

About Community Impact Funding

What is it?

Community Impact Funding (CIF) is money collected by the town from cannabis dispensaries and designated for things that are “reasonably related to the costs imposed upon the municipality” by the dispensary. The dispensaries in town agreed to pay 3% of total gross sales into Community Impact Funding for 5 years. The agreement runs from 2020-2025, making 2021 the second year in which funds will be collected.

How are funds distributed?

The CIF Committee advises the Town Manager on how best to allocate funds. The CIF Committee is committed to serving town residents across demographics (including income, ability, age, gender, and race). The Committee welcomes proposals from all entities—individuals, organizations, town committees, and town departments.

How much money is available for funding?

This year the Town has allocated \$350,000 to be distributed from this fund.

What kinds of projects qualify for funding?

According to the agreement between the town of Great Barrington and the dispensaries, “the Town shall use the above referenced payments in its sole discretion, but shall make a good faith effort to allocate said payments for road and other infrastructure systems, law enforcement, fire protection services, inspectional services, public health and addiction services and permitting and consulting services, as well as unforeseen impacts upon the Town.”

The CIF Committee has identified the following categories for funding:

- **Health and safety (particularly of our youth)**—Negative health impacts associated with cannabis use have been established, especially in adolescents whose brains have not fully developed. With dispensaries located in highly visible locations in town and the increased possibility that cannabis use is occurring in their homes, youth need reliable education regarding cannabis more than ever. For adults who struggle with substance use, the impact of readily available cannabis needs to be addressed.
- **Social engagement and community building**—Cannabis use is often associated with isolation, so there is now a greater need for promoting social engagement and community building.
- **Town reputation**—Being one of the first towns in Massachusetts with dispensaries has brought a lot of attention to Great Barrington. Some residents are concerned that the town is now strongly associated with its cannabis dispensaries.
- **Infrastructure/parking**—Dispensaries have increased traffic (both pedestrian and vehicular), as well as the demand for parking and public amenities in town.
- **Criminal justice**—People of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by convictions related to past cannabis laws.

What are the criteria for consideration?

Projects must address one or more of the above categories. Priority will be given to:

- Organizations based in Great Barrington
- Programs that benefit a large number of people, especially Great Barrington residents

When are applications due?

Applications are due no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Emailed submissions are preferred; please send them to Amy Pulver, Office Administrator at apulver@townofgb.org. You may also drop them off at Great Barrington Town Hall, located at 334 Main Street.

Application for Community Impact Funding 2021

1. About the organization

Name:

Program seeking funding for:

Address:

Telephone:

Contact Person:

Email Address:

2. Which one of the major needs categories does your proposal address?

3. Amount requested:

4. What percentage of the total program budget is being requested?

5. Briefly describe your program (on a separate page), being sure to answer the following:

- a) Is this a new program?
- b) Will this project be limited in duration or ongoing?
- c) Who will administer it? How many staff/volunteers will be involved?
- d) In what way(s) does this program help mitigate the negative impact of having cannabis dispensaries in our town?
- e) What population do you anticipate this program serving?
- f) How many total people will this program serve and, of those, how many will be Great Barrington residents?
- g) How will the funds be spent (please provide a rough breakdown)?

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT

I agree to provide more information to the CIF Committee or the Town Manager if requested during the application review process. If funding is received, I agree to spend the allocated funds by the date specified by the Town Manager and send a brief report to the Town Manager about the outcome. Recipients of awards will be notified of these specific dates.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information presented in this application is correct.

Signature of Board Chair or designee

Printed name & title of signer or designee

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Non-Discrimination & Equal Employment Policy

(Name of Entity) does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, or age in any of its policies, procedures or practices. Nor does it discriminate against persons because they are disabled Veterans of the Vietnam era, or because of their mental condition, their ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, or citizenship within the limits imposed by law.

This policy covers all employment practices, admission to volunteer opportunities, and client participation in any program (Name of the Entity) offers to the public.

(Name of Entity) is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. All advertising for paid or volunteer positions notes the same and all advertisements are placed in a variety of media, including notifications distributed to agencies and organization which serve a diverse population.

Applicant's Checklist

- ___ Application form
- ___ Overview of the program that includes answers outlined in Question #5 of the Application
- ___ The Non-Discrimination & Equal Employment Policy
This is included in this packet for your information. If not previously adopted, your agency must adopt this policy, and you must submit a certified copy of the policy as adopted on your letterhead, including the date of adoption.
- ___ A list of current Board of Directors
- ___ A copy of the most recent Massachusetts PC Tax Form filed and the 990 Tax Form

Proposals are due no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

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Any questions please call 528-1619 ext. 2 or email apulver@townofgb.org.