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**Guidelines for Applying for a Grant**

**2020-2021**

**Contact Us**

connect@thephilanthropyconnection.org

<http://www.thephilanthropyconnection.org>

# [Welcome](#TableofContents)

November, 2020

As The Philanthropy Connection enters its eighth year of giving, we invite you to apply to become one of our grantees.

The Philanthropy Connection (TPC) is a multi-generational women’s collective giving organization whose 250+ members contribute dues into a common grants pool and vote which local non-profits receive them. Our goal is to fund strong organizations whose mission is to improve the lives of economically or socially disadvantaged individuals throughout the Greater Boston area. We also seek to inspire our members to become engaged, informed philanthropists and to foster ongoing relationships with our grant recipients to further the efforts they lead.

Please read this document carefully as it contains all the information you need to apply for a grant. As was the case last year, one of our goals is to fund grantee organizations that serve diverse communities and whose leadership and staff reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve. The key stages in our grant-giving process, which is described in detail in the following pages, are:

1. Letter of Intent Application
2. Full Proposal Application
3. Site Visit by TPC Members

Subsequently, Grant Teams meet to determine which final candidates will appear on TPC’s ballot in May 2021. Each TPC member then votes for those organizations she would most like to become grantees, and grants are awarded to those organizations with the greatest number of votes.

On behalf of the Grants Committee and all TPC members, we hope to have the opportunity to get to know your organization during the coming year. In the meantime, many thanks for all you do to improve the lives of so many in our communities.

Should you have questions at any point, feel free to contact us at: connect@thephilanthropyconnection.org

Barbara Gaskin

President, The Philanthropy Connection

Sue Meehan and Bridget Dunn

Co-Chairs, Grants Committee

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# [Background](#TableofContents) about The Philanthropy Connection

**Who:** Founded in 2012, The Philanthropy Connection (TPC) is a volunteer-run, women’s collective giving organization with over 250 members.

**What:** We pool together our members’ contributions to provide grants to Massachusetts non-profit organizations that improve the lives of economically or socially disadvantaged individuals. In our first seven years, we awarded grants totaling over $1,600,000. We award grants of **up to $25,000** to each of the organizations selected by our members following our grant review process.

**Why:** TPC defines a philanthropist as one who makes a difference in her community by donating time, expertise, and/or money, and we want to encourage more women to step into the role of philanthropist. We also foster lasting relationships between grant recipients and members, many of whom continue to stay in touch and get involved long after a grant has been awarded.

**Where:** We award grants to organizations in the Greater Boston metropolitan area, almost exclusively within the I-495 loop.

**Our Sweet Spot:** We fund 501(c)(3) organizations (or organizations that have a fiscal sponsor) with annual revenue between $200,000 and $2 million. Please note that we provide grants for general operating only.

# Prior Grantees

**Our 2020-2021 grantees are:**

[**Boston Higher Education Resource Center**](http://www.bostonherc.org/)**\*** works to close the education gap between economically disadvantaged first-generation-to-college students of color and the general school population.

[**City Life/Vida Urbana**](http://www.clvu.org/) is a grassroots community organization committed to fighting for racial, social, and economic justice and gender equality by building working class power. The organization promotes individual empowerment, develops community leaders, and builds collective power to effect systemic change and transform society.

[**Dignity Matters, Inc.**](https://www.dignity-matters.org/) consistently and reliably provides menstrual protection products to women and girls who are homeless or living in poverty.

[**Fathers’ Uplift, Inc.**](https://www.fathersuplift.org/) works to assist fathers in overcoming barriers (e.g., financial, emotional, traumatic, addiction-based) that prevent them from remaining engaged in their children’s lives. The organization also provides mentoring, cultural outings, and counseling to children who are growing up without their fathers.

[**GreenRoots**](http://www.greenrootschelsea.org/) helps combat the food desert in which low-resource individuals and families of Chelsea reside. Through its community gardens/urban farming programs, residents – especially youth – become active participants in securing the food resources they need.

[**La Colaborativa (formerly The Chelsea Collaborative)**](https://www.la-colaborativa.org/) works in partnership with immigrant and low-resource residents of Chelsea, providing services to the oppressed and financially exposed based on at least one of these risk factors: poverty, history of trauma, undocumented status, lack of English proficiency, low literacy, or basic skills deficiency.

[Neighbors in Need](http://www.needfood.org/) provides food, formula, diapers, and infant supplies to at-risk and food-insecure families in the Greater Lawrence area. Through its distribution network of 13 food pantries, it serves 900 families in the area each week.

[Project Citizenship](http://projectcitizenship.org/)**\***seeks to increase the naturalization rate in Massachusetts and beyond by offering free, high-quality services to permanent residents to help them become US citizens.

[**RIA House, Inc. – Ready.Inspire.Act**](https://riahouse.org/index.html) stands with and supports women with experience in the commercial sex trade, and its associated exploitation, trafficking, and prostitution. RIA provides a range of community-based services with an emphasis on empowerment, resiliency, and healing.

[**Science Club for Girls**](http://www.scienceclubforgirls.org/)**\*** fosters literacy in STEM for girls, particularly from underrepresented communities, by providing experiential programs and interactions with women mentors in STEM fields.

**Our alumni grantees are:**

[Adolescent Consultation Services](http://www.acskids.org/) supports and empowers court-involved children and families by providing mental health services to help them envision and work toward a better future.

[BEST Hospitality Training](http://besthtc.org/) trains low-income adults and immigrants for secure union jobs with benefits in Boston area hotels.

[Boston Area Gleaners](http://www.bostonareagleaners.org/) rescues surplus farm crops and distributes this produce to people in need.

[Boston Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)](https://www.bostoncasa.org/)**\*** represents children involved in abuse and neglect cases by training volunteers who help these children find safe, permanent homes.

[**Budget Buddies**](http://www.budgetbuddies.org/)**\*** promotes and teaches financial literacy and confidence among low-income women.

[Cambridge Women’s Center](http://www.cambridgewomenscenter.org/) provides a supportive community space for all women by offering opportunities for empowerment, learning, healing, trauma support, and understanding through offering free services and a house where members can feel they are a part of a community.

[**Career Collaborative**](https://www.careercollaborative.org/) seeks to end working-class poverty by helping adults get and succeed at life-changing jobs, making Massachusetts and its families stronger.

[**Catie’s Closet**](http://www.catiescloset.org/) improves school attendance by providing clothing and toiletries to children in grades K-12, right within their schools.

[**Coaching4Change**](http://c4cinc.org/) teaches high school students to become leaders by coaching after school youth sports programs, organizing school-wide athletics tournaments, and running youth sports “skills and drills” clinics.

[**Compass Working Capital**](https://www.compassworkingcapital.org/) provides financial services to low-income families, empowering them to build savings and financial capabilities as a pathway out of poverty.

[**Crossroads for Kids**](http://www.crossroadsma.org/) provides a unique combination of immersive summer camp and year-round mentoring and enrichment programs to guide them toward academic success, higher education, meaningful careers, and responsible citizenship.

[**Daily Table**](http://dailytable.org/) addresses food insecurity, food waste, and the effects of poor diet by offering affordable groceries at a not-for-profit retail grocery store.

[De Novo (formerly Community Legal Services and Counseling Center)](http://www.denovo.org/) provides free civil legal aid and affordable psychological counseling to low-income people.

[**Doc Wayne** **Youth Services**](http://www.docwayne.org/) fuses sport and therapy to heal and strengthen at-risk, low-income youth aged 5 to 18.

[Enroot](http://www.enrooteducation.org/) empowers low-income, immigrant high school students to achieve academic, personal, and career success through mentorship, leadership development, professional internships, and academic support.

[Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts](http://www.familynurturing.org/)**\*** provides comprehensive family support from birth to adolescence, coordinating a range of programs and community-based services that engage families in school readiness activities, resource referral, and advocacy.

[**Families First**](http://www.families-first.org/) promotes the secure and nurturing child-parent relationships that are the foundation of every child’s well-being and future success.

[**Food for Free**](http://www.foodforfree.org/) rescues fresh food that might otherwise go to waste and distributes it within the local emergency food system where it goes to those in need.

[Food Link](http://www.foodlinkma.org/) delivers rescued perishable, healthful food to over 30 social service agencies in Greater Boston to meet the nutritional needs of the food insecure.

[Friendship Works](http://www.fw4elders.org/) helps to reduce social isolation, enhance quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in Greater Boston.

[Friends of the Children – Boston](http://www.friendsboston.org/)**\*** creates generational change by identifying children in Boston public schools facing the greatest risks and engaging them in transformative mentoring relationships that last from kindergarten through high school.

[**Future Chefs**](http://www.futurechefs.net/)prepares youth for quality employment and post-secondary opportunities in the culinary field by teaching them a broad base of transferable skills.

[Health Care Without Walls](http://www.healthcarewithoutwalls.org/) improves the lives of women who are homeless or marginally housed through compassionate, high quality health care, education, and advocacy.

[Justice at Work](http://www.jatwork.org/)**\*** improves conditions for immigrant workers in low-wage industries by providing legal and technical support to community-based worker organizations and their members.

[**Latino Stem Alliance**](https://latinostem.org/) inspires and empowers underserved youth to achieve career success in STEM fields.

[**Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**](http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org/) works with victims, perpetrators, and their families who have endured murder, trauma, and loss.

[MA Adoption Resource Exchange](http://www.mareinc.org/) finds adoptive homes for children and teens in foster care, targeting those without a family member or identified resource who can offer a permanent home.

[**Mill City Grows**](http://www.millcitygrows.org/) is growing a healthier Lowell through creating urban food production sites all over the city, and providing the tools for safe urban growing.

[Partners for Youth with Disabilities](http://www.pyd.org/) empowers youth with disabilities to reach their full potential by providing transformative mentoring programs, youth development opportunities, and inclusion expertise.

[Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project](http://pairproject.org/)**\*** is the premier provider of pro bono immigration legal services to asylum-seekers and immigrants unjustly detained in Massachusetts.

[**REACH Beyond Domestic Violence**](http://reachma.org/) is providing safety and support to survivors of abuse while engaging communities to promote healthy relationships and prevent domestic violence.

[**Refugee & Immigration Assistance Center**](http://www.riacboston.org/) offers resettlement and post-resettlement services to refugees and immigrants.

[**Resilient Coders**](http://www.resilientcoders.org/)**\*** teaches coding and other workplace skills to 18 to 26 year old high-risk youth and places them in internships and entry-level jobs.

[**RESPOND, Inc.**](https://www.respondinc.org/) is New England’s first domestic violence agency and the second oldest in the nation, and a pioneer in the movement to end domestic violence.

[School on Wheels](https://www.sowma.org/)**\*** educates children impacted by homelessness by providing academic support and one-on-one mentoring so children can reach their full potential.

[Sibling Connections](http://www.siblingconnections.org/)**\***reunites brothers and sisters who have been separated by their placement in foster care.

[Silver Lining Mentoring](http://www.silverliningmentoring.org/)**\*** empowers youth in foster care to flourish through committed mentoring relationships and the development of essential life skills.

[The Wily Network](http://www.thewilynetwork.org/) supports scholars who are promising college students that have experienced dramatic life challenges such as aging out of foster care, homelessness, or whose parents may be dealing with addiction, mental health issues, or incarceration.

[Y2Y Harvard Square](http://www.y2yharvardsquare.org/)is the nation’s first student-run overnight shelter that provides a safe and affirming environment for young adults experiencing homelessness.

***\****Denotes organizations that have received funding in more than one grant cycle.

**Our Grant-Giving Process and Criteria**

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|  |  | Submit Letter of Intent Application |  | Application reviewed by Eligibility Screening Committee |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Eligible applications reviewed by Grant Teams |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Grant Teams make recommendations for Full Proposals |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Invitations for Full Proposal |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Submit Full Proposal |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Full proposals reviewed by Grant Teams |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  | Grant Teams make recommendations for Site Visit and submit completed financial analysis |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  | Final Financial Review  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Host Site Visit |  |  | Invitations for Site Visit  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Grant Teams make recommendations for Ballot |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | TPC Grants Committee Reviews Ballot Finalists |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | TPC Grantees Announced |  |  | TPC Membership Votes |  |  |  |  |  |
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# Our Grant-Giving Process and Criteria

Please adhere to the following steps:

**Determine eligibility:**

All applicants must:

1. Have either 501(c)(3) tax status **OR** have a Fiscal Sponsor and a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement letter
* In the case of local organizations/affiliates with a larger parent organization, the local organization/affiliate **must** have its own 501(c)(3) status
1. Meet revenue eligibility criteria:
* 501(c)(3) organizations must have annual revenue between $200,000 and $2 million, as reported on the Total Revenue line 12 of its most recent IRS Form 990
* Organizations with fiscal sponsors must have annual revenue between $200,000 and $2 million certified in a letter from its Fiscal Sponsor, including only that which would be reported on the Total Revenue line 12 of IRS Form 990
* Organizations must be in solid financial standing and have filed requisite Massachusetts Form NP and IRS 990 filings. TPC typically does not fund organizations with significant year over year operating losses or less than 3 months of cash reserves to cover operations.
1. Meet geographic eligibility criteria:
* An eligible applicant must be located in the Greater Boston metropolitan area, or for national organizations, have a site within this area, defined largely as towns falling within the I-495 loop, plus:
	+ Amesbury, Haverhill, Methuen, Lawrence, Lowell
	+ Maynard, Hudson, Marlborough, Milford, Franklin
	+ Massachusetts towns north of the intersection of I-495 and Rt. 25

**Review disqualifying criteria:**

* Applications will not be accepted from the following types of organizations:
* Political, international, or 501(c)(4) advocacy organizations
* Organizations that provide any religious programming, instruction or proselytizing on behalf of a particular religion
* Family foundations
* Local organizations or affiliates of a larger parent organization that lack their own independent 501(c)(3) status
* “Pass through” or conduit organizations
* Funding requests for capital campaigns will also not be accepted

In fairness to all applicants, no exceptions will be made.

# Key Dates 2020-2021 for the Grant Application Process

**November 12: New Grant cycle starts and applications are distributed**

**December 11: Letters of Intent due at 5 p.m., EST**

**January 29: Requests for full proposals are sent to applicants**

**February 26: Full proposals are due at 5 p.m., EST**

**April 5: Applicants sent site visit requests**

**April 16: TPC concludes all site visits**

**May 18: Organizations notified of grant awards**

**TBD: New Grantees attend TPC’s Grant Awards and All Member Meeting (whether virtual or in-person)**

# [Frequently Asked Questions](#TableofContents)

**What is TPC’s funding source?**

Our members! TPC has two levels of membership: young philanthropists (those 35 and younger) contribute $500 to our grant pool, and women over 35 contribute $1,000. Each year, this entire pool of money is divided into grants of up to $25,000 that are awarded to local non-profits selected via our collective process.

[Read more about how collective giving works.](http://www.thephilanthropyconnection.org/about-us)

 **What is TPC’s grant-making process?**

TPC members volunteer to participate in the grant review process. Volunteers are organized into six- to eight-person Grant Review Teams, and three Team leaders are appointed: a Captain, a Deputy, and a Finance Lead responsible for evaluating an applicant’s financial statements.

These Team leaders participate in training sessions focused on TPC’s rigorous and systematic grant evaluation process. Afterwards, each Grant Review Team is allocated a set of Letter of Intent (LOI) applications to evaluate. Based on the information provided in these applications, each Team determines which organizations will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Teams evaluate these Full Proposals and choose which organizations will be asked for Site Visits. At the completion of these Site Visits, Teams recommend which organizations will be placed on TPC’s ballot for all members to vote upon in May. Each member casts one vote, regardless of her age and financial contribution, and applicants with the most votes receive grants. The new grantees are announced and have the opportunity to meet our members at our Grants Award Meeting, which will be held in late May/early June 2021.

**Can I still apply to TPC if I do not meet all the criteria listed here?**

We love to learn about organizations that are doing good work. However, due to the large number of qualified applicants that we receive each year, we must be consistent in applying eligibility criteria and we cannot accept applications that do not meet them.

**Are TPC grants limited to organizations providing services for women only?**

No. TPC funds programs and organizations serving all people, not just women.

**If my organization has received a TPC grant in the past, may we apply again?**

All current grantees are eligible to apply for another year of funding (whether second or third consecutive year). All other past grantees are eligible to apply at the LOI stage.

**How will I know my completed application was received?**

Each applicant receives an email confirming that its application was received. Application form will allow for the executive director’s email and an additional contact’s email. Those emails will receive the submission receipt.

**How may TPC’s grant funding be used?**

This year TPC is awarding only general operating grants.

**May an organization submit more than one grant proposal?** No.

**Will my organization have a dedicated contact at TPC if we receive a grant?**

Yes. Through the TPC Liaison Initiative, each grantee will have a team of two members who serve as its main points of contact with TPC. A TPC Liaison will contact you within the first quarter of your grant award to schedule a time to meet with you and your team. At this introductory meeting, you will learn more about TPC and we will learn more about your organization. We also encourage you to utilize our Liaison program to stay in touch with the broader TPC membership throughout the year. Liaisons will be in touch with you to invite you to participate in one to two events, publicize a “wish list” to our membership, and publicize your events on our social media. Past recipients have found volunteers, donors, and board members through this continued exposure.

**If my organization receives a grant, will we be required to communicate periodic status updates to TPC?**

Grantees are expected to meet with their TPC Liaisons at the middle and end of the grant year to discuss the organization’s status, how you have used the grant, factors leading to success, the impact of our grant on your community, and obstacles encountered. In addition, your organization will be required to submit a written interim and final report, the requirements of which are spelled out in Section II of the Grant Letter Agreement.

**Are there additional ways that TPC members can get to know more about our organization and vice versa?**

Yes. Along with attending your organization’s annual fundraiser and/or gala as specified in the Grant Letter Agreement, there are several ways for us to learn more about one another. TPC Liaisons facilitate this interaction and connect grantees to the TPC Board and larger membership. Grantees seeking volunteers and other support will have the additional opportunity to share their organizational priorities with TPC members through mechanisms such as our newsletter and speaking engagements. In addition, TPC would wholeheartedly welcome invitations to attend other events held at your organization during the year.

**Questions about financial documentation and reporting**

**What financial information must be submitted with our application?**

**For the LOI application:**

Organizations must include the following with their LOI application:

1) Most recent IRS Form 990 **OR** letter from the Fiscal Sponsor certifying the applicant’s revenue, including only that which would be reported on the Total Revenue line of IRS Form 990

2) Fiscal Sponsor agreement letter (for fiscally sponsored applicants only)

**Sample attachments we may ask for in the full proposal stage:**

**For a 501(c)(3) organization:**

1) Certified Financial Review or Audit (with all notes) for the last two fiscal years;

2) Year to Date Actual vs. Budget for current fiscal year

3) List of grants over $2500 with their amounts and terms for the last two fiscal years.

**For an organization with a Fiscal Sponsor:**

1) Income Statement for the last two years;

2) Balance Sheet for the last two years;

3) Year to Date Actual vs. Budget for current fiscal year

4) List of grants over $2500 with amount and terms for the last two years.

We look forward to learning about your organization. If you have a question not answered in the FAQs above, please email connect@thephilanthropyconnection.org.