Cummings $30 Million Grant Program - 2024

*Cummings Foundation*

# Before You Begin

* To save you time, Cummings Foundation encourages you to recycle content from other funders’ applications, where appropriate, and from past Cummings proposals, which are accessible to you within this grants management portal.
* If you have applied multiple times, please note that the volunteers reviewing your proposal will most likely not have read your past proposals and will not be familiar with your prior Cummings grants, if any.
* Because most proposals are evaluated by community volunteers, they should be written for a lay audience.

## Previous Cummings Grants\*

Has your organization previously received a grant through Cummings Foundation's annual funding cycle?

### Choices

Yes No

# Fiscal Sponsor

## Fiscal Sponsorship\*

Is the organization requesting funding under the fiscal sponsorship of another organization?

### Choices

yes no

## Fiscal Sponsor Name\*

*Character Limit: 250*

## Please Upload Your Fiscal Sponsor Memorandum of Understanding\*

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

***All remaining questions should be answered based on information from the applying organization/entity, not the fiscal sponsor.***

# Organization Overview & Funding Request

## Year Founded\*

Please enter the year the organization was founded.

*Character Limit: 100*

## County (Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, or Norfolk)\*

In what county is the organization headquartered: Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, or Norfolk? (**Note**: The only Norfolk communities currently eligible for consideration are Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley)

*Character Limit: 100*

## Annual Budget\*

On separate lines, please enter the three most recently completed fiscal years and the organization’s total expenditures for each year. **NOTE:** In-kind expenses should NOT be included. (The numbers should represent the entire organization, not just the department, office, or program related to this application.)

To aid the grant reviewers, please format your response like the example below: 2022: $XXX,XXX

2021: $XXX,XXX

2020: $XXX,XXX

*Character Limit: 500*

## Category\*

Please select the category that **best** matches your organization or the need for which funds are being requested.

### Choices

Education - K-12/college

Education - mentoring/tutoring

Education - out-of-school time

Education - complementary programs

Education - other

Healthcare - hospitals/clinics

Healthcare - mental health

Healthcare - other

Human services - anti-poverty

Human services - disabilities

Human services - employment training

Human services - food security

Human services - homeless services/prevention

Human services - immigrant/refugee assistance

Human services - legal assistance

Human services - senior citizens

Human services - strong families/communities

Human services - youth activities/services

Human services - other

Social Justice

Other

## Geographic Area\*

What specific geographic area(s) will the program serve?

*Character Limit: 100*

## Geographic Percentage\*

What percentage of people served by the entire organization’s *overall* services – not just services provided by one office or division, and not just services to be funded by this grant – reside within the Foundation’s priority funding area of Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk County, plus Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley?

*Character Limit: 250*

## Requested Annual Installment (LOI)\*

Annual installments will mostly range from $10,000 to $100,000. Please indicate your requested annual installment, bearing in mind the following:

* **NEW!** In an effort to make the review and selection process more equitable, LOIs **requesting annual installments of $25,000 or less** will be grouped together for review and will not be compared with those of (presumably larger) organizations seeking larger installments. These presumably smaller applicants who advance to the next stage will complete a **shorter, streamlined full application that does not require a budget**. In addition, these grants will be awarded as **general operating support** rather than for specific programs or projects. They will all be three-year awards and will not be eligible for 10-year awards. (Organizations seeking annual installments greater than $25,000 may request general operating or program/project support.)
* In general, Cummings Foundation encourages its grantees to have diversified funding sources and prefers that its funding not represent an outsized percentage of an organization’s budget. A general guide (more than a hard rule) is that the installment should not exceed 20 percent of an organization’s average annual revenue for the past three years.
* Installments should be round numbers (e.g., $40,000 instead of $42,599).
* Applicants who may be eligible for a 10-year grant should not be concerned about how to translate a three-year request into a 10-year request. At that point of the grant selection process, Foundation volunteers make decisions based on nonprofits’ long- term potential for sustainability and growth, not on firm plans.
* Although an organization’s preference is taken into consideration, the Foundation may, and often will, award a grant with a different annual installment.

*Character Limit: 20*

## Project Name\*

What is the name of the program for which the grant is being requested? If the grant, instead, would fund general operating expenses, please so indicate.

### NOTE: All applicants who are requesting $25,000 or less should write “General Operating” in the field below.

*Character Limit: 100*

## Summary\*

In 20–25 words only, please summarize what the grant funding would support by finishing this sentence: We would use this funding to... *(Example: “provide under-resourced immigrants and refugees in the North Shore region with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction through conversation groups and one-on-one tutoring.”)*

*Character Limit: 225*

## Need Description\*

In 500 words or fewer, please describe the general need for which funds are being requested, the problem to be solved, the gap to be filled, etc. (Note that the full application allows for a more comprehensive response.)

*Character Limit: 3500*

## Plan for Grant Funds\*

In 800 words or fewer, please describe how the funds would be applied to address the need stated above and how your organization is qualified to conduct this work. Please be concise, but specific. Convey who, what, when, where, and how. (Note that the full application allows for a more comprehensive response.)

*Character Limit: 5000*