



*a collaborative
grantmaking program of*



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

PURPOSE

The Neighborhood Grants Program exists to:

- Encourage and support the work of neighborhood-based groups and organizations trying to preserve and/or improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods;
- Promote resident participation and leadership in neighborhood-based groups/organizations;
- Invest in and build on the existing strengths and assets of the region's neighborhoods; and
- Promote civic pride in our community.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency and/or an organized group carrying out a charitable purpose for the common good (e.g., neighborhood organizations);
- Have a minimum of three active leaders (e.g., President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.);
- Have an established process to manage grant funds, including a current checking account in the name of the organization/group;
- Be operated and organized so that there is no discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, veteran's status, disability, or any other factor prohibited by applicable law;
- Be a neighborhood or neighborhood-based organization that is located within Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago County;
- Have a plan to implement a project that will benefit residents of a defined geographic area;
- Have the capacity to complete the proposed project by the end of the year; and
- Be current on all final reports for previously awarded grants from the Neighborhood Grants Program.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

We look for projects that:

- Are generated, led, and executed by residents of the neighborhood to the extent possible;
- Build on the assets existing in the neighborhood, including using the skills of residents, involving youth, or working with an existing neighborhood group; and
- Encourage partnerships between residents, businesses, non-profits, and institutions (e.g., schools) within the neighborhood.

The maximum amount granted per project is \$2,500.

WHAT WE FUND

Beautification Projects*
Crime Prevention
Neighborhood Clean Ups

Neighborhood Events
Newsletters & Organizing
Community Gardens

Reforestation Projects*
Neighborhood Surveys
Resident-Focused Education

*Beautification Projects

- Permanent fixtures (e.g., trash receptacles, planters) must be installed on public property or common areas.
- Landscape projects must be permanent improvements to the area (e.g., shrubs, trees, perennials), and have a maintenance plan (e.g., watering, weeding).

***Reforesting Neighborhoods:** Trees may only be planted on public or common areas (not on private property).

PLEASE NOTE:

- If applying for a project similar to previously funded projects, you must provide a sustainability plan for future years.
- If there is a potential that your project would be impacted by COVID-19 mitigation requirements, the applicant should make note of what modifications will be made to ensure the project will comply with local health department mandates in order to provide a safe experience for any and all participants. As it is impossible to anticipate what mitigations may be in place throughout 2021, we encourage all applicants to consider what modifications might be appropriate for their project and make note of this within their application.

WHAT WE WON'T FUND

Grants are **not** made from the Neighborhood Grants Program for the following:

- Landscaping private property
- Refreshments for neighborhood meetings
- Entertainment
- Activities that primarily benefit non-resident organizations including nonprofit and for-profit organizations.
- Projects and programs that promote a religion or require participation in a religious activity as a condition for receiving services. However, grants may be made to faith-based organizations for other purposes.

DEADLINES

Applications for the Neighborhood Grants Program will be accepted from March 1 to April 5, 2021. Applications must be submitted through [CFNIL's Online Application Portal](#). To learn more and apply visit cfnil.org/grants/neighborhood.

Please Note: CFNIL has moved to a new online application portal since the previous Neighborhood Grants cycle. Even if you have submitted an application for a Neighborhood Grant in the past, if you have not used the new portal you will need to create a new account. Please follow the instructions on the [portal login page](#) to create your account. If you need more help creating an account or utilizing the portal, visit cfnil.org/grant-resources or contact James Patterson (contact info below).

QUESTIONS?

Questions about the Neighborhood Grants Program should be directed to HomeStart Resource Development & Community Engagement Manager Janessa Wilkins at 815-962-2011 or janessaw@nwhomestart.org. Questions about the application portal should be directed to CFNIL Program Director James Patterson at jpatterson@cfnil.org or 779-210-8206.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Neighborhood Grants Program awards travel grants for individuals to attend the Community Leadership Institute, a three-day training event that aims to strengthen the voices and skills of community, resident, and volunteer leaders. To learn more, visit HomeStart's website at www.nwhomestart.org.