

About the Relationship Grants

The Foundation expects to award one or more “Relationship Grants” for use in academic year 2009-10 (September, 2009 – August, 2010) and is now seeking initial proposals in the form of a “letter of interest” from eligible non-profit or tax-exempt organizations.

§ ***Kinds of Proposals:*** Relationship Grant proposals should be for the purpose of addressing the educational needs of less enfranchised individuals and groups and should be aimed at improving inner-city education within the geographic boundaries of Boston, Hartford, NYC, Providence and/or Washington, D.C. The specific objectives of the project should be accomplishable within the one academic year time frame of the grant.

§ ***Demonstrate a Need for Funding, Volunteer Opportunities and Pro Bono Legal Representation:*** The Foundation is interested in proposals that have the potential for creating a dynamic relationship among the recipient, the Foundation and the attorneys and staff volunteers coordinated through the *Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest*. The letter of interest should indicate whether there is a need for defined **pro bono (free) legal representation** or **general volunteer assistance in pursuit of the goals of the grant proposal**. It has been our experience that one-time volunteer activities that are located at or very near to one of the Brown Rudnick offices and pro bono projects that draw on our existing competencies or raise especially challenging legal issues present the most successful model.

§ ***Amount and Duration of Relationship Grants:*** Proposals may be in any amount between \$5,000 and \$50,000. (FYI, our average grant in 2008 was just over \$13,000 and we awarded no grant at the \$50,000 level.) Grant funds are quite limited and the Foundation seeks to distribute its grants to organizations across its geographic area of interest. It would be to the applicants’ benefit to submit “scaled” proposals describing portions or increments of their project that could be successfully undertaken with less than the amount sought for the full grant proposal funding. Grants will be awarded for one academic year, 2009-10, with the possibility of renewal for additional periods thereafter.

§ **Timetable:** The overall grant process is expected to proceed as follows (schedule subject to change):

Date (2009)	Action
April 17, 2009	1. Request for Letters of Interest sent out.
May 1, 2009 (Friday)	2. Grant applicant's Letter of Interest must be <i>received</i> at our office in Boston by 4:00 p.m. EDT.
May 14, 2009	3. Notice to applicants: Proposals will be reviewed by the Foundation. A small number will be invited to submit a more complete proposal. Others will be informed if they have not been so selected.
May 27, 2009	4. Invited Proposals must be received at our office in Boston by 4:00 p.m. EDT
June 26, 2009	5. Notification of decisions: The Foundation will determine what proposal(s) to fund and will award the grant(s) conditioned upon the applicant signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.
On or about September 1, 2009	6. Grant funds will be provided.

Notice:

Of course, the Foundation must and does reserve the right in its sole discretion at any time and without notice to (i) alter or abandon this Request for Letters of Intent & Grant Proposals process; (ii) award one or more grants on an entirely different basis; or (iii) award no grant at all during this period. Furthermore, any and all costs incurred by the applicant in applying for or pursuing a grant from the Foundation shall be the responsibility of the applicant and neither the Foundation, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest nor Brown Rudnick LLP shall have any responsibility or liability with regard to such costs.

About the Foundation

Mission Statement: *The mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. is to contribute significantly to the quality of life in those communities in which the firm, Brown Rudnick LLP, is located. It seeks to do so by serving as a catalyst for the firm's legal and non-legal personnel to work together to enhance the lives and opportunities of economically disenfranchised individuals. The primary arena for the Foundation's efforts is education.*

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. (the "Foundation"), originally created by contributions from partners of the law firm of Brown Rudnick Freed & Gesmer (now **Brown Rudnick LLP**), was established as a non-profit, tax-exempt entity in August, 2000. The Foundation focuses on improving inner-city education in order to enhance the lives and opportunities of economically disenfranchised individuals in Boston, Massachusetts; Hartford, Connecticut; New York; Providence, Rhode Island; and Washington, D.C. The Foundation coordinates a full menu of giving, combining financial support, volunteer efforts and pro bono legal representation.

The Foundation has two education-related grant programs.

- § The first program (and the subject of this request for letters of interest) provides "***Relationship Grants***" through which the Foundation endeavors to have an active relationship with recipient organizations. While financial support is the gateway to the relationship, the Foundation is also interested in ways in which the mission and work of the organizations may capture the interest and energy of volunteers from the ranks of the Firm's lawyers and staff. 2009 Relationship Grants will be awarded for the academic year commencing in September 2009.
- § The Foundation's second program is the "***Community Grant Program***". Through this program, grant applications are initiated by a front-line educational worker seeking funding for a specific and immediate one-time need. The Foundation awards approximately one grant per month of up to \$2,000. Applications for these grants can be found on the Center's website at: <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>

This Request for Letters of Interest relates to Relationship Grants.