



CFNIL NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois Neighborhood Grants Program provides support for neighbor-led and neighborhood-level efforts to strengthen our communities. Funds are allocated to the program each year and available until depleted; applications are accepted and awards made on a rolling basis. Because available funds are limited, program criteria are very specific.



CRITERIA

Applications to the Neighborhood Grants Program should meet one or more of 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

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must:

- Be a 501c3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency and/or an organized group carrying out a charitable purpose for the common good (i.e. a neighborhood association);
- Have a minimum of three active leaders (e.g. President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.);
- Have an established process to manage 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/group 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 within ten months; and
- Be current on all final reports for previously awarded Neighborhood Grants.



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, nonprofits, and institutions (i.e. schools or churches) within the neighborhood.

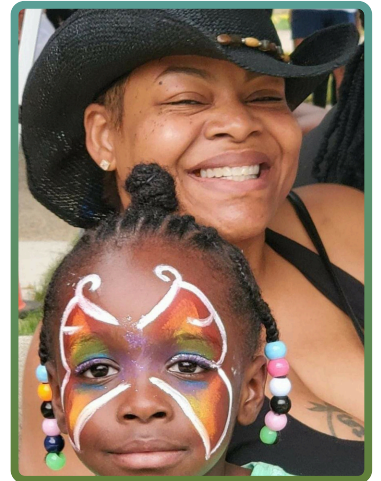
WHAT WE FUND

- 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 on public/common areas, not private property.*



2024 recipient Save Our Summer Foundation "Neighborhood Watch Block Party"

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.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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