

Riverton Community Housing Grant Criteria

The Riverton Community Housing Grant seeks to award two \$1,000 annual grants to members who live in one of our seven cooperatives. Important elements of the grant are community involvement which includes applicant participation in cooperative activities within their housing coop as well as coop involvement in the greater community; demonstrated active citizenship in the surrounding community; the support of cooperative principals and the propensity towards civic leadership. Riverton Community Housing intends to reward grant recipients for their connection and work towards the greater good with the goal of propelling recipients into their futures with the hopes of their continued coop involvement and proactive role in bettering their communities.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be current members in one of the following RCH cooperatives: Brook Avenue Coop, Fourth Street Coop, Marcy Park Coop, Marshall Coop, The Chateau, Cole Townhomes Coop, Franklin Avenue Coop
- Applicants must be members in good standing which means current on rent/fees and no occupancy agreement violations.
- Show demonstrated commitment and involvement in coop community, active citizenship, propensity for civic leadership and betterment of their coop and surrounding community.
- You do not need to be a student enrolled in an educational program to apply for this award but must demonstrate how the grant will assist in your educational attainment, career or civic pursuits.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applicants cannot be a previous winner of the Riverton Community Housing Grant.
- All are encouraged to apply. While proper grammar is appreciated it will not count against non-native English speakers.

How to apply:

- Complete application and email to office@riverton.org by the deadline of February 1, 2021.
- Finalists may be asked to meet for a face to face interview.
- If you are invited to interview, you may be asked for 1-2 reference letters. Do not send letters until instructed to do so by the selection committee. If reference letters are needed, they should not be from family members, partners/spouses.

Requirements of Grant Awardees:

Grant award winners will agree to be highlighted in Riverton Community Housing publications such as their website, newsletter, annual report and so on. Grant winners may also be asked to make a small presentation in front of the Riverton Board of

Directors or affiliated group. The intent of this grant is to encourage the recipients continued involvement in their community and coop.

Important Information:

Riverton Community Housing cannot be relied upon for Federal tax information but the following information was pulled from the Internal Revenue Services website. Applicants are encouraged to contact a tax professional for further information. If you receive a scholarship, a fellowship grant, or other grant, all or part of the amounts you receive may be tax-free if you are a candidate for a degree at an educational institution that maintains regular faculty and regularly enrolled students and you use the money to pay for tuition and fees at the institution. In the case of this grant, you will be asked to provide a W9 to Riverton Community Housing and you will be issued a 1099 or have required withholdings depending on the situation.

Nonresident Aliens versus Resident Aliens of the United States who receive a scholarship or grant are strongly encouraged to review their obligations and requirements related to scholarship/grant. Below is a suggested list of sources to consult but is not complete nor should Riverton Community Housing be considered to be giving advice to rely upon in this regard. You will be asked to submit a W8BEN and will be issued a 1042 or have required withholdings depending on the situation.

- <https://humanresources.umn.edu/international-students-scholars-and-visitors/scholarships-fellowships-grants-nonresident-aliens>
- Nonresident Alien Tax Compliance by Donna E. Kepley
- U.S. Taxation of International Student and Scholars by NAFSA Association of International Educators
- Nonresident Alien Tax Issues - Update from IRS Presented by International Issues Specialist, Internal Revenue Service to NACUBO
- IRS Publication 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens
- IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education

Definitions:

Active Citizenship means assuming an active role in the institutions and communities in which you are involved. It means conceiving of yourself as a problem solver and understanding that communities/institutions are only what their members create. Active citizenship takes a personal commitment to be involved in the institutions where you are invested. It moves from volunteering to a more engaged role in the process, organization, issue and structures.

Civic Leadership means getting involved in securing the health, wealth and well-being of the community, and helping solve the economic, social and political issues involved in fostering the development of a creative and vibrant community. Civic leaders in our society are the individuals whose insights, ideas and relationships enable them to change the lives of those around them for the better.

Cooperative Principles include the following 7 principles:

1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

Greater Good can mean "the greatest possible good for the greatest possible number of individuals". The actions should benefit a larger group than just few. It means you must think of the convenience of many before you think of your own or just select few.

I _____ (the grant applicant) sign and date this document below stating that I understand the grant criteria and information contained within it. I agree that the decision of the Riverton Community Housing Grant Committee is final. I understand the grant should I receive it, is not transferrable to another party. I attest that my grant submission is my own work and is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: _____ Signature: _____