

Vermont

BURLINGTON LIVABLE COMMUNITY PROJECT GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ACTION SPONSORSHIPS

BACKGROUND

AARP is a national membership organization for people 50 and older with a Vermont state office located in Burlington. AARP is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age. We lead positive social change and deliver value to members through information, advocacy and service. In 2006, AARP Vermont launched the Burlington Livable Community Project (BLCP), in collaboration with city government, community stakeholders and residents. This multi-year initiative recognizes the assets and opportunities of an aging population and is working to make Burlington an affordable, accessible and supportive city for older residents.

AARP Vermont published a report based on key research findings about Burlington in the areas of housing, mobility and transportation, and community engagement. The report sets out a “plan of action” in each of these key areas to engage the Burlington community in policy changes that support the creation of Burlington as a great city for older adults.

AARP VT’s Community Action Sponsorships will provide financial and other support to groups within Burlington that will advocate for improvements in the following areas.

- Affordable and accessible housing options for older residents
- Delivery of services to help older residents age in the setting of their choice
- Pedestrian and bike infrastructure (sidewalks, amenities for walkers, public art, safe street crossings, navigation, etc.)
- Public Transportation
- Fostering intergenerational and multi-cultural connection
- Financial security for low income older residents
- Socialization and fostering community connection for older residents
- Education and awareness about LGBTQ elders
- Community accessibility for disabled residents

Three groups will be selected in 2019 for grants ranging from \$500-\$2,000. Grants will be one-time funding for a 12 month period starting when the grant is awarded. In addition to funding, groups who are awarded sponsorships will receive technical assistance from AARP staff. This will include advocacy and communications support, administrative support (as appropriate), and access to office equipment and meeting space. Funded groups will also be required to participate in advocacy and communications training provided by AARP. Sponsored projects will have the public recognition by AARP, including letters of support, as needed to achieve their goals.

These sponsorships are intended to inspire and support grassroots groups that have a vision for their neighborhood or the city and how it can be improved to meet the needs of all residents by improving the built environment, expand opportunities for all residents, and drive community

engagement and interaction across diverse community residents. To learn more about AARP's Livable Community work visit our website, <http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/>.

Questions? If your project does not fit any of the categories listed above but you believe it will advance the priorities of AARP's livable community efforts please contact Kelly Stoddard Poor at 802-951-1313 or kstoddardpoor@aarp.org before proceeding with an application.

ELIGIBILITY

The sponsorship is open to grassroots groups and small non-profits in Burlington that are organized to make improvements in their neighborhood or the community.

Eligible for funding:

- 501 (c)(3) and 501 (c)(4) nonprofits
- Ad hoc community group with a fiscal agent

AARP will not fund the following types of proposals or organizations:

- Partisan political activities
- Studies with no follow-up action
- Publication of books or reports
- Acquisition of land and/or buildings
- Research and development for a for-profit endeavor
- Government entities
- Individuals
- For-profits
- Capital expenditures

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must comply with these requirements, including without limitation the eligibility requirements.
- Applicants must submit an online proposal to kstoddardpoor@aarp.org, with all pertinent information.

DEADLINE

All proposals should be **received** by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, October 4, 2019 to be eligible for sponsorship consideration.

SPONSORSHIP SELECTION

Sponsorship recipients will be selected by a panel of five people with expertise in aging issues, community development, and livable communities.

In general, the projects will be based on the degree to which their goals are consistent with current AARP policy positions and represent a desire to make change through local level activism and advocacy.

More specifically, the judging for the sponsorships will be evaluated based on a weighted point system for a total of 100 overall points. Successful applicants will have:

- Identified a neighborhood or community need and developed a clear plan for translating that need into action (25 points);
- Identified and convened interested individuals into an ad hoc or more formal group to take action on the identified need (15 points);
- Articulated how their plan will advance priorities of the Burlington Livable Community Project (20 points);
- Demonstrated an ability to manage funds (10 points);
- Limited opportunities for funding from traditional funders (5 points);
- Timeline presented is appropriate for scope of project (10 points);

Panelists may consider additional factors in the selection of successful applicants including interviews with the selection panel and finalists.

NOTIFICATION

The potential Sponsorship recipients will be notified by telephone, email or overnight courier. Potential award winners must execute and return a Letter Agreement to the Vermont state office of AARP within seven (7) days of notification. Noncompliance with this time period may result in disqualification, and the Sponsorship Applicant with the next highest score will be selected.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All decisions of AARP regarding the eligibility of participants and the validity of entries shall be final and binding. All submissions will be judged by AARP whose decisions and determinations as to the administration of the sponsorship and selection of sponsorship recipients are final. All submissions are the sole property of AARP and none will be returned. AARP reserve the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, or suspend the Sponsorship. Except where prohibited by law, participation in the Sponsorship constitutes the Applicant's consent to AARP's and use of his/her name, street address, city, state, zip code, county, likeness, photograph, video and image, statements made by the Applicants regarding the Sponsorship for promotional purposes in any media without further permission, consent, payment or other consideration.

AARP and its respective affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, agents and employees are not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegitimate, or impermissible submissions or mail; postage due mail; or any other error whether human, mechanical or electronic.