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CLIPPER SHIP FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW GRANTMAKING FOCUS ON HOUSING AND SHELTER, FOSTER CARE, AND OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Boston, MA (October 16, 2017) – The Clipper Ship Foundation, a \$25 million Boston-based private foundation, announces its newly configured grants process, focusing on three distinct areas: housing and shelter, foster care, and opportunity youth. In redefining its strategy to achieving impact within each of these three areas, the Foundation anticipates awarding substantially larger grants (\$25,000 to \$100,000).

The Foundation will continue its proud tradition of concentrating its support on innovative, smaller charities (budgets less than \$5MM) where its strategic grants are expected to leverage greater impact. The Foundation will also continue to offer support to charities dedicated to serving clients in the Greater Boston, Lawrence, and Brockton areas.

“The Clipper Ship Foundation has long invested critical grant capital in the promise of enterprising, smaller nonprofits achieving great things on behalf of their clients,” explains Clipper Ship President Donald Greene. “Our new, focused approach in doubling down on this commitment will position the Foundation as a true strategic partner to our grant recipients and will drive impact where our grants can make the greatest difference.”

The Foundation will adopt a new, single annual funding cycle requesting applicants to submit a summary Concept Paper in lieu of a full application. Concept Papers can be submitted beginning in early November, with submissions due by December 1st. A select group of Concept Paper applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal in early 2018, and a subset of these organizations will be invited to host a site visit, with grant awards expected to be announced by the end of June, 2018.

Organizations interested in applying for grant funding should visit www.clippershipfoundation.org to review the Foundation’s grant guidelines and to submit eligible Concept Papers. In addition the Foundation will host a Question & Answer Conference call for interested parties on Wednesday, October 25th at 9:30 AM EST. Attendees should dial 1- 800-289-0438 to take part in the call. A replay of this call will be made available at www.clippershipfoundation.org.

The Foundation would like to thank the multitude of applicants who provided critical insight into how it could improve upon its grant making practice, as well as the many experts and peer foundations which lent their perspectives and expertise in helping shape the new grant making strategy.

For press inquiries, please contact GMA Foundations at hblaisdell@gmafoundations.com. For more information on the Clipper Ship Foundation and its grantmaking program, please visit our website, www.clippershipfoundation.org.

About the Clipper Ship Foundation

The Clipper Ship Foundation was founded in 1979 by David Parmely Weatherhead. The Foundation makes \$1.5 million in grants annually to federally tax-qualified nonprofit organizations offering critical services to individuals living in Greater Boston (cities and towns lying on or within Route 128) and the cities of Lawrence and Brockton. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking activities in the areas of Housing and Shelter, Foster Care, and Opportunity Youth. For more information, please review the Foundation’s Grants Process and Grant Guidelines at www.clippershipfoundation.org.

**Clipper Ship Foundation
2017/2018 Grants Process
October 2017**

The Clipper Ship Foundation's new guidelines focus on achieving impact in three issue areas:

- Foster care
- Opportunity youth
- Housing and shelter

The Foundation now employs a single, annual grant making cycle. Applicants must first submit a Concept Paper indicating the focus area that best aligns with its request. A select group of applicants will be invited to submit full proposals and, potentially, to host site visits to review their requests in more depth.

Please visit our website to review detailed grant guidelines (www.clipperfoundation.org/guidelines) and application instructions (www.clipperfoundation.org/how-to-apply) in advance of preparing your Concept Paper.

Eligibility

Organizations serving individuals living in Greater Boston (defined as cities and towns on or within Route 128), and the cities of Lawrence and Brockton are eligible to apply. Applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and remain in good standing with the IRS. The Foundation intends to invest most of its grant funding in supporting organizations with annual operating budgets of \$5 million or less.

Grant Award Potential

\$25,000–\$100,000 per organization

Grant Selection Process and Timing

- Clipper Ship will employ an open process, allowing any eligible nonprofit to submit a Concept Paper. Based upon these submissions, a select group of organizations will be invited to submit full proposals and a subset of these organizations will be asked to host site visits to discuss their applications in greater depth.
- Concept Papers of no more than two pages should be submitted through our online platform (see www.clipperfoundation.org/how-to-apply for detailed instructions) by **Friday, December 1st**. Concept Papers should provide a basic description of the proposed project, following the guidelines below.
- Applicants will be notified as to whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal by **Friday, February 2nd**.
- Completed full proposals should be submitted online by **Friday, March 2nd**.
- Organizations asked to host a site visit will be contacted to schedule a visit that will take place in **late April/early May**.
- Clipper Ship intends to award grants by **June 2018**.

Concept Paper Requirements

Applicants will be asked to complete a brief organizational profile, indicate the grant focus area under which the organization is requesting funds, and submit a brief (two-page maximum) Concept Paper explaining the organization's goals, objectives, and intended impact for the proposed request:

- *Goals* – Goals should present a unified vision of how this request will better position your organization to fulfill its goals and enhance sustainable impact within the context of the organization's overall strategic plan.
- *Objectives* – Specific activities planned within a particular time period, consistent with a goal and strategy, a clear "milestone" towards your stated goals.
- *Impact* – Specific outcomes that will be achieved for your clients, your organization, and/or the broader field and how you will measure your success in achieving the proposed impacts.
- *Financing* – Provide an overview of the budget requirements for the request and also provide a summary of the anticipated use of requested Clipper Ship funds.

Be sure to distinguish the initiative's impacts clearly. Explain what is unique about your organization and why it is situated to achieve magnified impacts in addressing the needs of your clientele.

Selection Criteria

Clipper Ship considers funding requests from organizations with annual operating budgets of any size, but anticipates awarding most of available grant funding to organizations with annual operating budgets smaller than \$5 million.

The Foundation evaluates organizations and their funding requests based upon their potential for achieving tangible impact. In reviewing funding requests, the Foundation considers the organization's:

- track record of success and experience, and the expertise of its leadership and key staff members;
- service delivery model and commitment to addressing the needs of its constituents and the underlying causes of these needs;
- client impact objectives for the next 3-5 years (including demonstrating management's plan for achieving them);
- ability to demonstrate integrated strategic and financial planning to predict the proposal's viability and intended impacts; and
- ability to carry out the proposed program and achieve the intended impacts.

Submitting your Concept Paper

All Concept Papers should be submitted online by **Friday, December 1st**. Visit www.clipperfoundation.org/how-to-apply for instructions on beginning the application process and submitting your Concept Paper.