2019 Neighborhood Project Grants

125 Elton Hills Drive, Room 240 ● Rochester, MN 55901 ● 507.529.4150 ● www.RNeighbors.org

RNeighbors Neighborhood Project Grants

reimburse up to $1,000 in costs for neighborhoods to complete projects that:

- Enhance a neighborhood's livability and involvement
- Benefit the entire neighborhood
- Promote a strong sense of community.

Be creative. These non-revenue producing projects can include, but are not limited to, identification signage, bike racks, mini libraries or food pantries, pocket park improvements, physical activity opportunities, butterfly & rain gardens, native plantscaping and public art projects.

Total Neighborhood Project Grant Funding
- $8,000 for general neighborhood grants
- $2,000 for active living initiatives (Creative Crosswalks and community food gardens)

Project Partners

2019 Grant Overview

Eligible Applicants
- Only one grant application per neighborhood. Multiple projects may be bundled into one grant application.
- Eligible applicants include neighborhood associations. An unregistered group can submit a "letter of commitment" to form a neighborhood association by the end of the grant period in October.
    - A complete list of registered neighborhood associations is [online](#).
    - Creating a Neighborhood Association in Rochester is FREE. For neighborhood registration, or grant application questions, contact René Halasy, RNeighbors' Executive Director, at rene@RNeighbors.org.

Active Living Initiative Grant
If awarded an active living initiative grant, neighborhood associations are expected to continue to maintain the community garden or creative crosswalk beyond the initial grant year. For this reason, please include additional supplies for continued maintenance beyond year one in your grant application.

- **Creative Crosswalks**
  Creative Crosswalks enables neighborhoods to creatively paint a crosswalk, bringing art to a barren space while emphasizing a safe crosswalk. Appropriate locations include where crosswalks need to be improved or highlighted and must align with the City of Rochester's Revocable Permit for the program. For example the intended street must carry less than 2,000 vehicles on an average day. Crosswalks that link sidewalks or trails are preferable. Connect with René at RNeighbors who can work with Public Works to help determine an ideal location and provide a step-by-step guide for the project.

- **Community Food Garden**
  Allowable expenses include start-up gardening supplies (such as shovels, rakes, hoses, seeds, starter plants, and dirt), materials to construct raised bed gardens, signage, fencing, and garden watering equipment. Unallowable expenses include large sheds, underground irrigation systems, land rentals for gardens, liability insurance, labor to install garden, goods or services for personal use, or other costs incurred prior to grant award.

General Requirements (continued on page 3)
- Successful projects focus on improving a neighborhood's community involvement and livability.
- A final report MUST be completed at the end of the grant cycle or the Neighborhood Association will be ineligible for grant funds the following year. The final report question will be provided upon notification of successful grant award to ensure data tracking is easy and accessible from the start of the project. *This information is imperative for RNeighbors to continue receiving grant funds for Rochester neighborhoods.*
- Projects with matching funds and/or in-kind labor (e.g., volunteer time, donated supplies, discounted materials, etc.) will be given greater consideration for grant funding. Examples of eligible match include volunteer labor, donations of equipment, materials or a monetary match from neighborhood association members or donors.
- A budget of all project expenses must be included with the application.
- Project photos are required to be submitted and may be used by RNeighbors on the website, community presentations and/or social media.
- Neighborhood associations are limited to one grant application per registered association up to $1,000. The application may encompass many projects in one application. For example, a neighborhood could request $500 for a community garden, $100 for a mini library, and $400 for a unique social event. The project oversight should be directed by the elected Neighborhood Association leaders with designated project leads to ensure cohesion amongst various projects.
- All projects must adhere to the City of Rochester's ordinance and approval processes.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. *RNeighbors staff is available to assist with application questions.*
- Allowable expenses include (but are not limited to) project materials, rental equipment costs, specialized labor (arborist, heavy equipment operator, muralist, etc.), landfill fees, supplies (paint, gloves, garbage bags, etc.) and

delivery charges.

- Unallowable expenses include grant writing, routine maintenance, ongoing operating expenses, advertising and promotion, sponsorship of ongoing program efforts through another entity (e.g., Police Department's neighborhood dog walker watch program), unspecialized labor costs, yard equipment (exception for community food garden grants), food and beverages, facility rental, after-event parties, or any expenditure deemed to be inconsistent with the grant program purpose or not allowed by law or ordinance.

Neighborhood Project Grants Timeline
Application Deadline: Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 5 pm

- All applications must be submitted to RNeighbors via email at rene@RNeighbors.org.
- Applicants must complete an application and attach necessary supporting documentation. Please read all of the instructions carefully before filling out the application. It is extremely important to fill out the application form properly. If in doubt, ask questions.
- If your request is approved, you must adhere to your application throughout the grant's duration. This includes the project scope, budget worksheet and submitting a final report by the deadline. We realize that project circumstances change and we want you to succeed. Ask questions. RNeighbors can help you navigate necessary changes.
- We'll be highlighting some grants in a video presentation. Scheduling a time to work with RNeighbors and the videographer may be necessary so we can tell your project's success story.

Notification of Awards: Friday, April 6, 2019

The 2019 grant winners will be posted publicly at RNeighbors.org. All applicants will be notified via email communicating their grant status.

Project Completion Deadline: Tuesday, October 30, 2019

Project Evaluation and Selection

The Neighborhood Project Grant selection team will review the submittals based on their merits and make recommendations to the RNeighbors Board of Directors for final decisions. Keep in mind that Neighborhood Project Grants are competitive, and the number and size of awards are limited by the amount of available funding.

Applications will be reviewed and selected based on the project's ability to reflect the following objectives.

- Empower citizen leaders
- Foster a vibrant, healthy and livable community
- Nurture citizen involvement for positive change

Need More Information? Contact René Halasy at rene@RNeighbors.org.

Additional Community Grants (available separate from the Neighborhood Project Grants)

- **Rain Garden Cost-Share Grant**
  Thinking about adding a rain garden to your landscape? It's never too early to start planning! Rain Gardens reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Rochester residents, schools, and community organizations are eligible to apply for a cost-share grant to help install a rain garden on their property that is within Rochester's City Limits. Grant awards will match 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of $750. Learn more at www.rochesterstormwater.com.
- **RNeighborWoods Tree Grant**
  Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, RNeighbors, the City of Rochester and RPU offer a grant for a winning neighborhood to receive 25 free boulevard trees. In addition to helping plant the trees, neighborhoods need to work with their neighbors to determine appropriate tree locations with final approval from City Forestry. www.RNeighbors.org