



AKRON CITY COUNCIL

2025-2026

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (NPGP)

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Thursday, October 30th, 2025- 12:00 a.m. MIDNIGHT

Applications can be submitted to Akron City Council @

[2025-2026 Akron City Council Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program | Akron City Council](#)

Overview

The Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program is administered by Akron City Council. It is a funding opportunity designed to inspire the development of innovative community-based initiatives, which improve the neighborhood and enhance the overall health and well-being of its residents. The program was created to strengthen and provide funds to neighborhood-based stakeholders invested in the development of their local community. The program aims to:

- Cultivate and strengthen relationships between neighborhood residents through participation in projects and activities; and
- Increase neighborhood resident engagement in resolving the problems that impact them.

Each ward in Akron has been allotted \$15,000 from which to award individual grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000. The minimum grant award is \$3,000. The maximum grant award is \$15,000. **Under no circumstances will grants be awarded in amounts greater than the stated maximum and only in exceptional circumstances, as determined by Council Leadership, may grants be smaller than the stated minimum be awarded.** There is no matching requirement. **Funds awarded to each Ward or individual projects are not transferable.**

I. Program Timeline

- October 1, 2025- Notice of Funding Opportunity Issued
- October 10, 2025 – Grant Application Submission Period Opens
- October 30, 2025 – Grant Application Submission Deadline
- November 7, 2025 – Council Members' Recommendations Due to Selection Committee
- Grant Awardees Notified by December 10th

II. Eligible Applicants

- Non-Profits
- Block Clubs/Associations
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community Development Corporations (CDC)*
- Neighborhood-Based Organization

III. Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant has articulated an appropriate use for the funding.
- Applicants must have the ability to submit progress reports as requested and a brief final report evaluating the success of the project as a condition of the contractual reimbursement process.
- Previous grant awardees are eligible to reapply provided the application demonstrates that funding will be used to build upon a previously funded project and expand use of community resources.
- The project must provide a public, neighborhood benefit to a defined area.
- The project must demonstrate neighborhood involvement in all phases of project implementation.
- The project must demonstrate a specified timeframe for completion of one (1) year or less.

IV. Examples of Eligible Projects

Neighborhood Improvement Projects

Vacant Lot Cleanups
Equipment for Parks or Playgrounds
Community Gardens
Neighborhood Cleanups
Beautification Projects

Neighborhood Education Initiatives

After-school Recreation Programs
Tutoring Programs
Youth Literacy/ Art Programs
Neighborhood Art Fairs
Parenting Classes
Neighborhood Education Projects
Block Safety Programs
Leadership Training for Youth

NOTE:

- **Children's projects must provide proof of State of Ohio certification to serve youth.**
- **Beautification projects on City-owned property must be coordinated with Keep Akron Beautiful.**

V. Ineligible Projects, Activities & Uses

- Any project located outside of the City of Akron limits.
- Lobbying. Political contributions and fundraising activities.
- Reimbursement for donated items or services.

- Operating and administrative support to an existing organization.
- Public service activities which are not new services.
- Projects which duplicate programs operated by existing social service organizations.
- Computers, copiers, fax machines, and other related office equipment.
- or rehabilitation of buildings or other structures.
- Projects which support staff and other costs of an existing government or public service organization.

VI. Review and Selection

All applications will be reviewed by the appropriate ward councilperson. Utilizing a scoring rubric (see Appendix II), the ward council person will score each project and recommend projects which score the highest to the Grant Selection Committee for funding. The Grant Selection Committee is comprised of the following:

- Three (3) Members of Akron City Council appointed by the President of Council;
- Clerk of Council; and
- Three (3) Members of Administration.

The Grant Selection Committee will review the recommended grants and make the final funding decision. Each grant will be assessed on each of the following criteria:

1. Innovation
2. Project Feasibility & Plan
3. Community Impact
4. Feasibility of Project Timeline
5. Level of Neighborhood Involvement in Project Design and Implementation
6. Innovative Use of Existing Neighborhood Resources Without Duplication of Services
7. Maximization of Community Partnerships, Volunteers, as well as Cash and In-Kind Contributions

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW BY THE GRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE.

VII. Contract Management

Projects under contract with the City of Akron will be conducted in accordance with all applicable City regulations. Applicable regulations will vary depending on the project source. Some regulatory requirements must be completed before a contract for the project is executed.

Project contracts will include provisions for reporting and monitoring requirements, insurance obligations, and other required conditions. Projects may only begin once the contract has been fully executed. **Contracts will not be backdated to accommodate early project start-up.**

If the applicant entity is not a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, the entity must work with a 501(C)(3) organization as a fiscal agent. All fiscal agents must be registered as a corporation for non-profit, and in active status with the Ohio Secretary of State. An organization's status can be verified online at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/>.

A letter from the fiscal agent must be provided as proof of the organization's willingness to serve in that capacity and a copy of the fiscal agent's State of Ohio certification with the application.

VIII. Billing and Repeat Funding

Billing - Project funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis for expenses incurred in accordance with the project's contractual goals and objectives. Billing schedules vary based on the nature of the projects.

Repeat Funding – Previous Neighborhood Partnership Grant awardees may reapply but must demonstrate that the previously funded project is being enhanced, and efforts are underway to expand the use of community resources and assets so as not to rely solely upon grant funds.

IX. Documentation and Audit Compliance

All receipts submitted for reimbursement under the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program are subject to review and verification by the City of Akron and may also be subject to audit by local and/or state authorities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that all receipts are accurate, complete, and clearly legible. Submission of false, altered, or otherwise misleading documentation is strictly prohibited and may result in denial of reimbursement, disqualification from the program, and potential referral for further review.

X. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress Reports and a short final report evaluating the success of the project are required as a condition of receiving reimbursement under the Neighborhood Partnership Grant contract. Expenses will not be reimbursed if required progress reports have not been submitted.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Thursday, October 30th, 2025 @ 12 MIDNIGHT

Applications can be submitted online at

[2025-2026 Akron City Council Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program | Akron City Council](#)



Project proposals must be submitted online through the submittable portable on the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Application The application can be accessed via Akron City Council's website at: <http://www.akroncitycouncil.org>.

QUESTIONS

Should applicants have questions about the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program, development of a proposal in response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and or the completion of the application, please call Akron City Council Staff at 330-375-2256.



APPENDIX I

AKRON CITY COUNCIL 2025- 2026 NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

Please review this list to ensure that all necessary information is available to complete your application.

- ☐ Organization Information
- ☐ Fiscal Agent Information, if necessary
- ☐ Project Information
- ☐ Copy of Organization's overall budget for the most recent fiscal year
- ☐ Project Budget to identify the amount of Neighborhood Partnership Grant funds requested
- ☐ IRS 501 (C) 3 Letter
- ☐ If entity is not a 501 (c) 3, fiscal agent identified and proof of willingness to serve
- ☐ Fiscal Agent's State of Ohio non-profit certification *(if applicable) (Completed by Fiscal Agent)*
- ☐ IRS Form W-9
- ☐ Roster of Board Members
- ☐ Partnership Letters
- ☐ Map of targeted neighborhood



APPENDIX II

AKRON CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT **SELECTION RUBRIC**

	EXEMPLARY (7-9 PTS)	ADEQUATE (4-6 PTS)	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (1-3 PTS)	MISSING (0 PTS)	SCORE
Plan and Funding Request Section III Questions #2-5, 7, 9 Section V	Plan is clearly defined and contains numerous strategies to support implementation; funding request is realistic.	Plan is adequately defined and contains strategies to support implementation; funding request is adequate.	Plan is vague and contains limited strategies to support implementation; funding request is problematic.	Proposal does not include a plan which supports implementation, or an inadequate funding request.	
Measurable Impact on Neighborhood Section III Questions #6, 8, 10	Plan is innovative and is likely to have a significant impact on a large portion of the neighborhood. It significantly advances the overall well-being of the community and its residents	Plan is innovative and likely to have some impact on a sufficient portion of the neighborhood and advance the well-being of a segment of the community and its residents.	Plan lacks innovation and is likely to have a limited impact on the overall well-being of the neighborhood and its residents	Plan is unlikely to have a measurable impact on the neighborhood and the well-being of its residents.	
Partnership with Other Community Entities Section III Question #11	Partnership demonstrates a unified vision for community impact and demonstrates substantial sharing of strategies and resources among neighborhood entities.	Partnership demonstrates a unified vision for community impact and demonstrates an adequate sharing of strategies and resources among neighborhood entities.	Partnership contains limited sharing of resources and strategies among neighborhood entities.	No partnership identified	

ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

PROJECT TITLE: _____ TOTAL SCORE: _____

COUNCIL PERSON'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____