



# NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS GUIDELINES

*a collaborative grantmaking program of*



## 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 grants from the Neighborhood Grants Program.

# WHAT WE LOOK FOR

HomeStart looks for projects that:

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

# 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).
- Landscape projects must have a maintenance plan (e.g., watering, weeding).

## Reforestation Projects

Trees can only be planted on public or common areas (not on private property).

**Please Note:** If requesting funds for a project similar to previously funded projects, you will need to provide a sustainability plan for future years.

# 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
- 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 February 11 to April 1, 2019. Applications must be submitted through CFNIL's Application Portal ([cfnil.spectrumportal.net](http://cfnil.spectrumportal.net)). To learn more, including how to apply, visit [cfnil.org/grants/register-and-apply](http://cfnil.org/grants/register-and-apply).

# QUESTIONS?

Questions about the Neighborhood Grants Program should be directed to NW HomeStart's Renee Luthe at 815-962-2011 or [reneel@nwhomestart.org](mailto:reneel@nwhomestart.org). Questions about the Web Portal should be directed to CFNIL Grants Officer James Patterson at [jpatterson@cfnil.org](mailto: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 NW HomeStart's website at [www.nwhomestart.org](http://www.nwhomestart.org).