

Capacity-Building Grants Two-Stage Application 2026

Rhode Island Foundation

Instructions for Completing this Application

Saving your Work

Your progress saves automatically as you work. To save manually, click the '**Save Application**' button at the bottom of this application. Return to your draft application anytime via your Dashboard by clicking the '**Continue**' button from the left-hand column of your Dashboard, or by clicking the '**Application**' link under the Action Needed column of your Dashboard.

Collaboration

Working with a team? Use the blue '**Collaborate**' button in the top-right corner to invite colleagues to work on the application together.

For more information on this feature, see this [Collaborator Article](#).

Copy Request

Returning applicant? Save time by clicking the '**Copy Request**' button in the top-right corner to import answers from a previous application. Be sure to review and update any copied information before submitting.

For more information on this feature, see this [Copying Tutorial](#).

Deadline

All deadlines occur at 3:00 PM on the day listed on our website. The deadline for this program (date and time) appears at the top of this application, just above these instructions. Please allow ample time to complete and submit your application before the deadline.

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****Proposal Questions***

Through deep engagement and discussion with the public, collaboration with our partners, research, and data analysis, we identified a set of 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 addressed in your proposal, focusing on the most critical areas of work. *Select no more than three.*

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

Staffing/Support Category*

Does your proposal include the need to fund or hire one of the following (*select one*)?

Choices

Project Management
 Temporary staff for a specific need
 Consultant
 None of the Above

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*

Character Limit: 20

Region Served

What region will be served by this proposal?

Character Limit: 100

Choices

All Rhode Island
 Metro Area
 Northern RI
 Newport County
 Southern RI
 West Bay
 Outside RI

Previous Funding*

Did you receive funding last year from the Rhode Island Foundation for the work that would be supported through this funding request (i.e., from either the Community Priority or Capacity Building programs)?

Choices

No
 Yes
 Unknown

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 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 climate resiliency policies focused on under-resourced/environmental justice communities
 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 and training 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

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