

Announcement and Open Invitation to Apply
Youth Music Grant Program
2016-2017
David R. Martin, Mayor

Background: In his budget this year, Stamford Mayor David Martin has included Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000) Dollars for the purpose of recognizing and providing financial support to organizations that deliver after- and out-of-school instruction (e.g. instrumental, vocal and musical theater) to Stamford schoolchildren. These grant funds are intended to underwrite expenses associated with providing instructional supports to children whose families lack the resources to pay for them.

Eligibility: Grant eligibility is limited to non-profit (501(c)(3)) organizations¹ that provide music education to youth between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18).

Eligible applicants should be able to demonstrate a history of having engaged students in lessons over a sufficient period of time to result in their improved knowledge and skill. Applicants' programs must offer direct instruction to students and be open to students with and without previous experience. Programs that teach instrumental or vocal music must offer instruction on at least a weekly basis for a minimum of eight (8) months each year.

Applicants' programs may be open to youth from surrounding communities, but Stamford youth music

¹ Or their fiscal sponsors

grant funding will not be available to subsidize non-resident youth. Applicants in this situation should provide evidence of relevant support from other sources and communities.

Notwithstanding the value of exposing children to musical performances, the use of youth music grant funds is limited to instructional support.

Selection
Criteria:

Applicants must be able to describe in detail how they will use grant funds to enable youth from low-income households to access opportunities to participate in their programs on a par with children whose families can afford to pay. (“Low income” is defined as households eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.) Funding awards will be partially determined on a per pupil basis, but a Stamford youth music grant may not be used to fully fund any program. Accordingly, in their applications, applicants will be required to provide data with respect to their sources of additional funding.

Applications will also be reviewed and evaluated for: applicants’ managerial and fiscal competence; the organization’s ability to deliver the services for which funds are being requested; the qualifications of project staff and artists; and, to the extent possible, evidence of multi-year student participation, measurable results and long-term program impact.

Finally, applicants will be required to address current program accessibility as it pertains to participation by

physically challenged individuals and/or the applicant's commitment to achieve same.

- Evaluation:** A committee composed of community representatives and City staff will make funding recommendations to the Mayor.
- Available Funds:** There are a total of Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000) Dollars available for FY 2016-17. Activities for which funding is being sought must take place between September 15, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Applications should clearly state why the specific amount is requested and how the funds will be used.
- Deadline:** Applications are due by September 5, 2016. Please address them to:
Ellen Bromley
City of Stamford
Social Services Director
888 Washington Boulevard
9th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06901
- Other:** Within thirty (30) days of each project's end date, grant recipients will be required to provide final reports detailing their expenses and the results of their efforts.
- Notification:** All grantees will be notified of the grant award decisions in writing. Contract documents will be prepared and payment made in accordance with grant amounts. All contracts must be executed prior to release of funding by the City of Stamford.

Ineligible
Use
Of
Grant
Funds:

Funding may not be used: to purchase musical instruments: for administrative expenses not related to the specific project for which funds are awarded; for capital expenditures, general operating support or deficit reduction.