



## **Funding Gaps in Healthcare**

### **Grantmaking Overview**

At Healthbridge Foundation, we invest in community-based organizations that improve health outcomes and expand access to care for residents across our 13-town service area. Through our competitive grant process, we accomplish this in two main ways: covering medical expenses for those who can't pay and funding community programs that help people achieve their best health. Our approach, grounded in impact, meets local health needs and aims to improve health outcomes for many more of our residents.

### **2026 Priority Areas**

- Access and Prevention- Supporting programs and services that increase access to healthcare and preventative services. Projects that connect patients to healthcare/health insurance options and/or reduce barriers to accessing care, including subsidizing transportation to health facilities, will be considered in this category.
- Treatment and Payments- Providing patient financial support in primary care, infant and maternal care, dental care, or mental health care, ultimately improving affordability and access to essential healthcare treatments for individual experiencing hardship. Projects that specifically target assistance for the cost of co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses are encouraged.

### **Service Region**

The Foundation provides services to 13 towns in the Greater Waterbury region, including: Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Plymouth, Prospect, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Woodbury.

Organizations based outside of Healthbridge Foundation's service area will be considered for support if they demonstrate connection to the region, strategic workplans, and meaningful partnership development that ensures residents from the municipalities above are connected to services.

## **Our Approach**

Healthbridge Trustees and Foundation Staff are committed to implementing a thoughtful, transparent, and collaborative grant process. We strive to learn collectively, in partnership with grantees, other funders, and through the lived experience of those we serve. We encourage applicants to provide feedback on our processes so your energy can be dedicated to fully serving communities.

## **Eligibility**

To apply for funding, an organization must:

- Be a not-for-profit organization recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a municipal entity seeking a grant for public purposes. Organizations may also have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor if they do not have their own nonprofit status.
- Have a board that is representative of the community, of which a majority are neither employees nor relatives of employees.
- Provide services and support to the communities located within the Foundation's 13-town service area

We do not fund:

- Requests for political or religious purposes.
- Requests for capital expenditure on buildings not owned by a nonprofit.

## **Applications**

Healthbridge Foundation is currently accepting applications for two opportunities:

- 1) Healthbridge Grant Application (2026)- This is an invitation-only, competitive process. Healthbridge Foundation has identified organizations across Greater Waterbury as potential partners in fulfilling our mission. We will contact agencies directly and encourage their participation in the Fall 2026 grant round.
- 2) Healthbridge Grant Application (Naugatuck)- Healthbridge Foundation stewards various funds for the benefit of the Borough of Naugatuck specifically. We welcome all applicants to this opportunity if your organization is based in Naugatuck and/or provides services/support to residents of this community.

Applications are due Monday, September 21 at 11:59PM.

## **Financial Parameters**

Recognizing that public health challenges are often complex and require sustained effort, grant applications:

- Should span 2 to 3 years in duration
- May receive up to \$150,000 in total funding, with annual support of up to \$50,000
- May incur indirect costs up to 20% of the total program budget

A grant budget template is included in the application for organizations to utilize.

## **Point of Contact**

To help you develop the strongest possible proposal, we encourage scheduling a meeting with Andrew Oravec, Senior Community Health and Strategy Officer, by August 28, 2026 to discuss project concepts and funding needs. He can be reached at [aoravec@connctf.org](mailto:aoravec@connctf.org).