



City of Raleigh

Neighborhood Improvement Funds Level I

Information Packet FY-17



**Housing and Neighborhoods Department
Community Engagement Division
919-996-6100
www.raleighnc.gov**

Table of Contents

Program Overview	3
Eligible Groups	4
Timeline	4
Eligible Projects	4

Note To Neighborhood Groups

We encourage you to call the City of Raleigh Community Engagement Division before you prepare your application. We can offer guidance and assistance to help you submit a successful application.

Housing and Neighborhoods Department
Community Engagement Division
919-996-6100
310 W. Martin St., Suite 201
Raleigh, NC 27601

Program Overview

What Are Neighborhood Improvement Funds?

Neighborhood Improvement Funds provide neighborhood groups with financial support from the City of Raleigh for projects that enhance and strengthen neighborhoods.

Residents design their own projects, drawing on their individual, group and community assets, skills and talents. Neighborhood groups are urged to develop proposals that make the most of resources and strengthen partnerships.

Community-building is core to the success of projects supported by Neighborhood Improvement Funds; the process of bringing people together and building relationships is as important as project results.

Funding Levels

Neighborhood Improvement Funds are available at two levels:

- **Level I** funding provides up to \$250 per project and does not require a neighborhood group to provide a matching amount.
- **Level II** funding provides \$251 to \$1,000 per project and requires a neighborhood organization to provide a match. An organization can provide its share of a project's cost through any combination of volunteer labor and donations of material, services, and cash. Information about Level II funding is available in a separate information packet.

Project Requirements

Many projects are eligible for Neighborhood Improvement Funds. To be considered for funding, a project must help build a stronger and healthier community. Projects must:

- Provide a public benefit and be free and open to all members of the community.
- Emphasize self help, with project ideas initiated, planned, and implemented by the neighbors and community members who will be affected by the project.
- Demonstrate community involvement or match.
- Occur within the City of Raleigh limits or its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

****Funds will not be approved for the continuation or duplication of the same project (i.e. any type of festival, celebration or gathering), even if it's submitted in a different fiscal year.**

Project Types

1. Neighborhood Organizing -- To create, diversify or expand an organization's membership for the benefit of the entire neighborhood or community.
2. Physical Improvement -- To make a physical improvement in a neighborhood or community.
3. Non-physical Improvement -- To organize and hold activities or events, such as a festival, celebration, training session, educational campaign or workshop.

Eligible Groups

Neighborhood-based organizations as well as groups of neighbors who do not belong to an organization are eligible for Level I Neighborhood Improvement Funds.

To receive funds, a group must demonstrate community input and involvement and show that the project will benefit the neighborhood. The project must take place within the City of Raleigh limits or its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Timeline

- Completed applications will be accepted through May 19, 2017.
- Applications must be received at least six weeks before the start of a project. We do not fund projects after the fact nor do we reimburse for projects that have already taken place once the application has been submitted.
- The Community Engagement Division of the Housing and Neighborhoods Department will decide whether to approve funding within three weeks of receiving an application.
- The organization or group receiving Neighborhood Improvement Funds must submit a final report to the Community Engagement Division after completing its project.

Examples of Projects

Level I funding can be used for a variety of events, activities and projects. Here are some examples:

- Community gardens and landscaping.
- Educational programs, such as lawn care, property maintenance and conflict resolution.
- Mailings to members of a neighborhood-based organization.
- Rental of meeting space when city facilities are unavailable.
- Membership in neighborhood organizations such as Neighborhoods USA, NeighborWorks and National Neighborhood Network.
- Newsletter or website development.
- Neighborhood festivals.
- Neighborhood signs.
- Plaques of nominal value to honor residents for volunteer contributions.
- Playground equipment.
- "Yard-of-the-Month" signs.
- Youth programs.
- Programs to engage seniors and people with disabilities or to cover transportation costs for those wishing to participate in a neighborhood project.
- Food for banquets, meetings, picnics or community festivals.