

Rockland Trust **Community Giving Guidelines**

Event Sponsorships • Grants • Community Donations

About Our Community Giving Program

At Rockland Trust, our community giving program supports the nonprofits and organizations that strengthen the communities we serve. We do this through three types of assistance: event sponsorships, grants, and donations.

Each request type includes its own set of application questions so we can fully and fairly evaluate every opportunity. Because each type addresses different community needs, selecting the correct application pathway is essential for an accurate review and timely support. To guide applicants, our online portal begins with a brief set of eligibility questions.

We ask that you respond to these questions carefully and accurately, as they determine which application you'll be directed to and help ensure your request is evaluated in the appropriate program. Responding "No" to a question only directs you to the right application – it does not limit you from applying. If you have any questions, please reach out to our team.

Please note that due to the large number of requests we receive and organizations we support, Rockland Trust typically does not fund multiple requests (grant, donation, or sponsorship) from the same organization in the single calendar year. If you would like to submit a second request, we encourage you to reach out to our team to discuss before completing an additional application.

I. Event Sponsorship Requests

Request Purpose

Supports **date-specific event and short-term activities** that align with Rockland Trust's community priorities and visibility goals.

Typical Event Sponsorship Requests

- Fundraising breakfast/lunches/dinners/galas
- Golf
- Charity walks/runs
- Community festivals
- School or nonprofit fundraisers

Sponsorship Eligibility & Review Criteria

Rockland Trust does not sponsor:

- Organizations that discriminate based on protected class status
- Individuals or families
- Political candidates, lobbying, or political organizations
- Religious organizations requesting funding for religious purposes
- Field trips or fees to attend conferences

Requests are reviewed based on:

- Community impact
- Alignment with Rockland Trust's mission
- Geographic relevance
- Brand visibility and engagement opportunities
- Previous support received

Sponsorship Geographic Eligibility

Priority is given to organizations serving individuals in one of the following geographies near a Rockland Trust location:

Massachusetts: Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester counties

New Hampshire: Hillsborough, Rockingham counties

State of Rhode Island

Sponsorship Funding Considerations

- Amounts vary depending on event scale, reach, and geographic alignment
- Sponsorship in one year does not guarantee future support

Sponsorship Application Timeline

- Program opens: January 1
- Applications reviewed year-round on a rolling basis
- Requests should be submitted at least six weeks prior to the event publicity deadline.
- Decisions issued within 4-6 weeks

II. Grant Requests

Request Purpose

Provides programmatic and general operating support to 501(c)(3) public charities aligned with the defined focus areas (detailed below).

Grant Eligibility

To apply, the requesting organization must be a **501(c)(3) public charity in good standing with the IRS or utilizing a fiscal sponsor agreement with 501(c)(3) status.**

Not eligible:

- Requests that ask Rockland Trust to be the sole funder
- Capital projects (construction, renovation, equipment/vehicle purchases)
- Annual fund drives or campaigns
- Nonprofits that have been in existence for less than 12 months
- Organizations that discriminate based on protected class status
- Single-disease research or national support organizations
- Other grantmaking organizations including private and community foundations
- Organizations serving only one family or a very limited number of individuals (<20)
- Religious organizations requesting funding for religious purposes
- Political candidates, lobbying, or political organizations
- Government agencies or municipal departments
- Individual public schools (Local education foundations should apply via the Community Donation program)
- Police, fire, labor, or fraternal organizations
- Individuals or families
- Applications that are incomplete or do not include all requested documentation

Please note: Grant applications will not be considered if your organization has not fully completed all requirements associated with previous grant awards.

Grant Geographic Eligibility

Requesting 501(c)(3) organizations **must** be headquartered, and serve individuals in:

Massachusetts: Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties

New Hampshire: Hillsborough and Rockingham counties

Rhode Island: Providence county

Grant Focus Areas

Rockland Trust prioritizes organizations and programs serving a majority **low-to-moderate income population** in the following focus areas:

1. Affordable Housing

- Housing development
- Emergency home repairs
- Rental assistance
- Homebuyer education
- Foreclosure prevention
- Homeless and domestic violence shelters

2. Youth

Preventive programs supporting youth opportunity, health, and development:

- Parenting education
- Early childhood education
- Social-emotional and mental health support
- After-school enrichment and tutoring
- Mentoring and literacy programs
- Access to summer camps
- Career and college preparation

Note: Youth sports teams, PTOs, scouting troops, local scholarships, food insecurity, and basic needs requests are directed to the **Community Donation Program**.

3. Financial Education

Financial literacy, banking, budgeting, credit building, and debt reduction programs

4. Small Business Support

Entrepreneurship and small business development programs

5. Workforce Development

- ESL and adult education
- Job preparation, training, and placement programs

Grant Funding

- Average grant: **\$5,000**
- Typical range: **\$2,500 – \$10,000+**
- Grants above \$10,000 or multi-year awards require a signed grant agreement.
- Funding in one year does not guarantee future support.

Grant Application Timeline

- Program opens: **January 1**
- Applications reviewed on a rolling basis
- Program closes: **Friday, October 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST**
- Decisions issued within **6–12 weeks**

III. Community Donation Program

Program Purpose

Supports community programs and initiatives that **do not align with the grant focus areas.**

Community Donation Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

Any community-based organization, regardless of status, including non 501(c)(3) organizations

Ineligible Applicants:

- Organizations or requests that qualify for the Grant Program
- Capital projects
- Requests that ask Rockland Trust to be the sole funder of a project/program
- Organizations that discriminate based on protected class status
- Individuals or families
- Political candidates, lobbying, or organizations
- Religious organizations requesting funding for religious purposes

Community Donation Geographic Eligibility

- **Massachusetts:** Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Worcester counties
- **New Hampshire:** Hillsborough, Rockingham counties
- **State of Rhode Island**

Community Donation Focus Areas

- Food insecurity
- Basic needs (clothing, rental/utility assistance, etc.)
- Education (local education foundations, PTOs, etc.)
- Community clubs (robotics, STEM, etc.)
- Non–date-specific sports teams
- Non–date-specific scouting programs

Date-specific requests should be submitted as **Event Sponsorships.**

Community Donation Funding

- Applications are reviewed year-round on a rolling basis.
- Most awards are **under \$2,500**.
- Decisions are typically made within **6–12 weeks**.
- Funding in one year does not guarantee future support.

Required Documents

All applicants are required to submit the following attachments:

- Completed and signed W9
- If applicable, IRS Letter of Determination documenting 501(c)(3) Public Charity status

Additional Required Attachments for Event Sponsorships:

- Flier or website link with information about the event

Additional Required Attachments for Grants:

- List of Board Members with Professional Affiliations
- Prior Fiscal Year Audit, if required to file one, OR Prior Year Financials
- Current Organization Budget
- Proposed Program Budget, if requesting program support

How to Apply (All Requests)

All Event Sponsorship, Grant, and Community Donation requests must be submitted through our online application portal which can be accessed via: RocklandTrust.com/Giving

- Mail, email, or in-person requests will not be accepted or considered.
- Applications may be saved and resumed later.
- Add mail@grantapplication.com and noreply@yourcause.com to your safe senders list.

Questions

Community@RocklandTrust.com