

Opportunity Grants

(up to \$20,000)

New London Department of Human Services

ARPA FAIR SHOT FUND

Opportunity 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.

Opportunity Grants:

- Grants up to \$20,000 for individuals, informal networks, small grassroots organizations and small community-based businesses
- Ideas and projects created and initiated by people who have historically been blocked from opportunities like this, including: poor and working people, BIPOC people, immigrants, young people (under 30), people impacted by the criminal justice system, etc.
- Ideas and projects that focus on neighbors helping neighbors, peer-support, and similar approaches
- Priority will be given to New London residents and/or people who can demonstrate a long-term relationship with New London

Priority areas include:

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

Who is Eligible to Apply

Individuals, informal networks or groups, small grassroots organizations and small community-based businesses can apply for Opportunity Grants. If you are not an established tax-exempt nonprofit or business, you can receive these grant funds through a fiscal agent or sponsor. A fiscal agent can be a church, or nonprofit organization that agrees to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the sponsored individual, group, organization, or project. Funding can also go directly to an individual without a fiscal agent/sponsor, but please be aware that the funds will be taxed and recorded as income. The City of New London will issue a Form 1099 which is used to report certain types of non-employment

income to the IRS. Businesses are required to issue 1099s to any payee (other than a corporation) who receives at least \$600 in non-employment income during the year.

Application Deadline: June 16, 2023 by 5pm ET

Instructions for submission:

1. You MUST submit your cover sheet, budget and answers to the questions below in either written form or a 5-minute video by email.

Written Submission:

- Email cover sheet, budget and responses to the four questions to Jeanne Milstein jmilstein@newlondonct.org

Video Submission:

- Email cover sheet and budget form to Jeanne Milstein jmilstein@newlondonct.org
 - Title video with your name or the organization name
 - Upload video to this Dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/request/YNdLg5qpDbEz3XH7vX1V>
2. Responses to each of the 4 questions below will be scored, along with your budget for a total of up to 100 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.
 3. You MUST answer all four (4) questions below in the order they are listed whether in written response or video format.
 4. Your budget may not exceed \$20,000 for 12 months.
 5. Top ideas will be selected for a virtual conversation with ARPA Committee members to clarify application responses and ask questions.
 6. Should your proposal be selected, you or your fiscal agent 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.

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COVER SHEET

A complete application consists of this cover sheet, your answer to proposal questions (video or written), and your budget

Project lead

Name:

Organization (If applicable):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please check one:

I want the funds distributed directly to me and understand I will be issued a 1099 tax form from the City of New London

My organization listed under project lead is also the fiscal agent

I want the funds distributed through another organization that is serving as a fiscal agent/sponsor
Organization:

Address:

Contact name:

Email:

Telephone:

Amount requested (up to \$20,000):

**Please submit this complete packet via email by 5:00 pm ET June 16, 2023 to Jeanne Milstein
jmilstein@newlondonct.org.**

In 3 pages or less, or in a 5-minute video, please answer the following questions in this order:

1. Tell us about your idea/project **(32 points)**. What will you do? Is this a new idea or expansion of something you are already doing? How does this project direct as much funding as possible to the people and communities struggling the most (immigrants, poor/low-income, BIPOC, etc.)
2. Where did this idea come from? **(20 points)** How do you know that people who are struggling, really need it? How will it help people?
3. Tell us about yourself/group. **(16 points)** Why are you/is your group the right one to carry this out?
4. What does success and impact look like when this funding ends? **(12 points)** How is the New London community better off?

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***ARPA BUDGET REQUEST
Sept. 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024***

| | TOTAL |
|---|-----------|
| Personnel/staffing salaries and wages (Include each position, amount of time and amount/rate of pay information) | |
| Stipends | |
| Program supplies | |
| Event and meeting costs (room rental, food, etc.) | |
| Contractors and consultants (detail must be provided) | |
| Telephone and technology | |
| Travel | |
| Outreach and advertising if core to contract purpose | |
| Other (describe) | |
| Other (describe) | |
| Other (describe) | |
| TOTAL | \$ |

ARPA Opportunity Grants Scoring Sheet

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Organization/Project |
| Reviewer: |

1. **Tell us about your idea/project (32 points)** What will you do? Is this a new idea or expansion of something you are already doing? How does this project direct as much funding as possible to the people and communities struggling the most (immigrants, poor/low-income, BIPOC, etc.)
2. **Where did this idea come from? (20 points)** How do you know that people who are struggling, really need it? How will it help people?
3. **Tell us about yourself/group. (16 points)** Why are you/is your group the right one to carry this out?
4. **What does success and impact look like when this funding ends? (12 points)** How is the New London community better off?

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4) |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Question 1: 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 will be done, but expects the reader 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 4; max 16) |
| Question 1: Funding to those struggling the most | Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Does not direct funding towards communities hardest hit in the last few 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 communities hardest hit - paying to support informal networks, hiring people hardest hit to do work | (Multiply by 6; max 16) |
| Question 2: 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 informed the project design. | Community members suggested and shaped the project, and are trusted to help manage the project. | (Multiply by 5; max 20) |

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Score (put the number here that you circled 0-4) |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Question 3: Applicant capacity | Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Applicant does not have the experience or capacity to implement project | This would be a significant jump for the applicant, the work would be with a group of participants or in a field/issue that is new to them | Applicant has done some aligned work but this project would be a stretch | Applicant has some of the necessary capacity (relationships, knowledge, experience, etc.) and project is a natural outgrowth of the applicant's work in a given neighborhood or with a given group of people | Applicant appears to have the necessary capacity (relationships, knowledge, experience, etc.) and project is a natural outgrowth of the applicant's work in a given neighborhood or with a given group of people | (Multiply by 4; max 16) |
| Question 4: Success and impact | Cannot judge from the information in the proposal <u>OR</u> Articulation of success fails to speak to impactful change and community will not be better off | Vision of success is somewhat clear and community will be slightly better off | Vision of success is clear and community will be somewhat better off | Vision of success is clear and impactful; community will be much better off | Vision of success is clear and impactful; community will be extremely better off | (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 5; max 20) |
| TOTAL | | | | | | (Max 100) |