

BLOCK-BY-BLOCK

Neighborhood Pride Grant Program

Block-by-Block Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Have you ever had a good idea for a project that would improve the quality of life in your neighborhood, but you didn't know where to get the money to make it happen?

Through the Block-by-Block Neighborhood Pride Grant Program, the City of Norfolk will fund opportunities for neighbors to work together to design, develop and implement their own neighborhood improvement ideas and projects.

This FAQ sheet will address some of your questions on how to make your idea a reality in your neighborhood.

WHAT KIND OF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH BLOCK-BY-BLOCK?

Mini-grants of up to \$500 and 50/50 Matching grants of up to \$2,500 are available. For the matching grant, awardees must provide a match (monetary, volunteer hours, and/or in-kind donations and services) for whatever funds they request.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any Norfolk civic league or neighborhood association that is a legal entity with non-profit status is eligible to apply.

HOW DOES OUR CIVIC LEAGUE BECOME A LEGAL ENTITY?

Information on becoming a not-for-profit legal entity in the state of Virginia is available online: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/clk/busdef.aspx>

The application SCC819 (Articles of Incorporation of a Virginia Nonstock Corporation) is also available online: http://www.scc.virginia.gov/clk/vanon_corp.aspx

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS CAN QUALIFY FOR A GRANT?

The grant review and selection committee will be looking for projects that provide opportunities for neighbors to become engaged with one another and that improve the quality of life in the community in which they live. A few examples are:

Eligible Project Types may include:

- **Beautification/Landscaping** – community gardens, neighborhood gateways, bark parks, pocket parks, community art projects, and neighborhood playground landscaping and/or equipment installation park projects (*If the proposed project is on private land, grant applicant must provide written proof of permission to use by property owner, and project must be located in a highly visible area and provide a permanent improvement to the area*).
- **Skill Building Workshops and Trainings** – career days for neighborhood youth; job readiness/workforce development program for young adults; how to establish a 501c3/non-profit training; computer training for seniors (taught by youth); programming for school-age children; health awareness fair; neighborhood conference participation
- **Environmental Enhancement Projects** – wetlands restoration, rain gardens, shoreline buffer restoration (coordinate approvals with appropriate City departments i.e. Recreation, Parks and Open Space – Parks & Forestry and/or Planning – Environmental Services)

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- **Neighborhood Pride Building Activities/Events** – “National Night Out” celebrations, history walk of neighborhood (by seniors/adults for youth), Neighborhood Watch/safety fair, “back to school” celebration, neighborhood holiday celebration, “Good Neighbor” celebration, neighborhood newsletter or website, neighborhood art exhibit, neighborhood reunion/block party,
- **Supplies, Equipment and Tools** – Neighborhood tool lending program, neighborhood tool shed, Neighborhood sign program
- Ongoing or existing projects/events may be considered *if* the proposal enhances or adds value to the projects/events. (*Example:* Accessibility ramps/walkways are added at an existing dog park).

HOW WILL THE PROJECTS BE SELECTED?

Applications will first be screened to make sure they are complete and qualify for the program. Qualifying applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of Norfolk residents and city staff.

WHERE CAN WE GET AN APPLICATION?

You may contact the Department of Communications at 757-664-6772 to request an application packet via mail; pick one up at City Hall, 810 Union Street, Suite 509; or get one online at www.norfolk.gov/neighborhoodgrants (<http://www.norfolk.gov/index.aspx?nid=609>)

HOW CAN I RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/WILL THERE BE HELP IN COMPLETING THE APPLICATIONS?

There are three main ways to receive additional information and/or assistance:

1. *Contact your Neighborhood Development Specialist for one-on-one technical assistance*
www.norfolk.gov/NeighborhoodServiceAreas
(<http://va-norfolk.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=923>) or call the Bureau of Community Enrichment at 664-6772.
2. *Attend a Block-by-Block Application Workshop*
When: Saturday, September 7, 2013 10:30 a.m. - noon
Where: Mary D. Pretlow Library, 111 W. Ocean View Avenue, 23503

OR
When: Thursday, September 12, 2013 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Where: Norview Community Center, 6380 Sewells Point Road, 23513.
To register: Call 664-6772 or email community.enrichment@norfolk.gov
3. Download Block-by-Block Program description and guidelines at:
www.norfolk.gov/neighborhoodgrants (<http://www.norfolk.gov/index.aspx?nid=609>)

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WHERE DO WE SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION?

Applicants may either drop off or mail completed packets to: Department of Communications
810 Union Street, Suite 509, Norfolk, VA, 23510, *ATTN: Michelle Johnson*

WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

Application packets must be received no later than close of business on Tuesday October 15, 2013.

WHEN WILL AWARDS BE ANNOUNCED?

Awards will be announced in January 2014.