

Stoughton Redevelopment Authority

10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Roberta Harback
Chair
State Appointee

Peter Buckley
Vice Chair

Robert Desmond
CPC Representative

Lisa Lyons

Stoughton Redevelopment Authority Community Outreach Policy

The Stoughton Redevelopment Authority (SRA) is dedicated to the improvement of the Town's economic base and tax revenue through the redevelopment of its physical resources including commercial/retail facilities, infrastructure, and under-utilized land areas. In these efforts, the SRA wishes also to support local, nonprofit community organizations by providing financial contributions.

The SRA Community Outreach Policy ensures that SRA donations are coordinated and aligned with our overall mission and strategic goals, maximize opportunity for visibility within the community, foster long-term relationships, expand the number and focus of organizations making contributions to our mission and goals, and are within our budget and resource limitations.

This policy is intended to provide transparency to our expenditure of public funds, eliminate duplication and establish a central point of contact for internal and external requests for donations

The SRA will annually establish a budget and determine if and where ("The SRA Target Area") we would best make financial contributions to further our mission and goals. The total 2017 budget is \$1500.00 with a maximum of \$500.00 allowed per organization with the Target Area being the Downtown. The SRA will publicly advertise the intent to make such financial contributions including an overview of this policy and the timeline for requests to be submitted. None or only a portion of the budget need be distributed in any year, based on the perceived value of the projects as they relate to SRA needs.

Eligible Recipients and Examples of Those Not Eligible

Applications for project funding will be accepted from Stoughton-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Applications for funding will not be accepted from the following:

- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability with respect to employment, volunteer participation, or the provision of services
- Organizations conducting fundraising (third party giving) on behalf of nonprofit agencies
- Religious organizations for sectarian purposes
- Local, regional, and/or school-based sports teams conducting fundraising
- Individual elementary or secondary schools (public or private) conducting fundraising
- Individuals, political candidates, and political campaigns, or entities that are not nonprofit organizations conducting fundraising
- Fundraising for capital campaigns

If an organization has received three consecutive years of funding from the SRA, it will not be eligible for funding for the next two years.

Timing of SRA Application intake and Decisions

In 2017 and subsequent years the SRA will publicly announce the program in the first week in February with March 7th set as the cutoff date for the first round of requests. The SRA will make a final review of requests in early April as a body and vote at a meeting of the SRA on requests by second week in April. If any money remains in the SRA budget for this activity after the first round, applications will be handled on a first come first reviewed basis until the budget is depleted.

Screening Criteria

The SRA Target Area will be decided annually. Currently the SRA Target Area is the downtown. (Downtown defined for this purpose as: along Washington Street from Railroad Ave to Monk, Park Street from Walnut to square, Pleasant from Capen to square, Freeman from Fire Station to square, Wyman from tracks to square.)

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The criteria that SRA members shall consider in the decision to approve or decline to support an Application shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The project or the activity of the group is focused on the SRA Target Area. If not, the application will be rejected.
- The financial aid will directly advance the SRA mission, promote our goals, create positive visibility, and demonstrate social responsibility.
- SRA financial support is targeted first to projects or actions that directly improve the physical appearance and/or the social activity in the SRA Target Area, and secondarily to groups that promote such activity. (Examples of the former would be the Beautification Committee and the Farmers Market and other organizations that will directly take on a similar primary activity; examples of the latter would be organizations that seek out such primary actions from others.)
- The financial aid will start a new activity and there is a plan that shows promise that it will have other outside funding.

Application Process:

- Applications for financial support/sponsorships must be made to the SRA in writing explaining the nature of the request and the value of said request as it relates to the SRA's efforts. The Redevelopment Authority will communicate directly with applicants regarding all requests and coordinate any follow up documentation.
- The SRA Administrative Assistant will accept applications at srasec@stoughton-ma.gov.
- The applicant may request to be present at the meeting when the application is being reviewed by the SRA to present any further pertinent information as well as answer questions that SRA members may have regarding said Application.
- All requests will be documented in the minutes of the SRA meeting at which they are reviewed including formal recommendation and final vote.
- Approval of financial support will require a minimum of three members to vote in favor of the request.

SRA Member Responsibilities Relating to Appearance of Conflict of Interest

Individual members of the Redevelopment Authority may not respond to requests from or solicit from individuals or organizations that have an actual or potential business relationship with the Redevelopment Authority. In the event an Application is made by a member of the SRA, or if any SRA member affiliated with the organization requesting support is present at a meeting where the Application is being discussed, said member shall recuse himself/herself and depart the meeting during deliberation and vote by the other members.