AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age with a Vermont state office located in Burlington. We lead positive social change and deliver value to members through information, advocacy and service.

AARP Vermont’s 2020 Community Action Grants will provide financial support to non-profit organizations and ad hoc groups that are responding locally to build and enhance community resiliency. The awards are granted to applicants that meet the program eligibility requirements and selection is based on the criteria detailed in this RFP. AARP will fund selected initiatives that recognize the assets and opportunities of our aging population with projects aimed at ultimately enhancing the livability of Vermont communities subject to the terms and conditions described below. The pandemic has heightened the importance of social networks and community support and services as key ingredients for community resilience.

Up to five (5) non-profits or ad hoc organizations groups will be selected in 2020 for grants ranging from $500-$2,000. Grants will be one-time funding for a 6-month period starting when the grant is awarded. The project will need to be completed within the same 6-month period. Grant projects will receive public recognition by AARP, including letters of support, as needed and appropriate to achieve their goals. These grants are intended to support local response to enhancing the resilience of communities by addressing the local level livability needs. Priority will be given to eligible non-profit organizations and grassroots groups:

- That are focused on urgent and immediate needs
- That are filling unmet needs
- With a vision for how local efforts can be improved within the built and social environments
ELIGIBILITY
The grant program is open to organizations and grassroots ad hoc groups and that are organized to make improvements in their neighborhood or the community that meet all eligibility requirements.

Proposals must include projects that incorporate one or more of the following:
- Respond to food insecurity
- Respond to the impacts of social isolation with socialization and the fostering of intergenerational community connections
- Respond to increased need for technology and virtual meet-ups
- Respond to affordable and accessible housing options
- Respond to increased need for improved mobility, such as pedestrian, bike and bus infrastructure
- Increase access for civic engagement
- Increase community accessibility for disabled residents
- Support the delivery of services to help older residents age in the setting of their choice

Eligible for funding:
• 501 (c)(3) and 501 (c)(4) nonprofits
• Ad hoc community group with a 501 (c)(3) and 501 (c)(4) nonprofit 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 must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Friday, June 26, 2020 to be eligible for grant consideration.

GRANT SELECTION
Grant recipients will be selected by a panel of three 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 grants will 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 that meets all eligibility standards above (30 points);
- Articulated how their plan will advance priorities and benefits of a more livable community for people of all ages and ability (25 points);
- Identified and convened interested individuals and stakeholders into an ad hoc group or formal organization to take action on the identified need (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);

NOTIFICATION
The potential grant recipients will be notified by telephone, email or overnight courier that they have been selected to receive a grant under this program.
Potential award winners must execute and return a Memorandum of Understanding to the AARP Vermont state office within seven (7) days of receipt. Noncompliance with this time period may result in disqualification, and the grant 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 and decisions and determinations as to the administration of the grant program and selection of grant program recipients are final. All submissions are the sole property of AARP and none will be returned. AARP reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, or suspend the grant program. Except where prohibited by law, participation in the grant program constitutes the applicant’s consent to AARP’s use of his/her name, likeness, photograph, video and image, statements made, in addition to the
applicant organization’s or group’s trademark and its street address, city, state, zip code, and county regarding the grant program 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.