



Update on Grant-Making Policy For 2012

Dear Non-Profit Partners,

The NCCF Board of Directors spent a considerable amount of time evaluating our grant-making policies and procedures earlier this year, and we made some changes to our practices that will be effective with our next round of grant funding in early 2012.

Although the modifications are fairly simple, we want to share these new policies with you well in advance of the February 15th grant application deadline. Our hope is to allow ample time for you to ask questions and/or modify your proposal writing process as necessary.

The first change involves the types of grants made through our component funds. We will now make both operating support and capital project grants to health & human services organizations through our Neighbors United fund. NCCF's Community Impact fund will support both types of grants to all other categories of not-for-profit organizations, such as those in education, the arts, culture, community resources, etc. NCCF will continue to support new programs through our Community Impact fund. This change will affect your organization primarily to the extent that you are asked to check the appropriate box or boxes on our cover sheet to indicate the type of funding request you are seeking: New Program, Health/Human Services Agency, or Another Type of Non-Profit.

In addition, we are now collecting more quantifiable information about an applicant organization's connections to New Canaan, which will continue to be used as a key factor in our funding decision-making process. Therefore, you will see on the cover page that you are asked to provide details on the number of employees, volunteers, and donors your organization has from New Canaan.

The application form repeats this theme of connection to New Canaan and you are asked to describe both how your organization "impacts or is connected to the community of New Canaan" under Section 1, item f, "what organizations in New Canaan you collaborate with" under item g, and how the program affects our residents as "service recipients, volunteers, or donors" under Section 2, item d.

As in past years, the grant application deadline is February 15th, and each grant applicant organization will be visited by a team of NCCF Board members and community volunteers. This group will then summarize their recommendations for presentation to the Board of Directors, who make all final funding determinations.

Please call or email us at 203-966-0231 or cgorey@newcanaancf.org with any questions or comments about our modified policy and grant application documents. We welcome your feedback. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Gorey
Executive Director