



AKRON CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, July 15th, 2022 @ 12:00 Noon (EST)
Applications are due to the City of Akron City Council, Clerk of Council,
166 S. High Street, Room 301, Akron, Ohio 44308

I. Overview

The Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program (the “NPP”) is administered by Akron City Council. The NPP is a funding opportunity designed to inspire the development of innovative community-based initiatives that improve Akron neighborhoods and enhance the overall health and well-being of its residents. The NPP was created to strengthen and provide funds to neighborhood-based stakeholders invested in the development of their local community. The NPP 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 \$10,000 from which to award individual grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. The minimum grant award is \$2,000. The maximum grant award is \$10,000. Under no circumstances will grants be awarded in amounts greater than stated maximum and only in exceptional circumstances, as determined in the sole discretion of Council, may grants smaller than the stated minimum be awarded. There is no matching requirement.

II. Program Timeline

- June 24th, 2022 - Notice of Funding Opportunity Issued
- June 30th, 2022 – Pre - Submission Forum
- July 15th, 2022 – Grant Application Submission Deadline
- July 22nd, 2022 – Council Members’ Recommendations due to Grant Selection Committee
- The week of August 8th, 2022 – Grant Awardees Notified

III. Eligible Applicants

- Non-Profits
- Block Clubs/Associations
- Faith-Based Organizations

- Community Development Corporations (CDC)
- Neighborhood-Based Organization

IV. Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant has articulated an appropriate and worthwhile use for the funding, as determined by Council and consistent with the application.
- The applicant must comply with all rules, regulations, and requirements of the NPP and other applicable law, which will be further defined and outlined in a contract subsequently provided to an awarded applicant.
- Applicants must have the ability to submit progress reports, as may be requested, and a final report evaluating the success of the project, all 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 expands use of community resources.
- The project must provide a legitimate and measurable 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.

V. 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 active State of Ohio certification to serve youth.**
- **Beautification projects on City-owned property must be coordinated with Keep Akron Beautiful.**

VI. Ineligible Projects, Activities & Uses

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

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

VII. Review and Selection

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

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

The Grant Selection Committee will review the recommended grants and make the final funding decision. Although the Grant Selection Committee may consider other information it deems relevant, each grant will generally be assessed on 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

VIII. Contract Management

Awarded projects under contract with the City of Akron must be conducted in accordance with all applicable law and City regulations. Applicable regulations will vary depending on the project source. It may be necessary for some regulatory requirements to be completed before a contract for the project is executed.

Project contracts will include provisions for reporting and monitoring requirements, insurance obligations, and other conditions. Projects may only begin *after* the grant 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 with the application as proof of the organization's willingness to serve in that capacity as well as a copy of the fiscal agent's State of Ohio registration/certification.

IX. 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 affirmatively demonstrate to the sole satisfaction of Council that the previously funded project is being enlarged and/or enhanced, and other efforts are underway to expand the use of community resources and assets, so as not rely solely upon grant funds.

X. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress Reports and a brief final report evaluating the overall success of the project are required as conditions of receiving reimbursement under the NPP grant contract. Costs and/or expenses will not be reimbursed unless or until Council-requested progress reports have not been submitted.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, July 15th, 2022 @ 12:00 Noon (EST)

Applications are due to Akron City Council, Clerk of Council

166 S. High Street, Room 301, Akron, Ohio 44308

If mailed, applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2022 @ 12 Noon. Applications postmarked or hand-delivered after the due date will not be accepted. Applications may not be faxed. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Project proposals must be submitted on the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Application. Please feel free to provide attachments if additional space is needed. All forms may be downloaded from Akron City Council's website at: <http://www.akroncitycouncil.org>.

QUESTIONS

Should applicants have questions about the Neighborhood Partnership 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 at 330-375-2256.



APPENDIX I

AKRON CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please complete this checklist to ensure that all necessary steps have been completed and documents are included with your application.

- Application Cover Sheet is completed and signed
- Completed pages of the application form in the correct order
- Copy of Organization's overall budget for the most recent fiscal year
- Project Budget identifies 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*)
- 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 NAME (Printed): _____

COUNCIL PERSON'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____