

Mayor Stothert's 2015 Neighborhood Grants Solicitation

Program Overview

Mayor Jean Stothert's 2015 Neighborhood Grants Program has been developed to support Omaha neighborhood organizations with projects that are intended to creatively improve the neighborhood's quality of life, safety, appearance, environmental impact, and livability.

This year, Mayor Stothert is placing a priority on projects that focus on crime prevention. Please review the following resources for more information on how to work in partnership with the community and police on crime prevention projects:

- [Omaha Police Department's \(OPD\) Neighborhood Watch Program](#) for local neighborhood-level crime prevention strategies.
- [Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols \(OCCP\)](#) on how to initiate and equip a neighborhood Citizen Patrol.
- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\)](#) for strategies using the physical design and appearance of your neighborhood to prevent crime.

Eligibility

- Neighborhood organizations must be registered and listed in the City of Omaha's Neighborhood Association Directory:
<http://www.cityofomaha.org/planning/hcd/neighborhood-associations>
- If awarded in 2014, the final program report should have been submitted.
- Matching funds are required by the applicant to show commitment by the neighborhood for the project. This can be in the form of volunteer labor, cash, or in-kind contributions, and does not need to be equivalent to the grant amount requested.
 - Please note that applying another Neighborhood Organization's 2015 Neighborhood Grant request toward your organization's match funds is not allowable.

Deadline

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 27, 2015. Late applications will not be considered.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please call the Neighborhood Grants Program at 402-444-5546, or email neighborhoodgrants@ci.omaha.ne.us for assistance.

Award Amounts

Applicants should carefully consider the resources needed to successfully implement the proposed project and present a realistic budget that accurately reflects project costs. Awards will be made up to \$5,000 per neighborhood organization.

Program Requirements

- All grant funds must be expended by December 31, 2015.
- Applications must be typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted.
- Grants can only be made for public purposes and cannot result in any benefit or improvement to individual citizens or privately owned property.
- Proposed projects must have prior approval from the Neighborhood Organization's Board of Directors.
- If a proposed project requires a permit or City Department approval, contact should be made with the relevant Department prior to submission. Please provide the department contact in your application so follow up questions can be addressed with the department if necessary.
- A final program report must be submitted to the Mayor's Office by January 29, 2016. Failure to submit your organization's final report will impact future grant eligibility.
- It is encouraged that neighborhood organizations participate in a Place Game Workshop through Omaha by Design.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Examples of allowable costs for community safety items include:

- OCCP/OPD-approved equipment
- Items that improve visibility and lighting in common areas, including neighborhood parks
- Partnering with the City's Graffiti Abatement Unit on graffiti abatement projects
- Natural access control mechanisms i.e. landscaping of public spaces

Unallowable costs include:

- Weapons and high-tech alarms
- Decorative, and/or way-finding signs

How to Apply

The Mayor's 2015 Neighborhood Grants application will be available on Mayor Stothert's website (<http://www.mayors-office.cityofomaha.org/neighborhoods>) and the City of Omaha website (<http://www.cityofomaha.org>) beginning February 23, 2015. Neighborhood organizations will receive an email receipt confirming submission.

Applications can be submitted:

1. Electronically to neighborhoodgrants@ci.omaha.ne.us; or
2. Mailed to Neighborhood Grants Program, 1819 Farnam Street, Suite 300, Omaha, NE 68183

Grant Awards Selection

The City of Omaha and community representatives (Grants Review Committee) will evaluate all applications and submit their final recommendations to Mayor Stothert.

Program Timeline	
<i>Monday</i> February 23, 2015	Release of 2015 applications <i>Mayor's Website & City of Omaha Website</i>
<i>Tuesday</i> March 10, 2015: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Mayor's Neighborhood Grants Q&A – Open House <i>UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center Room 230</i>
<i>Friday</i> March 27, 2015: 11:59 p.m.	Grant application deadline
<i>Wednesday (At the Latest)</i> April 22, 2015	Award Notifications sent to grantees <i>Letter/Email</i>
<i>Wednesday</i> May 6, 2015: 11:00 a.m. - noon	Mayor's Press Conference <i>Location TBD</i>