and amounts will be determined based on a variety of factors, including:

- Organization size – understanding the impact of a grant of this size for your organization
- Location(s) of impact – demonstrating commitment to MetroWest and role in the region’s social services ecosystem
- Organization impact and reach – including population served, type(s) of programming offered, etc.
- Alignment with the Foundation’s priorities outlined below

*Maximum grant size will be 10% of the organization’s annual operating budget or \$20,000, whichever is less.

In 2023, the Foundation will be prioritizing organizations that meet the following:

- serve under resourced or underrepresented individuals and households, including:
 - Low-income households
 - Homeless individuals
 - Immigrant and/or refugee populations
 - Older adults
 - Women and girls
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Veterans and/or active-duty service members
 - LGBTQIA+ communities
- address one or more of the following through strong mission and program alignment:
 - Housing and homelessness prevention
 - Economic opportunity and security
 - Safety and wellbeing
 - Mental and behavioral health
- ability to address identified community needs through sustainable client-focused solutions

GRANT PROCESS

The 2023 grant cycle is an online process and will operate based on the following timeline:

- August 14th, 9:00 AM Applications open online: www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
- September 15th, 5:00 PM Deadline for proposals
- October 16th to November 3rd Site visits / follow-up conversations**
- Week of December 4th Applicants notified of decision

**Please note that we are unable to visit every applicant due to limited capacity. If you are not chosen to receive a site visit, this in no way serves as a reflection of your organization or your likelihood of receiving funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Have 501(c)(3) tax status as a registered nonprofit organization OR have an eligible fiscal sponsor



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- Not discriminate in the hiring of staff or the provision of services on the basis of race, religion, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or disability
- Serve one or more of the following MetroWest cities/towns: Acton, Ashland, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dedham, Dover, Framingham, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston, Westwood

Ineligible organizations or requests include:

- City/town agencies
- Individuals
- Schools – private, public, pre-K, charter, or Chapter 766
- Healthcare or disease-specific organizations
- ***Organizations solely focused on youth or hunger relief initiatives*** ***

***Please note, the Foundation reviews youth-serving organizations through the Youth Development Grant Program and hunger relief organizations through the MetroWest Hunger Relief Grant Program. These efforts will not be considered through the Human Services Grant Program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

When reviewing proposals, Foundation staff and Distribution Committee members will prioritize organizations who:

- have a strong and existing commitment to serving MetroWest
- demonstrate strong leadership and financial stability or a commitment to achieving financial stability
- have a clear and meaningful impact on the community as a whole or their intended beneficiaries
- clearly articulate how funding from the Foundation will be meaningful for the organization

We encourage applicants to utilize any relevant data from [Impact MetroWest](#) to help us further understand the importance of your mission and work within our communities.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Beginning August 14th applicants will have access to the application form online.
2. If your organization is new to FFMW, please create an account.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
 - b. See <https://bit.ly/applicanttutorialffmw> for a short video tutorial.
3. If your organization has applied to FFMW in the past, please log into your existing account.
 - a. www.bit.ly/ffmw_foundant
4. Once you are logged into your account, click on the Apply icon from the top menu bar.
5. Select **2023 Human Services Grant Program**.

GRANT DECISIONS

Awards will be determined the week of December 4th. All applicants will be notified by email of decisions.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 15, 2023 AT 5:00 PM

If you have questions regarding the eligibility or suitability of your organization or proposal, please email grants@foundationformetrowest.org as early as possible.