

Guiding Principles for Nonprofits

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven and the Valley Community Foundation (The Community Foundations) are committed to supporting nonprofit organizations in our region that strive towards providing the highest quality services and advance ideas, innovations and techniques that improve the quality of life for our residents.

It is important that nonprofits continually improve their services and programs by applying what they learn through self-reflection, assessment, evaluation and use of data, knowledge building, risk taking, and the use of sound and prudent financial management practices.

It is the belief of The Community Foundations that the best use of the community's endowment is to invest in nonprofits that display the following:

- **Vision for the Community:** The applicant must have clear goals and objectives for how it will impact the community it serves during the term of the grant which have been informed by a planning process that includes input by stakeholders with lived experience.
- **Social & Structural Determinants of Equity** (Health Access & Quality, Education Access & Quality, Basic Needs, Social and Community Context, Economic Stability, Neighborhood and Built Environment): Does the applicant mission and work contribute to improving the social and structural determinants of equity?
- **Accountability:** The applicant must on an ongoing basis evaluate the impact of its work on the people and/or community it serves.
- **Vision for the Organization:** The applicant must have clear goals and objectives for how it maintain or improve its governance, management, operations and programs during the term of the grant which have been informed by a planning process.
- **Culture of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** The applicant must have policies and procedures that respect and advance diversity, equity and inclusion within the organization. Members of the Board and staff reflect the diversity of the community served.
- **Vitality:** The applicant must have sound practices for financial management, and include a lens for sustainability in its planning.