

Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth (2022)

Vermont Community Foundation

Application Guidelines

Established in 2018, the Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth is a growing fund with the goal of ensuring a source of revenue for dynamic and innovative youth programs in Bennington, North Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, and Woodford in perpetuity.

The Opportunity Fund for Southshire youth awards grants for creative and effective initiatives that empower and support Bennington-area teenagers, particularly those facing challenges and limited access to opportunities due to economic distress, disengagement from school, mental health issues, racism, gender identity, disability, legal status, or other reasons.

In 2022, the fund will prioritize projects that:

- Elevate youth leadership and empowerment, especially of historically marginalized youth;
- Provide opportunity and access for youth facing continued hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, and other challenges and traumas;
- Expand youth engagement in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities and increase youth exposure to STEAM careers; and/or
- Advance youth entrepreneurship.

The Fund will support programs that benefit teenagers entering or enrolled in 6th through 12th grades (typically ages 12 to 18) including students at Mount Anthony Middle School or High School and/or those who live in the communities served by those schools.

All applicants to this grant program must meet the guidelines on the Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth page on the Vermont Community Foundation website. Please [view the website](#) for the most current deadline information.

For questions regarding the application process, please contact 802-388-3355 ext. 222 or grants@vermontcf.org.

Applications will be accepted between January 18 – March 8, 2022. Applications must be received by 5PM on Tuesday, March 8 in order to be considered. No late applications will be accepted.

Application

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Character Limit: 100

Project Summary*

Provide a one to two sentence description of what the project will accomplish. Be clear and explicit about what you will accomplish and how. Please use complete sentences. Note: Your answer may be used in publications. For example: "We will enroll twenty middle school youth in a two-week, full-day coding camp and have them visit and talk with computer software programmers at local companies."

Character Limit: 500

Amount Requested*

Minimum \$500/ Maximum \$3,500

Character Limit: 20

Geographic Area*

Choose all that apply.

Choices

Bennington
North Bennington
Pownal
Shaftsbury
Woodford

Alignment with Funding Priorities*

How does your project align with the Opportunity Fund for Southshire Youth's funding priorities? *Check all that apply.*

Choices

Elevate youth leadership and empowerment, especially of historically marginalized youth
Provide opportunity and access for youth facing continued hardships as detailed above
Expand youth engagement in STEAM activities and increase youth exposure to STEAM careers
Advance youth entrepreneurship

Project Description*

Character Limit: 3000

Rationale for the Project*

Describe the need and/or opportunity that the project addresses, focusing on the particular youth to be served by the project. When appropriate and possible, support your statements with data.

Character Limit: 1200

Youth and Community Engagement and Support*

Please describe how youth have been involved in decision-making regarding this idea or project. You may attach up to two letters of support from teenagers in addition to your answer.

Character Limit: 1200

What are your goals?*

We are eager to get a real-life sense of how this project will be experienced by youth and how they would describe the impact they want the project to have.

Character Limit: 1200

Describe the people served by this work.*

Please describe the youth that will be engaged with and benefit from this project. Why would this project be meaningful to them? How many teens do you expect to work with?

Character Limit: 1200

What will success look like?*

Please explain how you will know that you've achieved your goals. How will you get and share candid feedback from the youth participants?

Character Limit: 1200

Project Timeline*

Please explain the overall timeline for your project as well as the specific steps required to achieve your goals and when they will happen. Please list specific dates if they've been identified.

Character Limit: 1200

Project Champion*

Who are the adult champions for this project and why are they committed to this activity?

Character Limit: 1200

Letter of Support (Optional)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Letter of Support (Optional)

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Project Budget- Itemized (PDF)*

Attach a .pdf copy of your itemized project budget. You should include both expenses and revenue, including pending and secured support. Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the Community Foundation's website [here](#).

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Project Budget- Narrative*

Please provide a rationale for the project budget. For example, if you are a school, you may need to hire a trained computer program to teach a coding camp as well as a youth worker to work with the youth, organize transportation and food, etc.

Character Limit: 1000

Bonus Words (Optional)

What else should we know about the project that we didn't ask?

Character Limit: 1200

Organization Information

Organizational Description*

Briefly describe your organizations(s) or group(s) and its mission(s). (This is your "elevator speech" and may be used in publications.)

Character Limit: 500

Organizational Budget*

What is your total organization budget (total expenses) for the current fiscal year?

Character Limit: 20

Organizational Budget (PDF Upload)*

Please attach organization's Budget to Actual comparison or Profit Loss (P/L) statement for the most recently completed fiscal year. Sample budget documents can be downloaded from the Community Foundation's website [here](#). If you are showing a deficit in your organizational budget, please tell us why.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

What best describes the applicant?*

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, church/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need a fiscal sponsor. If you have questions, please contact the community foundation. We are happy to talk through your options.

Choices

Municipal entity (i.e., town, public school, or other municipal department or agency)

Church or religious group

Other - Please provide details in your answer to the next question.

Registered 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

Use this space to provide additional information about the applicant's status. (If Applicable)

If you have a fiscal sponsor- or if you operate under the umbrella of a larger registered nonprofit- provide their names below

Character Limit: 200

Fiscal Sponsorship (If Applicable)

Our grants must be paid to a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, church/religious group, or town/municipal agency. If your organization or group does not fall into one of these categories, you will need to use a fiscal sponsor. Download a blank [Fiscal Sponsor Agreement](#) form and forward it to your fiscal sponsor to print, fill out, and sign. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer at 802-388-3355 ext. 222 or jbarrett@vermontcf.org

Upload a scanned copy of your signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement below.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Grant History*

Has your organization received funding within the last three years from the one of the Vermont Community Foundation's competitive grant programs? If yes, please specify the project name and grant year(s).

Character Limit: 300

Save and Submit

All applications must be submitted online by **5:00 pm on March 8, 2022.**

All applications must be submitted electronically to the Vermont Community Foundation through the application form in the Online Grants Manager. Applications will not be accepted by mail or email. If you have questions about the Online Grants Manager, please contact: grants@vermontcf.org or 802-388-3355 ext. 222.

By submitting your application to the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your application with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.