**Cummings $30 Million Grant Program - 2025**

*Cummings Foundation*

# Previous Funding

### 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 prior Cummings grants awarded to you.
* 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 Details

## Fiscal Sponsor Name\*

*Character Limit: 250*

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

*File Size Limit: 5 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**: Headquarters refers to the administrative center and primarily address of an organization. Also, the only Norfolk communities currently eligible for consideration are Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley.)

*Character Limit: 100*

## Annual Expenses\*

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: 2023: $XXX,XXX

2022: $XXX,XXX

2021: $XXX,XXX

*Character Limit: 500*

## Category\*

Please select the category that **best** matches your organization or the need for which funds are being requested. Proposals will be grouped by these categories when batched for review. If your organization could fit within multiple categories, please make a judgement call as to which category is most appropriate in this circumstance.

### Choices

Education - K-12/college Education - mentoring/tutoring Education - out-of-school time

Education - complementary programs Education - other

Environment - access to outdoor spaces Environment - environmental literacy and education Environment - recycling/waste reduction

Environment - sustainable agriculture and food systems 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. (If you are unsure how much to request, read the bullets below, and review [this FAQ.)](https://cummingsfoundation.org/grants/faqs.html#annual-installment) Please indicate your requested annual installment, bearing in mind the following:

* In an effort to make the review and selection process 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 either 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) and will remain constant each year of the grant.
* 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 Support” 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.”)* See additional examples on the Foundation's [grant recipients webpage.](https://cummingsfoundation.org/grants/grant-recipients.html)

*Character Limit: 225*

## Need Description\*

In 3,500 characters (including spaces) 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.) If applying for general operating support (this applies to all applicants requesting an installment of $25,000 or less), please describe the need that the organization seeks to address.

*Character Limit: 3500*

## Plan for Grant Funds\*

In 5,000 characters (including spaces) or fewer, please describe how this grant would help 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.) If applying for general operating support (this applies to all applicants requesting an installment of $25,000 or less), please summarize the organization’s services/programs that address the need described above.

*Character Limit: 5000*