



James H. Napier Foundation 2017 Grantmaking Priorities

Mission: The James H. Napier Foundation is committed to helping non-profit organizations meet the existing and emerging needs of children, youth and families living in Meriden and Wallingford, CT.

Vision: The James H. Napier Foundation is committed to:

- Making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, families, individuals, and neighborhoods in Meriden and Wallingford.
- Providing leadership for the well-being of children and youth.
- Assisting children and families overcome poverty and systemic disadvantage.
- Maintaining an active, engaged Board of Trustees with members whose values align with the Foundation's mission and priorities.
- Being a collaborative partner with other funders and non-profit organizations that support the Meriden and Wallingford communities.

Grantmaking Strategies:

1. Provide support to healthy and viable organizations that:

- Demonstrate strong and effective leadership and management;
- Operate according to a strategic plan with clarity, identifying sustainability and future goals;
- Do not duplicate existing services but collaborate with other organizations, when and where appropriate;
- Can demonstrate that the grant funding will have an immediate impact and also have a longer-term benefit to the organization and its beneficiaries;
- Can demonstrate that the grant funding (if designed to fill a gap created by state budget cuts) will make a significant difference for the organization, its beneficiaries and its promotion of long-term organizational sustainability.

2. Increase emphasis on prevention:

- Support programs that invest early, address root causes, and help to prevent problems from occurring or becoming more pronounced and costly to address in the future.

Grant Cycles and 2017 Deadlines: The Foundation will award grants three times per calendar year. Please note that the Foundation **will no longer have a July/August grant cycle.**

Grant Deadline	Trustee Meeting	Award Notification
January 10, 2017	February 2017	February 28, 2017
April 10, 2017	May 2017	May 31, 2017
September 30, 2017	November 2017	November 30, 2017

Grant Categories:

1. Capacity-Building - Grants aimed at strengthening an organization's infrastructure, management and governance. The Foundation believes that by building the competence and professionalism of an organization, we are investing in better outcomes for the program participants. Examples of activities that may be supported include assessment of management and governance systems; development of a data collection system; evaluation of service effectiveness; strategic planning, board or staff development; fund development planning; succession planning; mergers and/or restructuring; technology upgrades; developing a volunteer management system; and external communication strategies.

2. Children and Youth Services - Grants for children and youth that focus on childhood development, arts, culture, leadership and life skills training, mentoring and recreation.

3. Basic Human Needs - Grants to provide food, clothing, emergency shelter and other needed resources that seek to prevent homelessness and support self-sufficiency.

4. Education - Grants for pre-K children through adults to support adult literacy and training, after-school educational programs, early childhood programs, family literacy, and family support programs.

Please note, in addition to the above four (4) grant categories, the Foundation will support a prevention-focused grant category for 2017-2018:

5. Special 2017-2018 Prevention Grant: The Foundation will award 1-3 grants (total of \$36,000) to support prevention programs for children and youth. The intent of the initiative is to fund programs that focus on a community issue and provide preventative activities and methods which seek to reduce or deter specific problems, protect the current state of well-being and/or promote desired outcomes and behaviors for Meriden and/or Wallingford children and youth.

Grant Type: An organization may apply for one (1) grant per calendar year. If your organization has received a recent grant, a final report must be submitted prior to the submission of a grant application.

The grant types are as follows:

Program Grant: supports a specific project or activity that is tied to concrete goals, objectives and measurable outcomes.

General Operating Grant: supports an organization's overall activities, including administrative and operating expenses.

Grant making Specifics:

- 501 (c)(3) organizations must serve the Meriden and Wallingford, CT communities.
- The range of grants made from unrestricted funds is between \$1,000 and \$10,000.
- Civic organizations (proposals must be project-based and of a charitable nature, and the organization must have a fiscal agent that is a 501 (c)(3)).
- Faith-based organizations may apply, but their proposals will only be considered if: 1.) services benefit all, regardless of religion; 2.) services provided are not religious in nature; and 3.) there is no proselytizing associated with the services.
- The foundation does not fund special events.

The seven (7) factors we consider when reviewing proposals:

1. Response to a Need in the Community - Does the proposed project aim to meet a specific need in the community? Perhaps it "plugs a hole" for a population or provides a service that has been overlooked in the past. If so, what is the need and how do you know there is a need?

2. Prevention Approach - Focusing on preventing issues and problems before they occur creates healthier homes, workplaces, schools and communities so that people can live long and productive lives. The Foundation supports projects that focus on a community issue, provide preventative activities and methods and seek to reduce or deter specific problems.

3. Outcome-Focused - Does the proposed project have well-defined outcome measures that will assess the benefit of the organization's activities on participants or the community at large? Please define the project's desired outcomes and how and when the outcomes will be measured.

4. Innovative Approach - New models and approaches to community needs are encouraged. The Foundation values submissions from organizations that are seeking seed funding to start a project or program that meets existing or emerging needs. The Foundation also values proposals that act as a catalyst for future activity in meeting a community need.

5. Collaboration - The Foundation receives many proposals for similar purposes, and it's often difficult to know why multiple proposals exist and who is best equipped to receive funding. The Foundation appreciates the ability of organizations to work together and to share resources towards a common goal.

6. Capacity Building - Does the proposal help to build long-term capacity (skills and/or resources) within the community and/or within an existing organization

7. Leveraging Resources - While this is not a high priority, the Foundation appreciates seeing that its funding will help to secure matching funds or challenge grants or that the Foundation's grant will attract future funding and/or other resources.

Questions:

Please contact Daria Smith, Foundation Administrator, with any questions and to discuss your application BEFORE submission. A grant application will not be accepted unless you have received approval prior to submission from the Foundation Administrator.

Contact information is: napierfdn@gmail.com or via cell at (860-681-7599). Please allow 24 hours for a response. Thank you.



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