

Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth

Vermont Community Foundation

Application Guidelines

The Opportunity Fund for Southshire youth awards grants to organizations and projects in Bennington, North Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, and Woodford through the Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth at the Vermont Community Foundation. The fund awards grants up to \$4,000 for creative and effective initiatives that support, educate, and empower Bennington area youth, particularly low-income and disadvantaged youth, to be engaged and successful in school, work, community, and life. Nonprofits, schools, and grassroots organizations with a fiscal sponsor are encouraged to apply.

Nonprofit organizations or community groups who do not have 501(c)(3) status may apply for grant awards if another tax-exempt organization, school, or municipality acts as a fiscal sponsor.

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in paragraph 249(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available (meaning any funds having a competitive application process) by the Vermont Community Foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the Foundation.

Grant applicants must employ staff and provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in paragraph 249(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability.

The Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth was established in 2018 by the Community Foundation and local partners as a permanent philanthropic resource to support youth in the Bennington area. Projects must benefit youth entering or enrolled in 6th through 12th grades (typically ages 12 to 18), who attend Mount Anthony Middle School or High School and/or who live in the communities served by the those schools: Bennington, N. Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, and Woodford.

Please view website for the most current deadline information.

For questions regarding the application process, please contact 802-388-3355 ext. 222 or grants@vermontcf.org.

Application

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Character Limit: 100

Project Summary*

Provide a one to two sentence description of what the project will accomplish.

Be clear and explicit about what you will accomplish and how. Please use complete sentences.

Note: Your answer may be used in publications. For example: "We will enroll twenty at-risk middle school youth in a two-week, full-day coding camp and have them visit and talk with computer software programmers at two or more local companies.."

Character Limit: 500

Amount Requested*

Minimum \$500/ Maximum \$4,000

Character Limit: 20

Geographic Area*

Choose all that apply.

Choices

Bennington

North Bennington

Pownal

Shaftsbury

Woodford

Alignment with Funding Priorities*

How does your project align with the Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth's funding priorities? Check all that apply.

Choices

Promote youth leadership and empowerment.

Expand youth's engagement in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities

Support youth entrepreneurship.

Support at-risk youth to get on a positive life path.

Project Description*

Character Limit: 3000

Rationale for the Project*

Describe the need and/or opportunity that the project addresses, focusing on the particular youth to be served by the project. When appropriate and possible, support your statements with data.

Character Limit: 1000

Project Timeline*

Please explain the overall timeline for your project as well as the specific steps required to achieve your goals and when they will happen. Please list specific dates if they've been identified.

Character Limit: 1200

Project Champion*

Who is championing this project, what is their role in the community, and why are they leading this work? Please tell us if there is youth leadership.

Character Limit: 1200

What will success look like?*

Please explain how you will know that you've achieved your goals.

Character Limit: 800

Tell us a story about your project.*

Paint a picture or give examples of the value of this project and what it will look like in real life. In other words, be creative and tell us a story that makes it personal.

Character Limit: 1100

Community Engagement*

We are interested to learn more about community support for this project. How have community members been engaged in decision-making regarding this idea or project? You may attach up to two Letters of Support in addition to or in lieu of this question.

Character Limit: 1100

Letter of Support (Optional)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Letter of Support (Optional)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Project Budget- Itemized (PDF)*

Attach a .pdf copy of your itemized project budget. You should include both expenses and revenue, including pending and secured support. (Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the [Community Foundation Grants FAQ page here](#))

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Project Budget- Narrative*

Please provide a rationale for the project budget. For example, if you are a school, you may need to hire a trained computer program to teach a coding camp as well as a youth worker to work with the youth, organize transportation and food, etc.

Character Limit: 1000

Bonus Words (Optional)

What else should we know about the project that we didn't ask?

Character Limit: 1200

Organization Information

Organizational Description*

Briefly describe your organizations(s) or group(s) and its mission(s). (This is your "elevator speech" and may be used in publications.)

Character Limit: 500

Organizational Budget*

What is your total organization budget (total expenses) for the current fiscal year?

Character Limit: 20

Organizational Budget (PDF Upload)*

Please attach organization's Budget to Actual comparison or Profit Loss (P/L) statement for the most recently completed fiscal year. (Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the [Community Foundation Grants FAQ page here.](#)) If you are showing a deficit in your organizational budget, please tell us why.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

What best describes the applicant?*

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, church/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need a fiscal sponsor. If you have questions, please contact the community foundation. We are happy to talk through your options.

Choices

Municipal entity (i.e., town, public school, or other municipal department or agency)

Church or religious group

Other - Please provide details in your answer to the next question.

Registered 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

Use this space to provide additional information about the applicant's status. (If Applicable)

If you have a fiscal sponsor- or if you operate under the umbrella of a larger registered nonprofit- provide their names below

Character Limit: 200

Fiscal Sponsorship (If Applicable)

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, church/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need to use a fiscal sponsor. Download a blank [Fiscal Sponsor Agreement form](#) available on our website and forward it to your fiscal sponsor to print, fill out, and sign. If you have questions, please contact us at 802-388-3355 ext. 222 or grants@vermontcf.org

Upload a scanned copy of your signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement below.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Grant History*

Has your organization received funding within the last three years from the one of the Vermont Community Foundation's competitive grant programs? If yes, please specify the project name and grant year(s).

Character Limit: 300

Grant Report Upload

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Save and Submit

Please view website for the most current deadline information.

All applications must be submitted electronically to the Vermont Community Foundation through the application form in the Online Grants Manager. Applications will not be accepted by mail or email. If you have questions about the Online Grants Manager, please contact: grants@vermontcf.org or 802-388-3355 ext. 222.

By submitting your application to the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your application with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.