



Request for Proposals ARAW Community Partner Grants

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Association for the Relief of Aged Women (ARAW) was founded in 1866. The Association's first president, Rachel Howland, was a prominent New Bedford Quaker preacher, activist and philanthropist. For 155 years, the ARAW's mission has been steadfast while the world around it is forever changing. How the ARAW fulfills its mission continues to evolve to meet these changing needs. Led by a volunteer board and small staff, the ARAW financially supports the individual needs of over 200 women while being guided by the founding principles of "women helping women" and "not alms alone, but a friend".

Vision

Elderly women in our community will live well and with dignity.

Mission

To furnish financial assistance, provide friendship, and promote the welfare and relief of elderly women.

ARAW does this by:

- Investing in and collaborating with our community partners to identify and address women's unmet needs.
- Meeting our beneficiaries' needs through one time, intermittent or ongoing financial support.
- Providing friendship to women through social visits.
- Supporting programs which promote the independence and enhance the quality of life for elderly, low-income women in our community.

ARAW DIRECT SUPPORT

The ARAW's primary purpose is to provide direct financial support to eligible women. The ARAW relies on community partners to identify and qualify women in need and, on behalf of these women, present requests for the ARAW to consider.

Direct financial support may include, but is not limited to:

Funding of Daily Living Needs
Friendly Visitor
Licensed Social Worker

Social Day Program
Social Trip and Event
Transportation

The ARAW supports elderly, low income women who are residents of the City of New Bedford and the surrounding towns of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven and Westport. Prospective beneficiaries must have lived at least five years in this area. Preference is given to women living alone and who have exhausted all other support options.

To qualify for ongoing support, women must be 70 or over years old. To qualify for a one-time gift or intermittent assistance, women must be 65 years old or over. The ARAW considers a woman low income if their monthly income is under \$1,400 (with subsidized housing), under \$1,900 (with non-subsidized housing) and whose liquid assets are under \$10,000 (excluding home and auto).

All applications for support are completed by beneficiary advocates who follow a prescribed formula. ARAW applications are completed during a home visit to assess the beneficiary or prospective beneficiary's quality of life and living situation.

A complete application includes confirmation of a home visit, a consent form, a cover letter, an ARAW application (disclosing information about finances, health, quality of life and family) and any relevant supporting documentation. Any beneficiary receiving or requesting support from the ARAW must have an application on file with the ARAW.

A standard application template is provided by the ARAW. Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis and are due to the ARAW via email by end of the day on the last Wednesday of each month.

To ensure the safety of our beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries, anyone working on behalf of the ARAW must have successfully completed a CORI check. It is the responsibility of the community partner to conduct the CORI check on any individual as per their internal procedures.

ARAW'S COMMUNITY PARTNER GRANT OVERVIEW

ARAW is a grant maker in support of organizations and programs which best support our mission and vision that elderly women in our community will live well and with dignity. We welcome new initiatives and meaningful ways to address the needs and challenges faced by aging women today.

Community collaboration brings a unified opportunity to improve the quality of life of women in need by offering them financial support and by helping them maintain their dignity and independence in the community through outreach and programs.

The ARAW's Community Partner Grant offers nonprofits and public entities in Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, New Bedford and Westport funding to continue, maintain or expand their programs and projects through support of activities which align with the ARAW's prioritized target areas. Potential use of this grant funding includes support of staff salaries, program supplies and materials and other direct costs as deemed reasonable for the success of the program/project.

The ARAW has identified four key target areas in which we will invest. First and foremost, we are looking to grow the number of trusted sources in the community who will identify and connect the ARAW to women in need. The other three targeted funding areas promote Financial Stability/Life Strategies, Social Engagement and Safety/Stability for our target population.

Proposals must directly align with these priority areas as they relate to the population the ARAW looks to support. Successful proposals will demonstrate not only the necessary expertise but also the ability to track activities and a commitment to measurable outcomes through regular reports.

ARAW’s Community Partner Grant awards will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. This grant offering will fund activities for one year – from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Previously funded programs are eligible to apply. The ARAW does not support capital purchases, campaigns or endowments.

TARGETED FUNDING AREAS

The ARAW will invest grant funding to promote independence and enhance quality of life for elderly, low-income women in our community through financial support of qualified individuals and programs. The ARAW seeks proposals that align with one or more of the following targeted funding areas. **Successful proposals will use one or more of the following indicators to measure their program’s impact.**

| Targeted Funding Areas | Success Indicators |
|---|--|
| <p>Trusted sources of knowledgeable advocates in our community who will identify and connect us to women in need so we can provide them with direct support.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the availability of trusted sources in the community for identification of potential beneficiaries, meetings with existing beneficiaries to determine ongoing needs/impact of support, submission of requests on behalf of beneficiaries and connecting beneficiaries to resources. ▪ Increase in requests made on behalf of ARAW eligible women. ▪ Deepening of support for eligible women from the area’s immigrant population (with specific sensitivity to language and culture). |
| <p>Promotion of financial stability and life strategies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ARAW eligible women who access needed programs and/or resources. ▪ ARAW eligible women who sign up for benefits to support income, such as SNAP, PACE or Supplemental Security Income. ▪ Access to money management and financial counseling geared to ARAW eligible women. ▪ Innovative programming to address meaningful life strategies for ARAW eligible women. |

| Targeted Funding Areas | Success Indicators |
|--|---|
| <p>Access to social engagement opportunities to combat loneliness and isolation.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of friendly visiting programs. ▪ Creation of inter-generational programming. ▪ Cultural events geared to ARAW eligible women. ▪ Accessible and affordable transportation to promote social connectedness. ▪ Opportunities for engagement, training and support for ARAW eligible women in using technology and social media. ▪ Innovative initiatives which address loneliness and isolation among older women in our community. |
| <p>Establishment of safety and stability to foster optimal health and well-being.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ARAW eligible women who access needed programs and/or resources for in-home safety. ▪ Increased access to and consumption of healthy food. ▪ Increased participation in physical activity, wellness and/or self-care programs for ARAW eligible women. ▪ ARAW eligible women who receive preventative health care services. ▪ ARAW eligible women who receive necessary social work or behavioral health care services. ▪ Opportunities for technological training and support for ARAW eligible women for telehealth purposes. ▪ Innovative approaches to health and wellness for ARAW eligible women. |

APPLICATION PROCESS & ELEMENTS

This will be a one-stage application process. Applications will be completed on-line. [Apply here](#)

The ARAW reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals submitted
- Reject incomplete applications
- Adjust guidelines, including submission dates
- Contact you to discuss your proposal and/or request additional information

When evaluating applications, reviewers will consider the thoroughness and clarity of each proposal's description of the following application elements:

- ❑ **Organization information:** Including contact information, mission statement and brief description of your organization
- ❑ **Project summary:** Including the targeted funding area your proposal addresses, project title, project location, project budget total and requested grant amount
- ❑ **Who will benefit:** Demographics and characteristics of all project beneficiaries
- ❑ **Statement of need:** Identification of specific problem your project will address including any applicable data or statistics
- ❑ **Program description:** Project activities and how these activities respond to the stated need
- ❑ **Qualifications:** Your ability to execute this project including any specific staff credentials or relevant experience
- ❑ **Outcomes:** The specific effects your project activities will have on the target population - outcomes should cite one or more of the targeted funding areas success indicators
- ❑ **Methodology:** Description of activities and required resources which will directly support the achievement of objectives
- ❑ **Implementation plan/timeline:** A chronological description of key project activities
- ❑ **Evaluation:** The methods you will use to measure your progress toward your outcomes
- ❑ **Budget:** Budget narrative including the names of other funding organizations and/or foundations and the dollar amounts received or requested to-date for this project; individual contributors need not be named, but please provide dollar amounts received/requested
- ❑ **Future funding/sustainability:** A plan for how you will this continue this program with or without ARAW funding
- ❑ **Attachments:** IRS 501 (C)(3) determination letter, project budget*, organization's operating budget*, annual report, audited financial statements/financial review*, letters of support, brochures, marketing collateral (*required)

APPLICATION & NOTIFICATION TIMELINE

Key dates in the application process are outlined below. Prior to the submission deadline, ample opportunity for questions and answers will be provided through scheduled informational sessions and phone support. If interested, please email admin@arawofnb.org to sign up for a information session.

Late submissions will not be considered. No changes or additions will be accepted after the date and time of the deadline. After applying, applicants may be asked to participate in an interview as part of the evaluation process.

2021 – 2022 KEY DATES & DEADLINES

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| RFP and application materials published | Week of September 13, 2021 |
| Q&A/Informational sessions | September 30, 2021 10:30 am |
| Q&A/Informational sessions | October 1, 7 & 12, 2021 10:30 am |
| Phone call inquiries | Month of November |
| Applications due | December 3, 2021 |
| Interviews, as needed upon request* | Month of January |
| Notification of decisions | February 11, 2022 |
| Signed grant agreements due | March 31, 2022 |
| Awards distributed | April 1, 2022 |
| Earliest possible project start date | April 1, 2022 |
| Latest possible project start date | July 1, 2022 |

**A request for an interview does not guarantee funding by the ARAW*

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement which will outline all terms and conditions including detailed expectations for reporting.

Grantees are required to submit a quarterly reports, as provided by the ARAW.

A final narrative is required at the completion of the grant cycle. This report will include:

- Detailed financial reporting with any relevant accounting
- Performance of the program as it relates to the identified targeted funding area and success indicator(s)
- Other program outcomes, as specified in the proposal
- Any notable successes or stories
- Any challenges or barriers to success during the grant period
- Any identified opportunities for ongoing improvement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & INQUIRIES

For information and to learn more about the ARAW, the grant or the application process, please contact ARAW Executive Director, Clare Healy Foley at cfoley@arawofnb.org or (508) 717-0400.

You can also visit www.arawofnb.org for the most up to date information.