



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 CFMC Budget Summary 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

The Connection, Inc.

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

EIN #

06-0886125

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.

Total Cost associated with request \$

484,825

Dollar Amount Requested \$

5,000

Summary Statement

Grant funds from Middlesex County Community Foundation will be used to support The Eddy Shelter, which provides emergency shelter and rapid re-housing support to homeless adults while identifying and planning for long-term housing. The Eddy Shelter is the only emergency homeless shelter in Middlesex County that serves single adult male, female, and transgender clients.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

We seek \$5,000 in funding to provide basic programmatic needs, unfunded through state budget allocations, for the guests of The Connection's Eddy Shelter, Middlesex County's only homeless shelter for single adult men and women. The funds from this grant will be used to support the day-to-day operations of our shelter. Specifically, funds will be used to purchase food for our clients and other essential supplies and equipment such as bedding, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. As an unrestricted grant, we will be able to use the funds in the way that best supports our clients and staff at the Eddy Shelter. This flexibility is crucial, as we are constantly adapting to the changing needs of our clients and our community.

The Eddy Shelter is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in FY 2022 provided a hot shower and a warm bed for a total of 111 unduplicated clients. Our goal is to serve our residents with care and compassion. The Shelter is a place of last resort for some of our guests, many of whom suffer from chronic mental illness and addictions or are dually diagnosed. Some guests have physical disabilities that make it impossible for them to maintain stable employment. A handful are terminally ill. Upon admission, guests are assigned a case manager with whom they work to secure access to health care, entitlements such as social security, access to waiting lists for transitional/permanent housing, and assistance with accessing vocational and educational programs. The Shelter's Housing Advocate works with former landlords to negotiate settlements in cases of evictions or nonpayment of rent. Guests typically stay 30 to 90 days, although some have shorter lengths of stay, depending on their housing plan. The goals of the shelter are to provide effective housing case management and support to all guests, provide comprehensive needs assessments to all guests, develop collaborative, person-centered service plans with all guests, and ultimately help guests achieve full community reintegration.

At the Eddy Shelter, our foremost priority is the well-being and dignity of our clients. However, one of the most significant challenges we face revolves around ensuring that each individual who walks through our doors is not only provided with shelter but also with the fundamental necessities for survival – food, clothing, and basic hygiene items. It is imperative to us that all our shelter guests are adequately fed and equipped with the essential basic necessities. Unfortunately, the costs associated with meeting these fundamental needs are not covered by state funding, presenting a significant obstacle in fulfilling our mission to support those experiencing homelessness or displacement.

These challenges are not new to The Connection, having faced funding gaps for the Shelter throughout the years. We will continue to secure funding through grants, donations from private companies, community fundraisers, and donations from partners and individuals throughout the community. We will work with the generous Middlesex County residents and organizations to collect the food, clothing, and other items that are greatly needed by our guests. We are grateful for the support we receive from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, other foundations, the United Way, the State of Connecticut, and private donors.

Support from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and other private sources will help ensure that our guests are comfortable, feel cared for and safe, and have the resources necessary to achieve and maintain health and well-being. Our need for FY 2024-25 is dollars that can be spent on not only food and other basic needs, but also to cover such expenses as costs for replacement photo ids and birth certificates, transportation costs including bus passes and occasional taxi rides, and interview and work clothing needs.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

The Connection's strategy for addressing The Eddy Shelter's funding gaps moving forward is to continue working with the community to identify sources of support. We are fortunate that Community understanding of the vital role that the Shelter plays has brought donations of food, clothing, furniture, and many other items that have helped the staff and agency create a warm, comfortable, and hospitable environment for Shelter guests. We have also established partnerships with Wesleyan University, which provides a great deal of food, especially during the academic year.

As Middlesex County's only homeless shelter for single adults, we anticipate that funding from the CT Depts. of Mental Health & Addiction Services and Housing, and the United Way, City of Middletown, and other Middlesex County cities and towns will

continue. We hope that support from private foundations, including the CFMC will also continue. We continue to cultivate relationships with local churches, grocers, schools, universities, and civic organizations in order to secure in-kind donations.

The Connection's Director of Development will continue to oversee its fundraising efforts. This will ensure that not only are we able to continue working with partners who have supported us in the past, but we are able to establish new partners and sources of income that have not previously been identified. This work will include securing grants from foundations and organizations, hosting additional fundraising events and campaigns, increasing individual giving, and growing our community partnerships.

Specific measures used to track program success would include the number of guests who succeed in achieving successful outcomes such as securing health care and other entitlements, enrollment in educational programs, full- or part-time employment in the community, securing housing vouchers and transitional or permanent supported housing. Maintaining housing over time would be another measure of success. TCI also utilizes consumer satisfaction surveys, required by our state funding agencies, that help to evaluate all services and provide information for service planning on an annual basis. These data are maintained in CAMIS, The Connection's online database.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Public / Social Benefit (Civic Improvement/ Social Service)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

General Organization Support/Improvement

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Adults
- Young Adults (ages 18-25)
- Veterans
- Women and Girls
- At Risk Boys and Young Men
- LGBTQIA+
- BIPOC

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- 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

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

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

50% or more

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

8

Average number attending in person:

6

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

6

Year of Return:

FY2021

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

5/10/2023

Organization's Total Operating Budget

47070198

Organization's Fiscal Year

July 1 - June 30

Division Operating Budget Information

National Organization Chapter Information

Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:

- 2020-2021 process
- 2021-2022 process
- 2022-2023 process (fall 2022 or spring 2023)

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

The Connection, formed in 1972, was one of the first agencies in CT to provide community-based treatment for people in recovery. Our mission is building safe, healthy, caring communities and inspiring people to reach their fullest potential as valued citizens. With services provided under 3 main branches - Family Support Services, Community Justice, and Behavioral Health - we understand the intersectionality of homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, and community integration following incarceration. Our programs solve these problems with care and compassion, using a trauma-informed approach and evidence-based practices to guide individuals and families through the personal changes necessary to re-establish stability in their lives.

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. Current Organization Operations Budget (Required)

- TCI-Summary-Budget-23-24-for-Fundraising.pdf

B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- TCI-Board-Members-10.11.23.pdf

C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- TCI-501c-3-IRS-Letter.pdf

D. For Program/Project Requests only - CFMC Budget Summary Form:

E. Organizations serving a region greater than Middlesex County - county-based budget summary:

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Yes

ARPA Funding detail

Designate Will Apply or Have Been Approved/Received	Amount Requested / Approved
Pending Application	\$9,585.51

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 in collaboration with a School(s) or School District(s)?

No

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

No

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

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

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?

No

Title

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Officer's Name

Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore

Executive Officer Email

ldematteis@theconnectioninc.org

Phone

(860) 343-5500

Title

Director of Development

Contact Person

Brian Thomas

Application Contact Email

bjthomas@theconnectioninc.org

Phone

(860) 918-4143

Mailing Address

100 Roscommon Drive
Suite 203
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

<https://www.theconnectioninc.org/>

Social Media Channels

Facebook - TheConnectionCT, Instagram - theconnectionct, YouTube - TheConnectionCT, LinkedIn - The Connection, Inc.

VII. Non-Funding Needs

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.

Title

Director of Development

Printed Name

Brian Thomas

Date

03/07/2024