

# Neighborhood Grants Program



Informational  
Webinar  
March 5, 2024



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

March 6, 2024



# Neighborhood Grants Program History

James Patterson

Senior Program Officer

[jpatterson@cfnil.org](mailto:jpatterson@cfnil.org)

779-210-8206



# In the beginning ...

- 1990: There were 15 neighborhood organizations.
- 1990: CFNIL received a half million-dollar Ford/MacArthur grant to support affordable housing.



# Early Activities

- CFNIL convened housing organizations to promote affordable housing.
- Awarded \$250,000 to four neighborhood development organizations from 1991-1993.
- December 10, 1991: Rockford Area Affordable Housing Coalition was formed.



# Neighborhood Grants Program

- 1995: Neighborhood Grants Program established.
- Early adopter of a grant program that awarded funds to non-501(c)(3) neighborhood organizations.
- 22 grants totaling \$24,500



# 29 years later...

- As many as 90 neighborhood organizations.
- 511 grants totaling almost \$800,000 since 1995.
- Wide variety of grants – Key is neighborhood improvement by and for neighborhood residents.





# Application Walk-Through and Tips

- Start at [cfnil.org](https://cfnil.org)
- Create an account if you are applying for the first time. **Contact us to be added to a current organization account.**
- Useful Links:
  - [Applying for Funding](#)
  - [How to Use Collaborator](#)
  - [CFNIL's Grant Resources](#)
  - [Copy Request Application Tutorial](#)
  - [Neighborhood Grants Program Webpage](#)



**Lisa DeLang**

Program & Administrative Associate

[edelang@cfnil.org](mailto:edelang@cfnil.org)

779-210-8210

# Give

Support the causes you care about the most.  
Through the power of endowment, your gift makes a deep impact -- forever!

Ways to Give



## Donate

Whether you donate to an existing endowment or create your own, be assured that your passion is our purpose.

Ways to Give



## Grants

Support for charitable activities that benefit the people and places of northern Illinois. Over \$1.7M is distributed each year through the Community Grants Program alone!

View CFNIL Grant Programs



## Scholarships

90+ Unique Scholarships, nearly \$300K in awards, just ONE Application! Application open December 1 - February 1.

View CFNIL Scholarships



## News

Check out what's new and coming soon at CFNIL!

Read What's Happening

# Receive

If you're a nonprofit seeking a grant for your project or a student looking for educational support, you're in the right place.

Grant & Scholarship Opportunities



# Portal Registration



## Logon Page

Email Address\*

jpatterson@cfnil.org

Case Sensitive!

Password\*

.....

If you don't have an account

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

The sooner the better 😊

Welcome to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois's Online Grants Application Portal!

Grant Reviewers: Do not create a new account. Use the email from which you receive CFNIL notices and the password provided by the Grant Administrator. If you have questions, please contact our Grant Administrator at [edelang@cfnil.org](mailto:edelang@cfnil.org).

New Applicants: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your login credentials. **Only one user per organization should create an initial account.** That initial user will be able to add additional users once they have started an application, using the Collaborator tool. No accounts were transferred from the old application system, so everyone will need to create a new account.

Not Sure? If you think that your organization has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact our Grant Administrator at [edelang@cfnil.org](mailto:edelang@cfnil.org) to receive your username.



# Portal Registration

## Create New Account

If you already have an Account, click the 'Cancel Account Creation' button to go to the Logon page

⚠ Using the browser's back button will delete your registration information.

ℹ This registration process has multiple steps you must complete before you can apply.

Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.

Important to get  
right 😊

Organization Information

<b>Organization Name*</b>	<b>EIN / Tax ID (##-#####)*</b>
<input type="text"/>	Neighborhood Organizations use 00-0000000 if you do not have an EIN.
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>Telephone Number (###-###-#### x###)*</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Organization Email</b>	<b>Address 1*</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address 2</b>	<b>City*</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>State*</b>	<b>Postal Code*</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Country</b>	
<input type="text"/>	

Next >

Questions: Contact  
Lisa DeLang at  
edelang@cfnil.org or  
779-210-8210 😊





# Portal Registration

- Access from CFNIL website
- Email is case sensitive – type exactly
- No account? Register ASAP
- Begin with one user per organization
- Be careful to get organization info correct



# Application Features

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Home Apply Organization History

## Applicant Dashboard

Learn more about managing your Applicant Dashboard with this quick instruction [Applicant Dashboard](#)

Public Profile

**Applicant:**  
Mr. James Patterson  
jpatterson@cfnil.org  
779-210-8206  
946 N. 2nd St.  
Rockford, IL 61107-3005 United States

**Organization:**  
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois  
36-4402089  
815-962-2110  
946 N. 2nd St.  
Rockford, IL 61107-3005 United States

[Contact Email History](#)

If your organization information does not appear correct, please contact the funder. Thank you.

Active Requests 0 Historical Requests 0

You do not have any Active Requests. [Click Apply](#) to begin the application process.



# Application Features

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Home Apply **Organization History** Role (Applicant) ▾

## Apply

Quick Search

The list below displays the currently available grant programs of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The opening and closing dates of the grant opportunity are listed on the right-hand side along with the Apply button. Click the Apply button to begin an application. You may preview the questions on the application by clicking the Preview button on the left-hand side. Please note, while you can enter information into the form to reveal prompts that are tailored to your specific request, **these entries will NOT be saved, and the preview cannot be submitted.**

Learn more about this listing by viewing a quick instructional video: [Applying for Funding](#)

To invite others to join your work on a request, use the Collaborator Tool. You can also use this tool to create additional users for your organization. View the links below for more information.

- [How to Use Collaborator](#)
- [Collaborator for Adding Users to your Organization](#)

Community Grants Program Fair 2020 Application Accepting Submissions from 08/10/2020 to 09/01/2020

This application is used to apply to CFNIL's Community Grants Program.

**Preview** **Apply**

Application  
AUTO SAVES! 😊



# Application Features

- Begin application in the user account of primary contact
- Applicant Dashboard
- Access to your active and historical requests
- Access to the organization's request history





# Application Features

- Preview – Doesn't Save
- Online video and written tutorials
- Auto Saves!
- Save feature alerts you to incomplete fields



# Application Features

**Application**

Process: Community Grants Program Fall 2020 Application - Draft 3

[Return to Application Evaluation Assigned](#)

[Public Profile](#) [Copy Previous Answers](#) [Copy GuideStar Profile](#) [Collaborate](#)

[Contact Info](#) [Request](#)

**Applicant:**  
Mr. James Patterson  
jpatterson@cfnil.org  
779-210-8206  
946 N. 2nd St.  
Rockford, IL 61107-3005 United States

**Organization:**  
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois  
36-4402089  
815-721-4452  
946 N. 2nd St.  
Rockford, IL 61107-3005 United States

[Contact Email History](#)

[Question List](#)

[Application](#)

**Due on 09/21/2020 05:00 PM CDT.**

Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.

Quick Tips

### Application Quick Tips!



# Application Features

- Copy previous answers – You can edit
- Collaboration tool
- Contact info populates from user account
- Question list





# What is the Purpose of the Program?

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



# Who's Eligible to Apply?

- Be a 501(c)(3) 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.);
- Current checking account in the name of the organization/group;
- Be operated and organized so that there is no discrimination



# Who's Eligible to Apply?

- 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 Do We Fund?

Projects that ...

- **Resident led**
- Build on existing neighborhood assets
- Encourage neighborhood partnerships
- Max grant is \$2,500



# Examples Please?

- Resident-Focused Seminars
- Community Gardens
- Organizing & Newsletters
- Reforestation Projects\*\*
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Neighborhood Activities & Surveys
- Crime Prevention
- Beautification Projects\*



# A Note About Beautification Projects

- Permanent fixtures must be installed on public property or common areas
- Landscape projects must be permanent improvements
- Need a maintenance plan
- Trees can only be planted on public or common areas





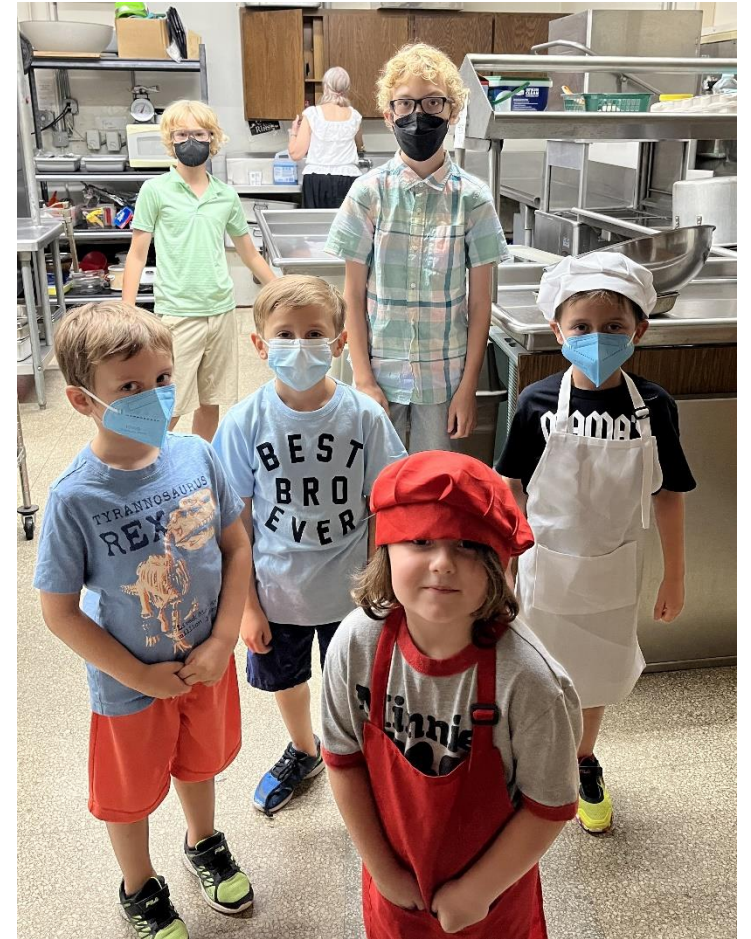
# What Don't We Fund?

- Landscaping private property
- Activities that primarily benefit non-resident organizations including nonprofit and for-profit organizations
- Religious purposes – But faith-based organizations can apply for non-religious purposes



# How Will You Spend The Money?

- Proposal Budget Form
  - Revenue = Expenses
  - Can combine like items
- Budget Narrative
- Quotes for items over \$500



# Sample Proposal Budget

Revenue

Revenue	Revenue Source	Amount
Revenue #1	A Request from CFNIL	\$ 839.50
Revenue #2	A Neighborhood Council	\$ 100.00
Revenue #3	A	\$
Revenue #4	A	\$
Revenue #5	A	\$
Totals	0	939.5

Expenses

Expenses	Expense	Amount
Expense #1	A Soil Preparation Materials	\$ 79.50
Expense #2	A Shrubs	\$ 450.00
Expense #3	A Perennials	\$ 130.00
Expense #4	A Mulch	\$ 180.00
Expense #5	A Incidental	\$ 100.00
Totals	0	939.5



# Sample Budget Narrative

*Summary of Proposal:*

*ABC Neighborhood Organization is seeking funds to beautify the entrance to our neighborhood. We purchased and installed a sign last year. This year we'd like to surround it with colorful shrubs and perennial plants. The new plantings will bring joy to residents as they enter the neighborhood and show passers-by that we take pride in our neighborhood.*

---

**Income #1:** We are requesting \$839.50 from CFNIL

**Income #2:** We are taking \$100 from our Council budget from neighborhood dues and fundraisers

**Expense #1:** Soil Preparation Materials – Peat moss 15 2 cu ft bags at \$5.30 each = \$79.50

**Expense #2:** Shrubs – (5) 3.5 gallon Pink Sandy Cherry bushes at \$40 each = \$200; (10) 2 gallon Pink Goldflame Spirea bushes at \$25 each = \$250

**Expense #3:** Perennials – (20) 3 qt Yellow Day Lillies @ \$6.50 = \$130

**Expense #4:** Bulk Bark Mulch – (3) cu yds at \$60 per yd = \$180

**Expense #5:** Incidentals – To cover unexpected expenses





# Reporting Requirements

- Must report on your project
- Due by December 1<sup>st</sup> of funded year
- Use CFNIL's Grants Portal to submit online



# Keep Us in the Loop!

- Grant Amendments
- Report Extensions
- Inability to implement project
- Share events & promotional opportunities



# Timeline

- Application opens March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Application closes April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- Reception May 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at CFNIL
- Reports due December 2, 2024



# Publicizing Your Neighborhood Grant

- When appropriate, yard sign
- Press Release
- Site Visit (aka grown-up field trip!)
- Social media
- T-shirt, program, posters



**Jennifer Smith**  
Engagement Director  
[jsmith@cfnil.org](mailto:jsmith@cfnil.org)  
779-210-8204



# Publicizing Your Neighborhood Grant



# Publicizing Your Neighborhood Grant



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Engagement Director  
[jsmith@cfnil.org](mailto:jsmith@cfnil.org)  
779-210-8204

# Who Can I Contact?

**Lisa DeLang**

[edelang@cfnil.org](mailto:edelang@cfnil.org)

779-210-8210

**James Patterson**

[jpatterson@cfnil.org](mailto:jpatterson@cfnil.org)

779-210-8206

**Jennifer Smith**

[jsmith@cfnil.org](mailto:jsmith@cfnil.org)

779-210-8204





# Questions?





# Thank You!

