



ARAW Community Partner Grant 2024/2025 Funding Announcement

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 158 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 organizations and initiatives which promote the independence and enhance the quality of life for elderly, low-income women in our community.

ARAW's Community Partner Grant overview

ARAW Community Partner Grants (CPG) invests in and collaborates with community partners to identify and address unmet needs of, challenges faced by and opportunities available to low-income, elderly women in the Greater New Bedford community.

At ARAW, we endeavor to go beyond the check and create a true partnership with the organizations with whom we chose to invest. We recognize that the funder-grantee partnership is strongest when both parties prioritize trust, dialogue, transparency, relationship-building and the iterative process in their practices.

The ARAW Community Partner Grants (CPG) program offers one-year general operating support ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to organizations which can demonstrate a commitment to low-income elderly women in New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and Westport.

ARAW's review process is highly selective and favors a small number of organizations which show effectiveness and the promise of long-term impact. Please carefully review the criteria to determine whether your mission, organization and timing are a good fit.

Goals

Community Partner Grants (CPG) promote independence, enhance the quality of life, provide accessibility and engage low-income, elderly women in the Greater New Bedford community through support of organizations:

- looking to develop new programs, services, initiatives or strategic priorities aligned with ARAW's mission
- advancing to the next stage of their development of programs, services, initiatives or strategic priorities
- advocating for the rights, protections, accessibility and relevance of ARAW's target population

Eligibility

Organizations eligible to apply must:

- Demonstrate a commitment to low-income, elderly women in New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and Westport
- Verify non-profit or public entity status
- Use funds exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Internal revenue code as amended
- Have a feasible action plan to execute programs, services, initiatives or strategic priorities through identifiable, concrete steps
- Have engaged leadership with demonstrated fiscal accountability
- Be willing and able to engage multiple stakeholders — people, communities, organizations — for input and execution
- Embrace the idea of partnership with ARAW

Review Criteria

When reviewing applications, ARAW's Grants Committee will make funding decisions based on the following criteria:

- Does the organization operate in ARAW eligible towns?
- Does the organization have a community-centered mission?
- Does the organization understand ARAW's mission, values, goals and objectives?
- Is the organization's leadership deeply rooted and does the leadership understand the community?
- Does the applicant have appropriate background/experience to accomplish the organization's mission?
- Are there multiple stakeholders invested in the work?
- Are the organization's mission and goals clear?
- Does the applicant make a strong case for their commitment to challenges faced by low-income, elderly women?
- Does the program bring together community in unexpected ways, across issue areas or geography, for example?
- Would ARAW's support have a significant leveraging effect and lasting impact on the operations of the organization?
- Would ARAW's support have a significant leveraging effect and lasting impact on the population which we aim to support?
- Is grant funding the best vehicle for support? Or is direct support at the individual level more appropriate?

Reporting Expectations

ARAW has streamlined its reporting expectations. Reporting will be twice a year. The mid-year report will be a verbal conversation, ideally in-person. The end of the year report will be a verbal conversation coupled with a written narrative. Conversations will include questions like:

- What do you want us to know about your work over this last period?
- Are there any big, overall organizational developments that you want to talk about?
- How does your organization assess its performance?
- How did the funding affect your organizational health and your community impact as related to low-income, elderly women?
- What have you learned and how has that been helpful to your organization?
- Are you wrestling with any big strategic questions or operational areas?
- How can we help?
- Any advice about how to better cultivate learning among grantees?
- Do you have any advice for us about what we could do to continue to partner with you and your organization?
- What's most helpful and least helpful about our process, the way we communicate, anything else that comes to mind?
- Are there any organizations in the Greater New Bedford community to which you would like to introduce us or with whom you think we should partner to achieve mission-aligned objectives?

In addition to scheduled conversations, ARAW is committed to responsive, adaptive, non-monetary support and conversation. Throughout the grant cycle, Community Partners are encouraged to reach out to share successes, to provide valuable perspective, to offer insight and/or if ARAW can serve as a sounding board or provide counsel.

Timeline

Key dates in the application process are outlined below. Prior to the submission deadline, ample opportunity for questions and brainstorming will be provided through scheduled one-on-one meetings and phone support. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.** Please email admin@arawofnb.org to sign up for a meeting.

2024 - 2025 KEY DATES

RFP invitation and application materials published	January 8, 2024
Informational meetings	Up until submission deadline
Applications due	February 8, 2024
Interviews, as needed upon request*	Month of February 2024
Notification of decisions	March 14, 2024
Signed grant agreements due	March 31, 2024
Awards distributed	April 1, 2024
Mid-year check-in conversation	October 2024
Year-end conversation & narrative	April 2025

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

Apply here: <https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=6156&fid=35017>