Community Grants

With the support of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute’s Community Grants program, organizations have the opportunity to create and promote healthier communities throughout the Commonwealth by raising awareness and educating people about safer alternatives.

The maximum award amount for:

- Regional or statewide projects is $20,000.

The maximum award amount for:

- Local projects is $10,000.

Funding is contingent on availability of program funds.

Examples of Community Grant Projects

Examples of state-wide projects eligible for up to $20,000 include:

- Youth organizations (such as YMCA or Boys & Girls Club) partnering across the state to develop and implement youth-oriented workshops on reducing toxics in personal care products.
- Health Departments in a region partnering to develop toxics use reduction guidance and providing samples of less toxic alternative materials.
- State-wide organizations or institutions partnering with local shops to reduce their use of solvents.
- School districts partnering with each other and green cleaning experts to develop and implement green cleaning practices across their regions.
- Municipal water departments partnering within their watershed to educate homeowners and professional landscapers about organic lawn care practices to reduce the use of pesticides.
- Housing authorities partnering together and with integrated pest management experts to create guidance and workshops statewide on how to reduce the use of pesticides in their buildings.

Examples of local level organizations eligible for up to $10,000 include:

- Community groups such as environmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, youth organizations, public interest groups, neighborhood associations, community development agencies, health centers, hospitals, civic organizations such as chambers of commerce, local unions and labor organizations.
- Municipal organizations such as schools, departments of public works, fire departments, police departments, local emergency response offices, health departments, planning and zoning boards, town commissions, and libraries.

Who’s Eligible:

- Community organizations
- Municipal departments
- Regional organizations
- Statewide organizations

We strongly encourage partnerships between two or many of these types of organizations. The partnerships should reflect a shared topic of interest that expands over a region or the entire state.
Focus Areas

Examples of areas where TURI has a particular interest include:

- Solvent and other hazardous material use in art and artist studios
- Formaldehyde use in specimen preservation
- Toxic chemical use, such as formaldehyde and methylene chloride, in schools and science laboratories
- Indoor integrated pest management— a subject covered in the state-wide asthma plan
- Household cleaners – a subject covered in the state-wide asthma plan

Applying for a Community Grant

Applying for a Community Grant is intended to be a competitive yet simple process for Massachusetts community organizations. The application process begins with the completion of the application form, in accordance with the Community Grant Application guidance, which you can access at www.turi.org/Grants.

Eligible groups interested in applying for a Community Grant are encouraged to contact Felice Kincannon, Community Program Manager, at 978-934-3346, to discuss project ideas sufficiently in advance of the application deadline.

Email your completed application in Word or PDF format (including supporting letters of commitment) to: felicek@turi.org.

To apply for a Community Grant, go to www.turi.org/Grants.

Examples of projects that do not meet the Community Grants Program criteria include:

- Projects conducted for a municipality or community organization solely by a consultant
- Lobbying or environmental enforcement activities
- Training programs or materials that focus on community or household recycling
- Training programs or materials that do not have toxics use reduction as the primary focus
- Any activity that falls outside of the realm of the Toxics Use Reduction Act