

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The Neighborhood Grants Program is designed to promote resident participation and leadership while encouraging and supporting neighborhood groups that work to preserve and improve quality of life at the local level. Funding supports projects that bring neighbors together, strengthen community connections, and produce visible, meaningful improvements within defined geographic areas.



CRITERIA

Applications to the Neighborhood Grants Program should meet the following criteria:

- Promote resident participation and leadership.
- Encourage and support the work of neighborhood-based groups and organizations preserving and/or improving their neighborhood's quality of life.
- Invest in and build on the existing neighborhood strengths and assets.
- Promote civic pride in our community.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be an organized neighborhood group carrying out a charitable purpose for the common good
- Not be a 501(c)(3) organization or a religious organization
- Have at least three active leaders (i.e. President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.)
- Maintain a checking account in the name of the group or organization
- Operate without discrimination • Be located in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, or Winnebago County, Illinois
- Present a clear plan for a project that benefits residents within a defined geographic area
- Demonstrate the capacity to complete the proposed project within 10 months
- Be current on all final reports from any previously awarded Neighborhood Grants Program funding

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

We look for projects that:

- Are generated, led, and executed by residents of the neighborhood
- Build on the assets existing in the neighborhood, including using the skills of residents, involving youth, or working with an existing neighborhood group
- Encourage partnerships between residents, businesses, nonprofits, and institutions (i.e. schools or churches) within the neighborhood.

WHAT WE FUND

- Beautification Projects*
- Crime Prevention
- Neighborhood Cleanups
- 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 have a maintenance plan (e.g. watering, weeding).*

**Reforestation Projects: Trees must be planted in public/common areas, not private property.

WHAT WE WON'T FUND

Grants are NOT made for:

- Landscaping private property.
- Activities that primarily benefit non-resident individuals, organizations, or groups.
- 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.



SPECIFICATIONS

Because available funds are limited, the program criteria are very specific. Organizations considering applying must first contact Program and Administrative Associate Lisa DeLang at edelang@cfnil.org or 779-210-8210 to discuss their proposal.

- Applicants may request up to \$2,500 in each application.
- Organizations may receive one Neighborhood Grant per year.
- Organizations should expect to receive a decision from CFNIL within two weeks of submitting the application.
- Applications must be submitted through [CFNIL's Online Application Portal](#). The application is password protected; interested applicants must first contact Lisa to discuss their proposal and receive the password.

QUESTIONS?

To learn more and apply, visit cfnil.org/grants/neighborhood. If you have not yet created a portal account, follow the instructions on the [portal login page](#).

Need help creating your portal account? Questions about eligibility or your application? Get in touch! Call Lisa at 779-210-8210 or email at edelang@cfnil.org.

