
COMMUNITY LEADERS GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

Grant Goal

To award grants of up to \$5,000 to community building projects carried out by resident-led groups to address issues they identify as important to them. Our grant making focuses on supporting projects that improve neighborhood life, strengthen local leadership, and scale community partnerships. Grassroots leaders know and have what it takes to roll up their sleeves and make change to boost civic engagement, neighborhood wealth, and community health.

CitizensNYC has a limited amount of funds that we can give out every year. This document outlines how we review applications based on our funding availability.

ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

A 'NO' RESPONSE TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW = INELIGIBLE

- ☒ Community group (>2 volunteers involved)
- ☒ Within one of the five boroughs of NYC
- ☒ Nonprofit or grassroots volunteer groups, not profit-generating entity
- ☒ Budget under \$250,000 (schools are exempt)
- ☒ Not promoting religious, political and any other ideology
- ☒ Not a chapter or affiliate of a larger organization

SCORING CRITERIA

01 | CLARITY

Are the descriptions of the project and its goals clear? Is the outreach strategy clear? Is the work plan adequately detailed, focused, realistic and clear? Does it support project goals?

03 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Is the project expected to build community engagement and capacity for the future?

02 | QUALITY OF LIFE IMPACT

Is the project expected to improve quality of life issues identified by residents and community members?

04 | NEED

Does the proposal clearly convey that the project is warranted and needed in identified neighborhood or for a particular community (identity-based)?

QUALITY OF LIFE EXPLAINED

MAJOR IMPROVEMENT

The impact of the project is anticipated to be lasting (longer than one year) and notice on a daily or almost daily basis. For example,

- Transforming an abandoned, crime-ridden lot into a multi-use community garden where residents begin growing produce and feel safe within the timeline of the project, or creating a new summer internship program for local youth to lead a community farmers market, where youth train new interns for the following year.

MODERATE IMPROVEMENT

The project is anticipated to either initiate or complete an effort that is anticipated to have a strong impact on the quality of life. The impact is anticipated to last for several months or longer and is noticed on a weekly basis. For example,

- Cleaning up an abandoned, crime-ridden lot in preparation for establishing a multi-use community garden, creating an athletic program that will last for a season or creating a new youth internship program that lasts for a year.

MINOR IMPROVEMENT

The project is anticipated to create a temporary (a few weeks or less) impact on the improvement to the quality of life issues identified by residents or community members. For example,

- Making improvements to an established community garden, hosting a weekend job fair, or continuing an internship program that existed a previous year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPLAINED

MAJOR IMPROVEMENT

- The community group will expand the number of members within the group who are representative of the community; the community group will strengthen its relationships to other organizations, community groups, city services, or public representative (i.e. co-facilitating workshops or engaging partners in ongoing work); the project involves a newly formed group that has an established organizational structure.
- Alternatively, the project will establish an ongoing forum, space, or activity for community residents to interact around common interests such as history, art, culture, or physical activities.

MODERATE IMPROVEMENT

Forming a new community group that has an established organizational structure; expanding group membership; the group is strengthening relationships with other organizations, community groups, city services, or public representatives. (i.e. having a partner organization take part in a workshop series as a participant)

MINOR IMPROVEMENT

Bringing community members and residents together to participate in a one-time social or stewardship activity (i.e. learning/artistic/cultural event, clean-up or gardening event); making small steps towards building relationships with other organizations, community groups, city services, or public representatives (i.e. sending a newsletter to community groups to inform them of a workshop)