



Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
CFSEMA Discretionary Fund
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Deadline: August 25, 2008

(4:00 p.m. in the office of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts)

To enhance the opportunities and education of Greater Fall River youth and residents

I. Introduction

A. Background

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is pleased to embark on its first round of discretionary grant making in the Greater Fall River area. Recognizing the vital role the Fall River area plays in the health and prosperity of the region, the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation has approved the creation of a Fall River mini-grants initiative. Through a series of listening sessions with Fall River community leaders grantmaking priorities were defined and developed. This year's grants will be awarded to programs focusing on family literacy or youth development and empowerment needs. In this cycle, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts' Discretionary Grantmaking Fund will award a total of \$30,000 to at least eight non-profit organizations located in the Greater Fall River area; no grant shall exceed \$5,000. For purposes of this RFP, Greater Fall River shall be defined as Fall River, Somerset, Swansea and Westport.

B. Description of Project

For the purposes of this RFP, the Community Foundation will consider proposals from organizations focusing on the family literacy or youth development and empowerment needs of Greater Fall River. We invite proposals that seek to develop partnerships and collaborations, strive to have full representation of all affected Greater Fall River groups and populations, and fund activities that enhance/enrich existing programs through capacity building.

Family Literacy

- Programs addressing early literacy programming for children birth to pre-Kindergarten as well as programs addressing workforce development through English literacy and adult education.

- Engage in family literacy activities that support both parents and their young children
- Support parents and caregivers in providing these developmental opportunities for young children
- Support programs integrating early literacy programming for children birth to three years old with ESOL and parenting courses
- Mitigate barriers to learning such as cultural and language differences, transportation and childcare issues, and fragmentation of available services.
- Protect the cultural context and bonds of a community by preserving and supporting neighborhood based programs providing access to literacy and ABE/ESOL classes.
- Encourage programming for all stages of adult learning, from adult basic education to preparation for successful enrollment in post-secondary education and training.



**Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
CFSEMA Discretionary Fund**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: August 25, 2008

(4:00 p.m. in the office of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts)

Youth Development and Empowerment

- Programs targeting middle school to high-school age youth

- Drop-out prevention programs within and outside the Fall River school system
- Programs targeting "at-risk" youth", be it through leadership development, community involvement or education programs
- Community and/or faith-based youth outreach programs that focus on safe neighborhoods and strengthening families
- Programmatic activities that constructively engage youth with each other or address
- concerns as defined by youth themselves

D. Funding

Programs will be funded for a period of 12 months. Organizations can request up to \$5,000 for the 12-month period. The Community Foundation values collaboration.

II. Submission of Proposals and Selection Process

A. Submission of Proposals

All proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. **August 25, 2008 in our office.**

Mail or deliver to:

Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
Attn: CFSEMA Discretionary Fund - RFP
63 Union Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Email your electronic copy to:
Gabrielle Simmons: gsimmons@cfsema.org

An Applicants Conference will be held for agencies interested in applying for a grant through this RFP

July 29, 2008 from 10:00-11:30
Fall River Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Room
200 Pocasset Street
Fall River

B. Required Information

Please download our application form from our website: www.cfsema.org, or email Gabrielle Simmons at gsimmons@cfsema.org

Please read the following instructions carefully. Be as concise as you can in your answers.



**Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
CFSEMA Discretionary Fund**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: August 25, 2008

(4:00 p.m. in the office of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts)

C. Format and compliance

Applicants must be 501(c)(3) organizations. Please submit one complete and signed paper proposal (with all attachments) and one electronic proposal (without attachments) and email it to Gabrielle Simmons (gsimmons@cfsema.org). A complete proposal consists of the cover page, project narrative, additional financial information, IRS letter confirming tax-exempt status and current board list. For detailed instructions, please consult the application form.

D. Questions

Please bring your questions about this RFP to the Applicants Conference (see above) or call the Community Foundation: 508-996-8253 Craig Dutra, ext. 201 or Gabrielle Simmons ext. 203

E. Selection Process

Respondents will be evaluated on:

1. Appropriateness and need of project
2. The organization's/collaborative's ability to achieve the goals set forth in the proposal including the qualifications and relevant experience of the organization/collaborative partners
3. Project plan
4. Sustainability of project
5. Originality/creativity in approach to family literacy or youth development and empowerment
6. Cost effectiveness