

Neighborhood Development Services City of Charlottesville

Neighborhood Grant Program Program Synopsis

What is the Neighborhood Grant Program?

The purpose of the Neighborhood Matching Program is to encourage City residents to collaboratively identify and actively participate in making improvements in their neighborhoods. Community involvement and building relationships are key components of the program and are encouraged by suggesting that the project budget include a match amount equal to, or greater than, the grant request; coordination with and support of your neighborhood association; and documentation of neighbor support. Demonstrating responsible stewardship of our community assets while balancing our community's social and environmental values are additional components of any project proposal submitted.

Who is eligible to apply?

Proposals will only be accepted from groups of people living, working, or owning property within the neighborhood boundary in which the project is located. A neighborhood group may be an existing group whose membership is from a commonly recognized geographic area (e.g. neighborhood association, business association, or school site PTA) or a group formed to work together on a specific project. PTA organizations may be funded through contract with the parent school.

An applicant group must certify in its application that it is a not-for-profit group. A non-profit organization is an organization that is registered as a non-profit with the State of Virginia or has IRS 501 C (3) Tax-exempt status. Any statement found to be false prior to, during, or after commencement of a contract created pursuant to this program will be grounds for immediate cancellation of the contract and returned to the City of Charlottesville of all monies granted.

Previous award recipients and current projects receiving matching grant funding are not eligible for additional program funding until outstanding projects are complete and closed out. All outstanding projects must be completed at the time of the final application deadline to be considered.

What types of projects may be considered?

Grants are for small projects with grant amounts between \$250 and \$2,500. Projects types include, but are not limited to:

- Physical improvement projects that involve recreation or public safety facilities, natural resources features, landscape islands, public art and spaces, neighborhood signage, or community gardens. Projects that improve universal accessibility are also encouraged.
- Public school partnership projects that benefit school children and the immediate neighborhood.
- Neighborhood-based events and celebrations and related promotional materials.

- Capacity building initiatives that serve to create, diversify, or increase participation in a neighborhood-based organization or promote an understanding of issues important to neighborhood residents, including neighborhood association website(s).
- Youth development programs: tutorial, mentoring, leadership development.

Grant funds cannot be used to:

- Pay for an organization's operating expenses that are not directly related to the awarded project;
- Purchase land or buildings;
- Pay for expenditures of financial commitments made before the organization is under contract with the City of Charlottesville.

Are there limitations or special requirements to know about?

Projects may involve private property but must provide a clear public benefit. Private property eligible for a grant includes common areas or cul-de-sac centers owned by a homeowners' association. It does NOT include property owned by an individual. Documentation must be provided that confirms property owner support of the proposal and their agreement and methodology to permanently maintain public access to the site.

What are Grant Amounts?

Grant requests must be between \$250 and \$2,500. However, the value of the total project may exceed \$5,000.

How do I Apply?

See details at www.charlottesville.org on the NDS Site - Neighborhood Grant – Grant Guidelines.