



Community Innovation Fund

City of Minneapolis

Neighborhood and Community
Relations Department

Crown Roller Mill, Room 425

105 5th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr

Program Description:

The Community Innovation Fund provides grants to neighborhood organizations to foster innovative and locally-relevant approaches to City identified goals, which are listed in page two. The aim of the program is to provide funding for projects which test concepts in neighborhoods which can later be replicated throughout Minneapolis.

The program is also aimed at fostering collaboration between neighborhood organizations and between neighborhoods and other community-based organizations.

Funding Available:

For grants awarded for the years 2015-2016, \$300,000 in funding is available. Proposed grant requests must not exceed \$20,000 (the NCEC is considering a range from \$20,000 - \$30,000). There is no minimum amount which can be applied for.

Eligible Applicants:

Recognized neighborhood organizations in the City of Minneapolis.

Eligible Projects:

To be eligible for funding a project must be:

- A joint project of two or more neighborhood organizations, or;
- A joint project between a neighborhood organization and a community organization.

Projects must be designed to serve Minneapolis residents.

Ineligible Activities:

Fund raising, campaigning, lobbying.

Goals to be addressed:

Projects are to propose innovative approaches to addressing the following goals of the City of Minneapolis:

GOAL: One Minneapolis - Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper

- Racial inequities (including in housing, education, income and health) are addressed and eliminated.
- All people, regardless of circumstance, have opportunities for success at every stage of life.
- Equitable systems and policies lead to a high quality of life for all.
- All people have access to quality essentials, such as housing, education, food, child care and transportation.
- Residents are informed, see themselves represented in City government and have the opportunity to influence decision-making.

GOAL: Living well - Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life

- All neighborhoods are safe, healthy and uniquely inviting.
- High-quality, affordable housing choices exist for all ages, incomes and circumstances.
- Neighborhoods have amenities to meet daily needs and live a healthy life.
- High-quality and convenient transportation options connect every corner of the city.
- Residents and visitors have ample arts, cultural, entertainment and recreational opportunities.
- The city grows with density done well

City of Minneapolis goals adopted by the City Council on March 28, 2014

Project Timeline:

Projects receiving funding are expected to be initiated in 2015 and completed by year end 2016.

Applications:

Selection:

Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC).

The following general criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- How well the project addresses the City goals identified for the program.
- The degree of collaboration between neighborhoods or between neighborhoods and community-based organizations.
- If the proposed project demonstrates innovation.
- The level of participation by neighborhood residents in developing the proposal and the degree to which to project engages with residents.
- If the project is replicable elsewhere.
- Goals and outcomes of project are clear.
- Organizational and management capacity of the proposer to successfully complete the project.
- Budget fits goals and outcomes.

Not meeting any single criteria will not disqualify an application from consideration.

Reporting:

Payment of the grant funds will be on a reimbursement basis for actual costs incurred by the organization for implementation of the funded project.

After execution of a funding agreement, funding recipients must submit an interim report to the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department each six months during the course of the project. These interim reports will describe process on achieving the project goals. At the completion of the funding agreement, funding recipients will be expected to submit a final report to the NCR Department. Reports will include a final account of the use of funds, a description of the accomplishments of the project and how they relate to the project goals, and a description issues encountered in the project and recommendations for further work needed to address these issues.

Funded organizations will be expected to participate in the evaluation of the Community Innovation Fund.

Questions:

Contact Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, Howard.Blin@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3163.

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