



CFMC Grant Application

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE Community Foundation of Middlesex County Competitive Cycle.

Instructions: Complete the application on the website. You may "Save and Continue Later" - the site will email you a link which is active for 30 days. Review instructions document for full details before completing. Complete all questions.

Section V requires certain documents to be uploaded to the form - see the Application Instructions Document for a list of the required items. All items must be uploaded as PDF Files. The required Project Budget form is available on the website in Word. This document must be submitted as PDF file as well.

I. Application Information

Legal Name of Organization

UR Community Cares, Inc.

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

EIN #

83-3706688

If your organization is not a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity or division/department of a 170(c)1 government agency or religious organization, please contact Thayer Talbott, 860.347.0025, for further information before completing the application.

Dollar Amount Requested \$

4,000

Total Cost associated with request \$

4,000

Summary Statement

The grant funds will be used to cover three components of direct program costs: background check (plus driving history for transportation volunteers), insurance coverage, marketing and website security/updates. Our budget request of \$4,000 will fund a total of 32 new enrollments within your 15 towns (estimated annual per-participant cost is \$100 per-participant cost is \$100 per person per year).

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

UR Community Cares (UCC) seeks to connect older and physically disabled residents with local volunteers who provide home-based assistance securely and at no charge. Our innovative online platform at URCommunityCares.org offers a streamlined process of enrollment, scheduling and post-visit testimonials. Community members and volunteers are background-checked for mutual peace of mind, and available services include household tasks, yard work, companionship and transportation. (We do not provide personal care services or perform licensed or medical work.) As these beneficial 'Community Deeds' grow in number, so will the social connections and intergenerational bonds among all interested neighbors.

Our funding request in the amount of \$4,000 is based on a target level of 32 participants, consisting of 8 volunteers supporting 24 community members. UCC will work collaboratively to recruit and enroll community members aged 70+ or 18+ with a permanent or temporary physical disability. Our enrolled volunteers start at age 15 (15-17-year-olds require adult permission and supervision), and many volunteers are active older adults themselves. Guided by our diverse Board of Directors, our participation criteria have no restrictions in terms of income, assets, benefits status, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. We are 100% volunteer-based (no paid staff) and funded by grants, municipal budget allocations, donations, and sponsorships.

Our program is best suited for people who have email and internet access at home; accommodations are available by working with our administrative volunteers, assigning a trusted third-party advocate, or possibly authorizing a town staff member for centralized enrollment and scheduling. Community members and their family caregivers are encouraged to request assistance frequently and for varied types of assistance. Here's how one community member relies on her local volunteers for assistance: weekly trash collection, bi-weekly grocery shopping and errands, monthly medical appointment rides, and seasonal yard work. She has developed social bonds with her repeat-visit volunteers who also enjoy the intergenerational connection.

We have recently launched UCC's first-of-its-kind local partnership led by Clinton police chief Vincent DeMaio and the town's human services director. This model includes a specially trained team of volunteers who make up the Clinton Community Assistance Team, as detailed in this news article:

<https://www.ctinsider.com/shoreline/article/Clinton-team-aims-to-help-seniors-stay-in-their-16400655.php>

We are eager to explore a similar approach in your 15 towns to ensure available resources are optimized where possible. Chief DeMaio is willing to share information and insights about how Clinton utilizes URCommunityCares.org and our experiences to date.

"Every day in the U.S. 10,000 people turn 65, and the number of older adults will more than double over the next several decades [and] represent over 20 percent of the population by 2050" (retrieved September 2021 from AARP website). Connecticut has the 7th oldest population in the nation, and the impacts of population aging are already a reality. This aging trend is projected to continue for generations to come. According to AdvancCT's town profile data, we are collecting data for all 15 towns.

Recognizing that Connecticut has many state, regional and local resources for older and physically disabled adults, UCC seeks to help fill in the gaps at the community level. Our secure technology for home-based support will directly benefit these at-risk populations, as well as their family caregivers, local support agencies and participating volunteers who provide social connectedness for the greater good. Improved health outcomes and reduced risks of fall/injury may lessen demand on emergency response providers as more people learn they can request free, trusted help with chores they cannot / can no longer do on their own.

Volunteer-based support is a necessary component for older adults, people with temporary or permanent physical disabilities, and family caregivers whose time and budgets are stretched thin. A growing number of residents may likely need support to live more safely and longer in their homes. Now, by using URCommunityCares.org, assistance is only a few website clicks away. Without shame or embarrassment when asking for help, UCC's online participants will enjoy being self-directed in the type and timing of scheduling their Deed requests.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Collaborating with key town partners, we seek the enrollment and ongoing participation of 32 participants, which ideally would be a combination of 24 older and physically disabled community members supported by 8 local volunteers. Efforts will focus on completing enrollments as soon as possible during the first few months of the program to create the most value in the coming year. Actual frequency and total number of requested and completed Community Deeds are not within our direct control but rather stem from educational outreach to encourage ongoing use of volunteer services among community members, family caregivers and entities who can identify and connect individuals in need of assistance. The more robust the referral stream, the more positive habits will be formed as residents learn to enjoy the convenience and social connections of using our free service. Lastly, recruiting and onboarding a dedicated Hometown Hero will be a critical milestone for our collaboration in these towns.

UCC's innovative platform will help these towns harness technology "for the good" and leverage precious human capital to strengthen community ties. We are uniquely qualified to: (i) match and schedule background-checked community members with local volunteers; (ii) securely fulfill requests from older/disabled persons who need assistance to live more safely and longer in their homes; (iii) provide trusted help with household tasks, yard work, companionship and transportation at no charge; (iv) safely fill in the gaps of traditional paid home care and provide a respite option for family caregivers.

Given the uncertainties and lingering effects of COVID-19 on the most impacted residents, our system and services will provide an added resource to the community in times of crisis or disruption.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

Yearly revenue sources are continuously replenished, as we fund our expenses through a combination of the following: municipality budget allocations, grants, donations, sponsorships and fundraising. Our team works diligently on each of these areas to ensure we have sufficient funds to cover expenses throughout the year and to deliver the home-based services critically needed in the communities we support.

UCC's home-based support model has received endorsements and funding from the Town of Manchester (Human Services dept. budget line item) and Bolton (Social and Senior Services), 8 grants from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (they made an exception since we didn't meet their three-year minimum of operations), Connecticut Community Foundation and various others groups dating back to January 2020. We received \$3500 from Families Helping Families in Clinton for a Community Assistance Team, \$5000 from Liberty Bank as a donation. We were vetted and accepted into the Connecticut 2-1-1 Helpline, CTVOAD and Unite Us CT as statewide crisis responders. Our information is included in senior center newsletters, online directories of COVID resources and town news bulletins in towns across the state.

As noted above, our criteria for success will be the enrollment projection of 32 participants. Additionally, our online system tracks Community Deed requests, volunteer responses, testimonials and completions, as part of our website dashboard and customer relationship management (CRM) process. Data will be monitored and reported for all 15 towns-specific activity and results. Our leadership team also studies the data and looks for trends such as repeat visits, popular chore categories and lead times/wait times of visit requests. Additional insights come from the co-founders' monthly meetings with Hometown Heroes and Advisory Members who are in the field and regularly collect feedback.

Depending on the grantor's requirements or preference, we offer quarterly, bi-annual and annual results reporting. Both quantitative and qualitative components are included, as are metrics pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion. Reports are provided in PDF form with our request to schedule a meeting to discuss results and share feedback. Periodic check-ins will also be conducted with key community organizations who partner with us on referrals, enrollments and scheduling.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Public / Social Benefit (Civic Improvement/ Social Service)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Capacity Building

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Adults
- Young Adults (ages 18-25)
- Youth (ages 13-17)
- Families
- Parents / Guardians
- Retirees
- Students
- Veterans
- Women and Girls
- At Risk Boys and Young Men
- LGBTQIA+

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Upper County
- Lower County
- Chester
- Clinton
- Cromwell
- Deep River
- Durham
- East Haddam
- East Hampton
- Essex
- Haddam
- Killingworth
- Middlefield
- Middletown
- Old Saybrook
- Portland
- Westbrook

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

32

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

7

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute annually to Operations

75% or more

Average number attending in person:

7

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

24

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

Year of Return:

August 2021

2020

Organization's Fiscal Year

Jan 1 - Dec 31

Organization's Total Operating Budget

165360

Division Operating Budget Information

National Organization Chapter Information

Have you APPLIED for funding from CFMC previously?

No

Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

UR Community Cares (UCC) provides the connection that helps older adults and people with physical disabilities live safely at home through community-based volunteer support. In the name "UR Community Cares," the word "UR" has an intended double meaning: the word "Your" (shortened to "UR" in texting and tweeting style), and the phrase "You are" (reminding each of us that we are responsible for our community).

UCC was established in 2019 to assist older adults, provide tangible support for "aging in place" and maintain social connections for improved health outcomes. Each town we serve has its own dedicated base of volunteers who are assigned to residents in that town, fostering additional opportunities to build neighborly communities.

V. Additional Information To Be Included with the Application

Please Note: Additional information requested below MUST be uploaded in PDF files. Other document formats will not be accepted by the application form. Attempts to upload other file formats could result in a loss of all application data entered.

A. CFMC Application Budget Summary Form:

- Middlesex-Community-Fund-2021_Summary-Budget.pdf

B. Current Organization Operations Budget

- UR-Community-Cares-Budget-9_22_2021.pdf

C. Board of Directors and Officers List

- UCC-Current-Board-members-as-of-Sept-1-2021.pdf

D. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter determination-

- letter-page1.pdf

E. PPP / EIDL / Other Loan Information

Loan/Grant Type (ie. PPP, EIDL)	Amount Received	Forgiveable or Repayment
EIDL	32,600	Repayment

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No

Additional financial documentation, including the organization's most recent audit, annual report, and IRS Form 990 may also be required. Only provide this information if requested.

For programs or projects which are collaborations among two or more organizations or where an organization provides in-school or after-school programming for schools, the Community Foundation requires a list of organizations or schools partnering with your organization as well as Letters of Support.

For the purposes of this application, collaborations are defined as partnerships where two or more agencies are committed through staffing, funding, and resource allocation to the goals and objectives of the program described. Because the nature of the collaboration requires two or more entities to work together, for the purposes of funding, only one organization may complete the application, and in doing so, accepts responsibility for all evaluative and fiduciary reporting.

For all collaborations, the Community Foundation requires letters of support from the non-applicant organization(s) and/or from the school(s) and school district(s) at which the applicant organization is the program.

Is this application a collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations (NOT schools)?

No

Is this application in collaboration with a School(s) or School Districts?

No

If Yes, is this a New or On-Going Collaboration?

If this is an On-Going Collaboration, how long has the collaboration existed?

List of Collaborators

Letters of Support (if a collaboration with schools or other nonprofits))

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

Yes

Executive Officer's Name

Michelle Puzzo

Title

President

Phone

(860) 430-4557

Executive Officer Email

michellepuzzo@urcommunitycares.org

Contact Person

Title

Phone

Application Contact Email

Mailing Address

5 Jamie Lane, Unit C
Manchester, Connecticut 06042
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

www.URCommunityCares.org

Social Media Channels

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/urcommunitycaresinc
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMNt1S4rrP5vCHrpdqJlkmw
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/urcommunitycares/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UrCares
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/ur-community-cares-inc
TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@urcommunitycares?lang=en

VII. Non-Funding Needs

Our proven model depends on the involvement and interest of residents, town officials, support agencies, civic groups and businesses that are socially responsible. We are eager to jointly pursue additional local publicity to kick-off the proposed program in your 15 towns. Social media will also be used to get the word out and recruit both community members and volunteers. Also a "Lunch and Learn"-type virtual meeting on Zoom if that best accommodates key attendees' preferences and availability.

VIII. Marketing and Public Relations

Organizations receiving grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County must promote their funding awards according to the marketing and public relations guidelines established by the Community Foundation. By signing the application below, the CEO/Executive Director understands the Community Foundation's marketing and public relations requirements if awarded a grant. The Community Foundation will host a seminar on marketing guidelines and tips for grantees annually. The Community Foundation's Grantee Communications Kit may be downloaded on our website in the Nonprofit Resources section, middlesexcountycf.org/nonprofits/resources/forms-pr-guidelines/.

IX. Tax Exempt Standing and Use of Grant Funding Certification

By signing this application, the CEO/Executive Director/Board President is certifying that your organization is a qualified 501c3 organization or other charitable organization recognized and currently in good standing with the IRS, or 170(c)(1) governmental agencies. Should a grant be approved by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, these funds may only be used for the purpose outlined in your original application; you must notify us if you are unable to do so. If grant funding is provided, you may only use these funds for charitable purpose as described in Section 170(c)2 of the IRS code, and funds may not be used for any political or lobbying activity. In addition, no tangible benefits, goods or services may be received by our donors or by staff members of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in exchange for grant funding.

Signature Certification

I certify that my printed name as stated and assigned below constitutes my signature and may be accepted as such.

Printed Name

Michelle Puzzo

Title

President

Date

09/22/2021

Board of Directors: List & Affiliations

Michelle Puzzo, Co-founder and President

Physical Therapist, formerly with ECHN
Author, Puzzo Boys, LLC

Susan Manser, Interim Secretary, Board Member

Senior Coordinator - Treasury Services, Raytheon

Hope Utterbeck, Treasurer

EVP, Chief Information Officer, Liberty Bank

Matt Tierinni, Board Member

Managing Partner, MMNT Certified Public Accountants

McCann "M.D." Birmingham, Co-founder and Board Member

Owner, ImpervaWear Co., LLC
Production Engineer, McCann D. Birmingham, LLC

Anthony Liriano, Board Member

Portfolio Manager, Liberty Bank, 2017-present

Ram Kaza, Board Member

Database Administrator Manager, CIGNA

The current Board of Directors has seven members (four White, two Latinx; 1 Asian, three female, four male).

Updated August 9, 2021