

## 1. What is Discretionary Funding?

Discretionary funding is a duly-appropriated sum of money in the Town's expense budget allocated to an eligible not-for-profit organization by the Selectboard and approved at Town Meeting.

## 2. What Types of Organizations May Receive Discretionary Funds?

Discretionary funds may only be allocated to not-for-profit; community-based social services providers. In order to receive discretionary funds directly, an organization must be incorporated as a not-for-profit and registered with the State of Vermont., unless exempt and have a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN).

## 3. What Types of Organizations May Not Receive Discretionary Funds?

For-profit entities may not receive discretionary funds, except when the primary non-profit contractor subcontracts with a for-profit entity as part of the delivery of services. Such subcontracts, however, must be only an ancillary part of the program to be funded, not the primary basis for the discretionary award, and must be approved by the contracting agency.

## 4. What are the Restrictions on the Use of Discretionary Funds?

All public funds, however awarded, must be used for a Town purpose. In general, a Town purpose is defined as an activity or service that is open to all members of the public, regardless of race, creed, gender, religious affiliation, etc., without restriction, and which does not promote a particular religion.

Programs and services provided by religious or religiously-affiliated organization must be able to demonstrate that the program is open to non-members, is not a religious program, and does not promote the religion.

Closed membership groups, which are those to which membership is restricted or subject to eligibility based upon prohibited factors, may generally not receive funding.

Groups that serve a particular population, for example, those age 65 and above in a particular community; are not considered a closed membership group, as long as the program is open and accessible to all seniors in the community. Similarly, tenant organizations in public housing may also receive funding, as long as they provide equal access to all residents of the public housing units they serve.

Funds may only be allocated for a public purpose and may not support political activities and private interests.

## 5. How to Apply for Discretionary Funding?

All organizations that wish to receive discretionary funding must submit a "Request for Special Appropriations" application to the Town Manager. The application elicits information about an organization's experience, qualifications, and integrity, and the project or service for which the organizations is requesting support. The form is available on the Town website under DOCUMENTS, then, APPLICATIONS or by emailing Kathy Daub-Stearns, Administrative Assistant, at: [kdaubstearns@richmondvt.gov](mailto:kdaubstearns@richmondvt.gov) . Deadline for submission is the end of the day, October 4, 2021.

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: 2025

Organization's Name: Richmond Community Band  
Address: 444 Snipe Ireland Rd  
City, State, Zip: Richmond, VT 05477  
Website address: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Program Name: Richmond Community Band

2. Contact Person/Title: Michael Lawler/President

Telephone Number: 434-4793

E-mail address: lawler@wcvr.com

3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program:  
19 band members, dozens in audience

4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 5 members, most of audience

Please, attach any documentation that supports this number.

Percent of people served who are Town residents: 25% band 90% audience

5. Amount of Request: \$400

6. Total Program Budget: \$800 Percent of total program budget  
you are requesting from the Town of Richmond: 50%

7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency: Richmond Community Band rehearses to foster musicianship and camaraderie among members, and share musicality with the public at free performances.

8. Funding will be used to:  
YES Maintain an existing program      \_\_\_\_\_ Expand an Existing Program  
\_\_\_\_\_ Start a new program

9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program? YES

If yes, please answer the following:

a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase. NO

b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard? NO  
If yes, describe how those conditions or restrictions have been met.

## B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need, or problem exist in the Town of Richmond? \_\_\_\_\_

Richmond Community Band fulfills the long tradition of New England town bands providing music performance and audience opportunities for residents, and musicians and audience from neighboring towns who support the Richmond community.

2. Program Summary:

a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence. \_\_\_\_\_

Any resident of Richmond or neighboring towns is welcome to play in RCB, irregardless of gender, ethnicity, or income. All ages are welcome; parents, children, and grandparents can all participate. All residents are invited to our free public concerts.

b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive? \_\_\_\_\_

RCB resumed its prominent role in the 4th of July parade in 2022 and will continue in 2023. We feature guest conductor Matt Felis at concerts and invite all community member to listen to and consider participating in the band. Our inclusive music promotes fellowship among audience, more so among band members. We advertise in the Front Porch Forum, and with an orange sandwich board sign at the four corners.

3. Program Funding:

a. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service.) \_\_\_\_\_

Town funding will allow us to acquire more band shirts and help compensate volunteers for generous donations of sheet music, time, equipment, and rehearsal space.

b. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost? \_\_\_\_\_

We do not request funds from sources other than the town of Richmond, and voluntary donations from participants or audience. Expenses are deferred if funds are insufficient.

## C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise. \_\_\_\_\_  
Current directors and several other members have been participating for 25 years since Richmond Community Band was reestablished in 1998. All members contribute to regular operations, comprising rehearsals and performances.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

Richmond Community Band members' benefits are subjective, but the music we perform is better after rehearsing. Although concert audience members aren't direct RCB participants, their shared appreciation of our music indicates increased morale, increasing musician satisfaction. Bikers, boaters, and other village park visitors add impromptu audience feedback.

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place? NO - If yes, please attach your plan.

The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors? 3  
How many meetings were held by the board last year? 2

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant Michael E Lawler Date 9-28-23

Michael Lawler, President  
Print Name of Applicant and Title