

Capacity-Building Grants Two-Stage Application 2026

Rhode Island Foundation

Pre-Application Organization Questions

Total Organization Budget*

Character Limit: 20

Mission Statement*

Character Limit: 1000

Is your organization using a fiscal sponsor?*

Choices

No, we are a 501(c)(3)

Yes, we are using a fiscal sponsor

We are not a 501(c)(3) and we do not have a fiscal sponsor

Fiscal Sponsor Name

If using a fiscal sponsor, please list the full name here:*

Character Limit: 250

Pre-Application Proposal Questions

Deep engagement and discussion with the public, collaboration with our partners, research, and data analysis surfaced six [Community Priorities](#) that are essential for a thriving Rhode Island. These priorities were consistently voiced by the community we serve and will guide our efforts in the years ahead, as outlined in our [Five-Year Action Plan](#).

Proposal Name*

Name of your proposal.

Character Limit: 100

Capacity Building Need*

Please identify the Capacity Building needs that are the focus of your proposal.

Choices

Board development and governance

Business planning and implementation

Communications/marketing planning and implementation

Data and evaluation planning and implementation

Financial planning and implementation

Fund development planning and implementation
Strategic planning and implementation
Succession planning and implementation
Technology planning and implementation, i.e. purchase/lease of software
Other

Consultant*

Does your proposal include the need to hire a consultant to help guide the work selected above?

Choices

No

Yes

Project Management/Temporary Staffing*

Does your proposal include the need to fund short-term, project management, or temporary staff for a specific capacity building need?

Choices

No

Yes

Community Priority*

Your proposal may cross multiple priorities, but please identify the leading Community Priority with which your proposal best aligns.

Choices

Civic and Cultural Life

Climate Action and Sustainability

Education and Student Success

Healthy and Strong Communities

Housing and Economic Mobility

Amount Requested*

Capacity Building grant requests may be up to \$15,000.

Character Limit: 20

Community Priority Focus Area - Civic and Cultural Life

Based on the Community Priority selected above, please choose the Focus Area with which your proposal best aligns.

Focus Area - Civic and Cultural Life*

Choices

Enhance access to trusted news and information, support local journalism

Create opportunities for community connection, volunteering, arts/cultural experiences

Improve K-12 access to civics learning opportunities; civics professional development for educators

Innovative initiatives driving civic and cultural impact, focusing on equity and community solutions

Community Priority Focus Area - Climate Action and Sustainability

Based on the Community Priority selected above, please choose the Focus Area with which your proposal best aligns.

Focus Area - Climate Action and Sustainability*

Choices

Implement policies for climate resiliency and maximizing federal investments
Preserve nature and improve access to green spaces, especially in environmental justice communities
Support circular food systems and connect local producers and consumers for food sustainability
Innovative initiatives driving climate and sustainability, focusing on community solutions

Community Priority Focus Area - Education and Student Success

Based on the Community Priority selected above, please choose the Focus Area with which your proposal best aligns.

Focus Area - Education and Student Success*

Choices

Enhance educator capacity and an inclusive workforce through expanded recruitment and retention
Enhance middle/high school learning, focusing on youth development, mentoring, out-of-school support
Improvements to school funding, multilingual supports, student opportunity, workforce
Innovative initiatives driving education and student success, focusing on community solutions

Community Priority Focus Area - Healthy and Strong Communities

Based on the Community Priority selected above, please choose the Focus Area with which your proposal best aligns.

Focus Area - Healthy and Strong Communities*

Choices

Enhance access and coordination of healthcare, focusing on a robust, representative workforce
Mitigate health disparities by addressing root causes, shifting practices, advancing systemic reform
Expand community efforts to meet basic needs, address health inequities for marginalized communities
Innovative initiatives driving healthy and strong communities, focusing on community solutions

Community Priority Focus Area - Housing and Economic Mobility

Based on the Community Priority selected above, please choose the Focus Area with which your proposal best aligns.

Focus Area - Housing and Economic Mobility*

Choices

Expand access to affordable housing and supports for Rhode Islanders facing housing insecurity
Access to workforce programs with wraparound services, training, credentialing for high-demand jobs
Boost financial health in underserved communities with education and long-term security initiatives
Innovative initiatives driving housing and economic security, focusing on community solutions

Pre-Application Narrative Questions

Executive Summary*

Please provide a brief summary of the work proposed in this funding request.

Character Limit: 1000

Community Priority Alignment*

Please describe how your organization and grant proposal responds to the Community Priority and Focus Area that you selected above, as well as any other Community Priorities and related Focus Areas in the Foundation's Five-Year Action Plan aligned with your proposal.

Character Limit: 1000

Addressing Gaps and Advancing Equity*

Please briefly describe your past work in this area, gaps in the field you are addressing, and how your organization and proposal would help address inequities and support thriving communities.

Character Limit: 1000

Communities Served*

Please describe the geographic area(s) and demographics of the population(s) served by your organization and the work supported through this funding request.

Character Limit: 1500

Aligned Funding Opportunities

Aligned Funding*

Do you authorize the Rhode Island Foundation to share this application, in part or in whole, with generous donors that we may partner with for aligned funding opportunities?

Choices

No

Yes