



Neighborhood Improvement Grant

FACT SHEET 2021

Purpose

The City of Fort Wayne Planning & Policy Department presents a grant opportunity that puts resources in the hands of our City's neighborhoods so they can implement projects that focus on energizing their communities. The Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program is intended to provide funding assistance for projects that create and beautify public spaces and strengthen community involvement.

Who We Fund

Eligible applicants include City of Fort Wayne Neighborhood Associations registered with the City. Neighborhood Area Partnerships are also eligible for the program. Projects should be the idea of, and championed by, residents of the neighborhood area with input from nearby residents.

What We Fund

Creative community projects that focus on the following criteria will be considered for funding:

- Enhances the aesthetics of the neighborhood.
- Provides a clear community benefit.
- Accessible to all members of the community.
- Addresses a known neighborhood deficiency
- Increases sense of community.
- Activates community improvements or spaces.
- Focuses on community involvement.

Grant Program terms and contract requirements

- The City retains sole discretion in determining whether or not applications are eligible.
- Necessary permits or other approvals must be obtained by the applicant prior to starting projects.
- Projects may involve private property but must provide a clear public benefit. Documentation must be provided that confirms property owner support and approval of the proposal.
- Projects must be accessible and inclusive.
- Award maximum is \$5,000 per project.





- Only one Neighborhood Improvement Grant per project per year.
- Projects may require a design review as a condition of the grant award.
- Project is ready to begin within 1-3 months from award date.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months from award date.
- Neighborhood Associations that apply must be registered with the City.

Types of expenses covered by grant funds

Projects must provide a capital improvement that enhances the public spaces within the neighborhood. Projects that improve universal accessibility are also encouraged. The following are examples of eligible grant projects:

- Improving or providing neighborhood amenities (signage/welcome markers, community centers, community gardens or greenspaces).
- Public art installations.
- Improvements that enhance public spaces (benches, crosswalks, bike amenities).

Expenses NOT covered by grant funds

- Routine maintenance, *i.e.* mowing and snow removal.
- General maintenance of public infrastructure (sidewalks, streetlights, alleys, street trees).
- On-going operating expenses, *i.e.* administration costs, office supplies, website fees.
- Costs for food and beverages, games, prizes, giveaways, etc.
- Block Parties, social events, and programming.

Deadline

Applications will be due March 1, 2020.

Additional Information

Available at www.FortWayneNeighborhoods.org by clicking on the resources menu item. Contact Russ Garriott at 260.427.2138 for additional information.

