



Harvard
Business
School

Club of Connecticut
Community Partners



Harvard Business School Community Partners and DR Bank “Turbo Award” Application Instructions & Award Criteria

The **Turbo** Award is a \$20,000 grant given to a high-performing nonprofit organization in Connecticut. DR Bank, headquartered in Darien, has generously collaborated with HBS Community Partners to fund this grant. Frequently, smaller awards have been given to one or two additional applicants. Over \$100,000 has been awarded to date. **Applications are due by November 19.** The awards will be presented at a reception hosted by DR Bank at their Darien headquarters in December.

Award Criteria:

The **Turbo** Award is meant to provide a funding catalyst for a significant program that takes the nonprofit organization forward in pursuit of its mission, i. e. **Turbo**-charge the program implementation and growth. It is not intended to provide general funding. Examples of past award winners include:

1. Launching a children’s theater program.
2. Developing course materials and software to expand distribution and utility of curricula for an environmental education program.
3. Expand a summer program to year-round for after school arts participation for disadvantaged youth.
4. Develop a coordinated program and software to coordinate case management across several nonprofits that serve the same clients.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Link to mission:** The award should clearly support the stated mission of the organization.
2. **Defined need:** The award should address a well-defined need, since a better-defined need should lead to a better chance of a positive outcome.
3. **Likelihood of success, and how you will measure success:** We want the **Turbo** award to fund somewhat “new” programs that need funds to launch or expand. We recognize there is some risk in implementation, but you should be able to describe how you will be able to succeed. Success also means sustainability into the future when the **Turbo** Award funds have been spent. Also, in recognizing that many nonprofits’ work overlaps with others, we value when more than one nonprofit teams up to achieve their joint goals.
4. **Turbo Award will be a key catalyst:** We want the **Turbo** Award to make a real difference in the success of the program rather than a very minor part of an otherwise well-funded initiative. We understand that future funding sources may be needed to continue the program.

Application Instructions:

The application should consist of a **Basic Description of the Nonprofit**, and a **Turbo Request Essay**.

Basic Description of the Nonprofit should include:

1. Mission statement and general description of programs and targeted community.
2. Date when the nonprofit was established. Website address.
3. Size in terms of annual budget. Financial stability in terms of annual surplus or reserve funds.
4. Number of full-time staff, part time staff and volunteers involved.
5. Sources of funding.

The Turbo request essay (not to exceed 750 words) A description of the program/initiative to be funded. The description should address the criteria mentioned above:

1. Link to mission
2. Defined need
3. Likelihood and measures of success and sustainability
4. How **Turbo** will be a key catalyst.

This should include total funding needed if the **Turbo** Award will be in addition to other funds.

For additional information about the **Turbo** Award, and to send your application, email HBS Community Partners Awards Committee at: awards@hbscpconnecticut.org

Award Process and Timeline:

Applications are due by November 19. We will select a few finalists for an interview which will be conducted via Zoom Video Conference. The award will be presented at a reception hosted by DR Bank at their Darien headquarters in December. We will ask the winning organization to informally present to the Community Partners Board how the program is progressing during one of our regular Board meetings six or more months after the award.

Applicant Qualifications:

The 2024 **Turbo** Award is open to all legally designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations operating in the State of Connecticut that meet the following requirements:

1. The organization must have a full-time Executive Director (or equivalent), at least two additional full-time staff members, and a fully constituted and engaged Board of Directors.
2. The organization must have been in existence at least three years.
3. The organization may work in any field of endeavor (e.g., social services, health, arts, education, environment). Faith-based organizations should demonstrate that the clients they serve are not selected based on religious affiliation, and that their clients are not subjected to proselytizing to receive services. Political organizations or those affiliated with political causes may not apply.

Past Turbo award winners include:

- *All Our Kin, New Haven*
- *Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich, Greenwich*
- *Family Re-Entry, Norwalk*
- *Greenwich Alliance for Education, Greenwich*
- *Building One Community, Stamford*
- *SoundWaters, Stamford*
- *The Klein Memorial Auditorium, Bridgeport*
- *The ARC Eastern Connecticut, Norwich*
- *Curtain Call Theatre, Stamford*

About the HBS Club of Connecticut Community Partners:



The HBS Club of Connecticut unites more than 2,000 alumni who live in the state. The Club is committed to volunteerism and public service. Through Community Partners, HBS alumni have an opportunity to provide pro bono consulting and apply their wealth of functional, industry, and board expertise to the issues facing nonprofits. Community Partners also provides scholarships to the *Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management* executive program at Harvard Business School. The Turbo Award is named in honor of Robert Whitby, a founder of HBS Community Partners and of the Award.

About DR Bank:



DR Bank is proud to be a funding partner for the 2024 Turbo Award. We are a Connecticut state-chartered and FDIC member bank that offers a comprehensive suite of products and services including fintech sponsor banking, commercial lending, commercial cash management, and digital banking throughout the region. Contact us today at **(866) 396-2593**, email support@drbank.com or visit our [website](#) to learn more about our business banking tools that can help you earn more.