

City Of Torrington

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(860) 496-5920



140 Main Street • City Hall
Torrington, CT 06790-5245

MEMORANDUM

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| TO: | CC: |
| City Council | |
| FROM: | file |
| Rista Malanca, AICP | |
| DATE: | Re: Community Impact Grant Recommendations |
| AUGUST 31, 2022 | |

Dear Council Members,

NW CT Community Foundation received 54 Applications totaling \$2,883,555 in requests for the Community Impact Grant, funded by the City of Torrington's American Rescue Plan Act Funds. The total amount allocated to round 1 of the Community Impact Grant was \$875,000.

The ARPA Advisory Committee has performed a detailed review of all applications requesting \$15,000 or less and is scheduled to review the remaining applications over the next several weeks. The Committee met on August 17, 2022 & August 31, 2022 (meeting minutes attached) and have made the following recommendations:

To **APPROVE** the following applications and grant amounts:

- Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts, "Nutmeg Ballet & Torrington Public Schools – Nutcracker 2022" - \$11,000
- Warner Theatre, "Warner Arts in the Classroom Pilot" - \$10,000
- Sanctuary Power Yoga, "Yoga for Teens" - \$3,075
- The Center for Dance Arts, "Dancing Dreams – Dance for every child project" - \$9,000
- Torrington Historical Society "John Brown Birthplace – Five Points Art Center Connector Trail" - \$13,700
- Culture 4 a Cause "His Truth is Marching On: Musical Documentary Unveiling" - \$4,500
- Joyful Noise, "Singing for mental Health Benefits Scholarship Fund for Torrington Children" - \$9,450
- First Congregational Church, "Community Food Distribution" - \$14,500
- Drakeville Fire Department. "Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department Capital Safety Expense" - \$7,850

Total funding recommended: \$83,075

To **TABLE** the following applications until round 2 of the Community Impact Grant and request additional information be submitted:

- The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y. Project, "Adult Support Awareness Partnership (ASAP)"
- The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y. Project, "Mosaic Me"

To **NOT FUND** the following applications under this grant program but recommended to other grant opportunities that are more suitable.

- Howard's Books, "Pipe Dreams"
- Sara Roberts, LLC, "Greens N Things Startup"
- Swing Factory, LLC, "The Swing Factory"
- Zoom Zoom Real Estate, LLC, "Zoom Zoom Real Estate LLC"
- Taphouse, LLC, "Sawyers –Brinx-Bakery"
- Challenging Minds, "Grant request for ongoing training to licensed clinical staff that work full time at Challenging Minds"
- Culture 4 A Cause, "City Views Community Media Project"
- Transformative Beauty, LLC, "Temple Soulon"
- Challenging Minds, "Expansion of Challenging Minds"
- Torrington Library "Teen Advisory Board Pizza Wars"
- Challenging Minds "Train an Animal-Assisted Therapy Dog to Attend Treatment with Challenging Mind Providers"

City of Torrington
ARPA funded, Community Grants Advisory Committee
AGENDA
Wednesday, August 17, 2022 @8 am
Northwest Community Foundation
33 E. Main St, Torrington

1. Roll Call – Mayor Elinor Carbone, Anne Ruwett, John Kissko, Casey McKenna, Molly Spino, Laurene Pesce (virtual)
Also in attendance: Julie Scharnberg, Guy Rovezzi, Lorraine Haddock & Rista Malanca

Mayor Carbone expressed gratitude to NW Community Foundation for their expertise and assistance.

Mr. Rovezzi stated he was grateful to partner with the City of Torrington and that the role of the NW CT Community Foundation is to support Committee. Mr. Rovezzi reviewed the NW CT Community Foundation's conflict of interest policy and asked Committee members to sign a conflict-of-interest acknowledgement form by next meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. 7-27-22

Correct John Kissko's name from John "McKenna"

Motion made by C. McKenna, seconded by J. Kissko to approve meeting minutes from July 27, 2022. Vote unanimous.

3. Community Impact Grants and Partnership Projects

The Committee looked at applications that potentially did not qualify for these grant funds based on the project description.

Motion made by A. Ruwett, seconded by M. Spino, make a recommendation to City Council that the following applications are not eligible projects and will not be considered under this grant program, but will be recommended to other grant opportunities

- Howard's Books – Pipe Dreams
- Sara Roberts, LLC – Greens N Things Startup
- Swing Factory, LLC – The Swing Factory

Vote unanimous

Motion made by A. Ruwett, seconded by J. Kissko, make a recommendation to City Council that the following applications are not eligible projects and will not be considered under this grant program, but will be recommended to other grant opportunities:

- Zoom Zoom Real Estate, LLC – Zoom Zoom Real Estate LLC
- Taphouse, LLC – Sawyers –Brinx-Bakery
- Challenging Minds – Grant request for ongoing training to licensed clinical staff that work full time at Challenging Minds
- Culture 4 A Cause – City Views Community Media Project
- Transformative Beauty, LLC – Temple Soulon
- Challenging Minds – Expansion of Challenging Minds

Vote Unanimous

The Committee agreed to independently score applications that were \$15,000 or less and review at the next meeting, scheduled for August 31, 2022 @ 8am.

4. Workforce Navigator RFQ

- a. No discussion

5. Business and Non-Profit Direct Grants

- a. No discussion

6. Façade Grant – Round 2

- a. Summary of applications

19 applications were received, \$214,000 of requests. Application details will be emailed to Committee members for review

7. Social Service Study

- a. No discussion

City of Torrington
ARPA funded, Community Grants Advisory Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, August 31, 2022 @8 am
Northwest Community Foundation
33 E. Main St, Torrington

1. Roll Call: John Kissko, Casey McKenna, Molly Spino, Laurene Pesce, Elinor Carbone
Others in attendance -Julie Scharnberg, Rista Malanca, Daniel Hare, Lorraine Haddock

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. 8/17/22 – Change header from Agenda to Minutes

Motion made by L. Pesce, seconded by J. Kissko to approve the meeting minutes from August 17, 2022.
Vote unanimous

It was agreed to schedule interviews with both organizations that sent proposals to the Workforce Navigator RFQ/RFP on September 14th 8:30 – 11:30, each interview 45 minutes.

3. Community Impact Grants and Partnership Projects (Community Impact Program)

- a. Review of applications

The Committee reviewed 13 applications that submitted requests of \$15,000 or less. The applications were independently scored by all the committee members, then discussed as a group.

Motion made by C. McKenna, seconded by J. Kissko recommendation to City Council to approve the following applications:

- Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts, "Nutmeg Ballet & Torrington Public Schools – Nutcracker 2022" - \$11,000
- Warner Theatre, "Warner Arts in the Classroom Pilot" - \$10,000
- Sanctuary Power Yoga, "Yoga for Teens" - \$3,075
- The Center for Dance Arts, "Dancing Dreams – Dance for every child project" - \$9,000
- Torrington Historical Society "John Brown Birthplace – Five Points Art Center Connector Trail" - \$13,700
- Culture 4 a Cause "His Truth is Marching On: Musical Documentary Unveiling" - \$4,500
- Joyful Noise, "Singing for mental Health Benefits Scholarship Fund for Torrington Children" - \$9,450
- First Congregational Church, "Community Food Distribution" - \$14,500
- Drakeville Fire Department. "Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department Capital Safety Expense" - \$7,850

Vote Unanimous

Motion made by C. McKenna, seconded by M. Spino recommendation to City Council to table the following applications:

- The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y. Project, "Adult Support Awareness Partnership (ASAP)" - \$10,000
- The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y. Project, "Mosaic Me" - \$10,000

Vote Unanimous

Motion made by M. Spino, seconded by C. McKenna recommendation to City Council to not fund the following applications under this grant program, but will be recommended to other grant opportunities:

- Torrington Library "Teen Advisory Board Pizza Wars" - \$4,200
- Challenging Minds "Train an Animal-Assisted Therapy Dog to Attend Treatment with Challenging Mind Providers" - \$9,750.

Vote Unanimous

Recommendations will be presented to City Council at their September 6th regular meeting

Round 1 - Torrington Community Impact Grants & Partnership Projects

Recommendations to City Council (Batch 1) - August 31, 2022

| Recommendations to City Council (Section 7) August 6, 2024 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----------|------------------|---|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------------------|
| | Applicant | For Profit | Nonprofit | Amount Requested | Committee Recommendation (Dollar Amount) | Final Score | Purpose of Grant (incl. Focus Code) | Grant Deadline | Conditions and/or Restrictions |
| | RECOMMEND APPROVAL | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Culture 4 A Cause | | X | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500 | 58 | [1,8] to support "His Truth is Marching On: Musical Documentary Unveiling", a component of the John Brown Project, which will support local human service organizations | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 2 | Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department | | X | \$ 7,850 | \$ 7,850 | 73 | [1,3] to support the cost of new tires for all trucks as mandated by the National Fire Protection Association | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 3 | First Congregational Church | | X | \$ 14,500 | \$ 14,500 | 78 | [1] to support the purchase of refrigeration/freezer equipment to increase storage capacity and improve access for families unable to attend the monthly food distributions | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 4 | Joyful Noise | | X | \$ 9,450 | \$ 9,450 | 80 | [3,7] to support full scholarships for 12 elementary and middle-school Torrington students to participate in choral music education in the 2022-2023 season | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 5 | Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts | | X | \$ 11,000 | \$ 11,000 | 97 | [3] to support an abridged school performance of The Nutcracker for all Torrington Public School students in grades 2 - 5 (est. 1,210 students) | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 6 | Sanctuary Power Yoga | X | | \$ 3,075 | \$ 3,075 | 79 | [3,7] to support free weekly after school yoga and mindfulness classes to teens | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 7 | The Center for Dance Arts | X | | \$ 9,000 | \$ 9,000 | 86 | [3] to support a financial assistance program for Torrington children who cannot access dance instruction due to cost | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 8 | Torrington Historical Society | | X | \$ 13,700 | \$ 13,700 | 79 | [2,8] to support Phase 2 of the John Brown Birthplace/Five Points Art Center connector trail | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 9 | Warner Theatre | | X | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | 89 | [3,7,8] to support a pilot program to increase access to performing arts education by bringing the program into Torrington Public School classrooms | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| | | | | \$ 83,075 | \$ 83,075 | TOTAL (Recommend Approval) | | | |
| | RECOMMEND TABLE TO ROUND 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y Project (ASAP) | | X | \$ 10,000 | TABLE | TABLE | [1,3,5,6,7,9] to support developing Adult Support Awareness Partners as a trusted community-based referral network for local services and resources | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| 11 | The B.E.R.E.A.D.Y Project (Mosaic Me) | | X | \$ 10,000 | TABLE | TABLE | [1,3,6,7,8,9] to support Mosaic Me, a grassroots mental health awareness and event organizing effort that is responsive to self-expressed community service deficits and needs | 9/30/2023 | N/A |
| | | | | \$ 20,000 | TOTAL (Recommend Table to Round 2) | | | | |
| | RECOMMEND NO FUNDING - will be referred to other opportunities | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Challenging Minds | X | | \$ 9,750 | [3,7] to support training for an animal-assisted therapy dog as a treatment supplement for the organization's providers | | | | |
| 13 | Challenging Minds | X | | \$ 44,000 | [5,6,7] to support clinical practices training for full-time staff | | | | |
| 14 | Challenging Minds | X | | \$ 87,980 | [3,5,6,7] to support the expansion of the organization with the addition of four full-time staff members | | | | |
| 15 | Culture 4 A Cause | | X | \$ 15,000 | [2,5,8] to support the City Views Community Media Project | | | | |
| 16 | Howard's Books | X | | \$ 10,000 | [2,8] to support Pipe Dreams, an accessible and dynamic art installation and community event series to highlight the rich history of the Meara Building | | | | |
| 17 | Sara Roberts, LLC | X | | \$ 5,000 | [2,7] to support Greens N Things, a local ghost kitchen and meal plan delivery service | | | | |
| 18 | Swing Factory, LLC | X | | \$ 10,000 | [2,3] to support start-up costs for a new recreational venture (golf simulator lounge) for all ages | | | | |

Round 1 - Torrington Community Impact Grants & Partnership Projects

Recommendations to City Council (Batch 1) - August 31, 2022

| | Applicant | For Profit | Nonprofit | Amount Requested | Committee Recommendation (Dollar Amount) | Final Score | Purpose of Grant [incl. Focus Code] | Grant Deadline | Conditions and/or Restrictions |
|----|----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 | Taphouse, LLC | X | | \$ 49,500 | [2,5] to support an outdoor patio space for Sawyer's and a second commercial kitchen/bakery to support Brinx | | | | |
| 20 | Torrington Library | | X | \$ 4,200 | [3] to support the Teen Advisory Board Pizza Wars which will engage small local businesses in a friendly competition | | | | |
| 21 | Transformative Beauty, LLC | X | | \$ 33,000 | [1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9] to support start-up costs for Temple Soulon, offering services and goods that enhance physical appearance, wellness, and creative expression | | | | |
| 22 | Zoom Zoom Real Estate, LLC | X | | \$ 20,000 | [2,5,9] to support working capital to purchase real estate and maintenance equipment | | | | |
| | | | | \$ 288,430 | TOTAL (Recommend No Funding - refer to other opportunities) | | | | |