

Innovation Grants

(up to \$200,000)

New London Department of Human Services

ARPA FAIR SHOT FUND

Innovation Grant Application

A New Vision

What if New London was a city where everyone had a fair shot at wellbeing? A city where we all feel we belong; that we can count on others and they on us; that we matter, that we're safe, that things are somewhat predictable, and that our needs can be met without shame or danger. These are the wellbeing drivers for all of us, but for too many in our New London community, equitable access to wellbeing remains elusive. There are too many obstacles at play for our poor, low-income, immigrant, and BIPOC neighbors and that's unacceptable. We can do better and our residents deserve better. New London is on a journey of transformation that puts people, equity and wellbeing at the center. Join us and let's work together to help our neighbors build the capacity to live the life that truly matters to them and the communities they call home.

Innovation Grants:

- **Grants up to \$200,000** for nonprofits, large businesses and other institutions like hospitals, or schools. Organizations that have previously received ARPA Human Services funds may apply but priority will be given to organizations not previously funded with ARPA money.
- Ideas and projects that **center equity, focus on the needs and demands of community** and are working toward shifting power and systemic and structural barriers
- **20% of your budget must be designated for Emergent Needs.** Emergent Needs Funds (also known as Flex Funds) are to be used to directly benefit an individual rather than paying for staff salaries or program supplies. It may be used at the organization's discretion to pay for costs (e.g., utility bills, fix car brakes) or items an individual needs. You will be required to track the use of flex funds to inform systems change efforts, as well as to meet federal reporting requirements for ARPA.
- **Grantees are required to participate in the Community of Practice** (monthly meetings). A Community of Practice (CoP) is a group of practitioners coming together to support each other, call on each other, share with each other, and grow in their craft. This Community of Practice is an opportunity to hold the wellbeing of people and the community of New London at the heart of our collective work. Members of the CoP are leading the way for the city and will be collecting data on systemic barriers in order to push for systems change (it will not be a huge data collection lift). The Full Frame Initiative will be facilitating the CoP and providing capacity building to this group to shift towards a wellbeing orientation. Our individual pieces have the most impact when they can click into what matters most for New London and the people who live here.

Priority areas include:

- housing security
- immigrant rights
- mental/behavioral health
- youth opportunity

Application Deadline: June 16, 2023 by 5:00pm ET

Instructions for submission:

1. You MUST submit your cover sheet and answers to the questions below in either one envelope or electronically by email. Proposals will be evaluated as follows:
 - i. Responses to each of the 6 questions below will be scored, for a total of up to 80 points.
 - ii. Your budget will be scored for up to 20 points.The Committee will use scores to guide its decision making, but reserves the right to rely on additional factors to ensure that funds are meeting a range of needs.
2. You MUST answer all six (6) questions below in the order they are listed.
3. Your budget may not exceed \$200,000 for 18 months.
4. Should your proposal be selected, you must be willing to enter into a contract with the city of New London, CT and meet all required terms set forth in that contract starting July 1st.

Please submit this complete packet electronically by 5pm ET June 16, 2023 to Jeanne Milstein jmilstein@newlondonct.org.

**New London Department of Human Services
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COVER SHEET

A complete application consists of this cover sheet, your answer to proposal questions, and your budget

Organization name:

Organization address:

Telephone:

Executive Director or CEO:

Contact person and title for this proposal if different from above:

Contact person email address and phone number:

Amount requested (total for Sept 1, 2023 – February 28, 2025):

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In six pages or less, please answer the following questions in this order:

1. **Tell us how your idea is centered on the needs and demands of the community, and who will participate in this project. (12 points)** What was the role of the community in shaping this idea? How do you tap participants' and residents' expertise, and how are they involved in the implementation of the project?
2. **Tell us about what the project is. Please make sure that someone who is not familiar with your organization would be able to understand your plan. (16 points)** What will you do? What are the collaborations that make this project possible? Are these new or existing collaborative relationships?
3. **Tell us about how you're addressing inequities. (16 points)** How does this effort address inequities and racism, which New London has declared to be a public health emergency? How does your project direct as much funding as possible to the people and communities hardest hit in the last two years?
4. **Tell us about your organization. (16 points)** Why is your organization the right one to carry this out? Is this project an expansion of what you already do or are you trying something new? Tell us about your organization's leadership (Board, leadership staff, etc). Does your organization have people impacted by systemic inequities of racism and classism, in leadership?
5. **Tell us about how you plan to use flex funds. (8 points)** What do you anticipate flex funds will allow your participants and your project to do that aren't otherwise possible? How do you plan to approach using flex funds to ensure that they are available quickly, accountability and flexibly, given that these are finite resources?
6. **Tell us what success looks like at the end of this funding. (12 points)** What's different and for whom? Has this effort helped shift power to the community, fix systems or change how you operate?

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Innovation Grant Application

ARPA BUDGET REQUEST

	Sept 1, 2023 - Aug 31, 2024	Sept 1, 2024- February 28, 2025	TOTAL
Personnel/staffing salaries and wages ____FTE			
Payroll taxes and Fringe (____%)			
Emergent needs fund (Must be 20% of the total budget)			
Program supplies			
Event and meeting costs (room rental, food, etc.)			
Contractors and consultants (detail must be provided)			
Telephone and technology (for capital costs, please submit a separate statement)			
Travel			
Outreach and advertising if core to contract purpose			
Other (describe)			
Other (describe)			
Subtotal			
Overhead, including occupancy, insurance, technology, incidental supplies, contract management (18%)			
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$

ARPA Innovation Grants Scoring Sheet

Organization/Project
Reviewer:

1. **Tell us about how your idea is centered on the needs and demands of the community, and who will participate in this project. (12 points)** What was the role of the community in shaping this idea? How do you tap participants' and residents' expertise, and how are they involved in the implementation of the project?
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6. **Tell us what success looks like at the end of this funding. (12 points)** What's different and for whom? Has this effort helped shift power to community, fix systems or change how you operate?

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 1: Community centered	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> No involvement from the community	People interacting with community members say the community wants this	Community members suggested the idea, but the project was shaped by other people	Community members suggested the idea and the project was shaped through information collected through surveys. ALSO: Must include flex funds to score 3.	Community members suggested and shaped the project, and are trusted to help manage the project. ALSO: Must include flex funds to score 4.	(Multiply by 2; max 8)
Question 1: Who does the work/implementation	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal	Relies on professionals for work that might be done in part or full by people who reflect the community participating in the project	Taps into participants' or residents' expertise which is used to shape the work by professionals	Taps into participants' or residents' expertise sometimes and compensates them for their work	The work is carried out and managed by participants' and community members who are compensated for their work	(max 4)
Question 2: Clear Project design	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> It's very unclear what they plan to do	The spirit of the project is clear, but there are big gaps in how it will work/what will be done (note: the details don't all have to be spelled out!)	Provides some clarity what the organization will do, but expects the reader to know the organization well to fill in the gaps	The project description and plan are largely clear although there are still some gaps	There is a clear description of what the work will be and, if appropriate, a plan for execution (i.e., for a brand new project).	(Multiply by 3; max 12)

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 2: Collaborations	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Does not partner with any other organizations	Referrals to or collaborations with existing services	The project depends on collaboration with identified organizations that the applicant hasn't partnered with in the past	The project depends on collaboration with identified organizations that the applicant has relationships with	The project is a partnership of two or more organizations that play roughly equal roles in success	(max 4)
Question 3: Equity: Addressing inequities and racism	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Does not direct efforts towards addressing equity and racism	Acknowledges disparities and the need for equity, but the actual project design isn't aligned with reducing the burdens on those who have historically born the burdens	Recognizes that the problems are systemic, not personal and explains how the project helps people harmed by systems	Recognizes and builds on people's resilience and strengths-- doesn't confuse people with the problems	Recognizes and builds on people's resilience and strengths-- doesn't confuse people with the problems <u>AND</u> organizational staffing/leadership is reflective of the community served <u>AND/OR</u> addresses the system inequities	(Multiply by 2; max 8)

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 3: Funding to hardest hit	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Does not direct funding towards communities hardest hit in the last two years	Works with / provides services to communities hardest hit in the last two years	Directs some resources, beyond organizational services, to communities hardest hit	Directs most resources, beyond organizational services to communities hardest hit - paying to support informal networks, hiring people in hardest hit communities to do work	Directs almost all funding directly to to communities hardest hit - paying to support informal networks, hiring people hardest hit to do work	(Multiply by 2; max 8)
Question 4: Organizational alignment with this project	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Organization does not have the expertise or capacity to implement project	Organization would be doing work with a group of participants or in a field that is new to them	Organization has done some aligned work but this project would be a stretch	Project is a natural outgrowth of the applicant's work in a given neighborhood or with a given group of people or in a specific field, but no clear history of innovative expansion	Project is a natural outgrowth of the organization's work in a given neighborhood or with a given group of people or in a specific field, and organization has a demonstrated history of innovative expansion	(Multiply by 2; max 8)

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 4: Organizational capacity	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal OR Organization does not have the expertise or capacity to implement project	This would be a significant jump for the organization (in terms of complexity, size, staffing, or operational support) and there's little evidence of how they'll manage that	This would be a significant jump for the organization (in terms of staffing, relationships, complexity, size, staffing, or operational support) and there's some evidence of how they'll manage that	This would be a significant stretch but the organization has a lot of necessary capacity (staffing relationships, partnerships, operational support, etc.) to deal with the complexity	Organization appears to have the necessary capacity (staff, relationships, partnerships), expertise and knowledge, history and track record to successfully implement the project. Note -- this can still require the organization to stretch	(max 4)
Question 4: Trying something new	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal OR Project is a reflection of traditional practices or processes that help to solidify challenges to wellbeing	Project is primarily based on traditional practices or processes, with only small tweaks to be different	Project takes existing innovative practices and applies them in a new context	Project tries something new for the organization	Project does something that is significantly different, not just for the organization	(max 4)

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 5: How flex funds will be used	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal	Commits to flex funds but doesn't go beyond description in RFP and on scoring sheet	Flex funds will be used only in "emergency" situations such as evictions, health crisis (e.g., need insulin)	Clear description of / examples of how flex funds will be used to meet emergent needs and address the unsustainable tradeoffs experienced by participants	Flex funds expand how organization works with participants; provides clear description of / examples of how flex funds will meet emergent needs and address the unsustainable tradeoffs experienced by participants	(max 4)
Question 5: Administration of flex funds	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal OR Funds are controlled by an individual with low accessibility to staff; funds require significant paperwork or other barriers to access by staff and participants	Commits to funds available quickly, accountably and flexibly but doesn't go beyond description in the RFP and scoring sheet	Provides some specifics on how they will ensure funds are available when needed and to ensure they aren't hoarded or spent immediately	Provides specifics of how they will make flex funds available quickly and simply to participants in need; tracking and accountability mechanisms	Description of administration mirrors purpose of funds and provides specifics of how they will make flex funds available quickly and simply to participants in need; tracking and accountability mechanisms	(max 4)

	0	1	2	3	4	Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4)
Question 6: Success	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal OR Articulation of success fails to speak to impactful change and for whom	Project acknowledges need for system change and specifically identifies a change that's needed	Project tries out changing of a program or system (changing the rules of the trampoline) but doesn't address systemic tradeoffs (the chute)	Project tries out changing the rules of a program or system (changing the rules of the trampoline) and addresses systemic tradeoffs (the chute)	Project tries to change a system while providing direct benefit to New Londoners	(Multiply by 3; max 12)
Budget	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal	Budget isn't fully clear <u>OR</u> is inadequate to carry out the project	N/A	N/A	Budget is clear and adequate	(Multiply by 2; max 8)
Financing	Cannot judge from the information in the proposal OR is more than \$200,000	Request is equal to or less than \$200,000 and relies on raising additional funds but that's not even addressed in proposal	Request is equal to or less than \$200,000 and requires additional funding that isn't in place yet and it will take time to raise the funds	Request is equal to or less than \$200,000 and requires additional funding that isn't in place but has a high likelihood of being in place in the next month or two	Request is equal to or less than \$200,000 and does not require additional funding <u>OR</u> if it requires more funding, that funding is already lined up from a named source	(Multiply by 3; max 12)
TOTAL						(Max 100)