

The Strong & Sustainable Neighborhood Grant Program

The Strong & Sustainable Neighborhood Grant Program assists neighborhood and homeowner associations with projects that range from signage to community gardens. This umbrella program consists of both the Neighborhood Grant Program and the Gateway Grant Program. These matching grant programs create a mutually beneficial partnership between the neighborhoods and the City.

Who can apply?

Neighborhood and homeowner associations that are registered with the City of College Station's Neighborhood Partnership Program will be given priority status in selection of grant projects. Non-registered associations are eligible for funds for neighborhood and community-building projects, but not for physical projects such as gateway signage. Neighborhoods with recently completed neighborhood plans are also eligible for funding from both grant categories and are also given priority status when applications are evaluated.

What are considered Neighborhood and Community Building Grant Projects?

These are projects intended to strengthen the quality of life and integrity of a neighborhood. Some examples are one-time events such as a neighborhood cleanup, a National Night Out party, a community garden, or hosting a training session or workshop. These projects are intended to bring the community together.

How does it work?

The program provides 50 percent matching funds to assist neighborhood/homeowner associations with qualifying and eligible projects. The program operates on a reimbursement basis. Groups cannot begin their projects before receiving official notification from the city that their grant application has been approved. Upon completion of the approved project, invoices are turned in to the city and the group will receive the grant funds.



Gateway Grant Criteria/Eligibility:

- Gateway Grant funds can be used for gateway or identification signage, landscaping and beautification projects
- The Design Review Board's role will remain the same in the review process. They will only be responsible for gateway projects that require design/structural review.
- There is only one grant cycle per year with applications being given out in February and returned for review in April.
- The grant program will remain a matching funds program where neighborhoods are reimbursed up to 50 percent of the total project costs.
- Grant applications for gateway projects will continue to be reviewed and scored by the Neighborhood Services Coordinator and a panel of city employees from various departments.
- Neighborhoods that receive funding for gateway projects are not eligible to receive additional funding for the next five years.
- Gateway Grant funds cannot be used for maintenance or upkeep of previous projects completed by the neighborhoods.
- Once awarded funding, neighborhoods will have one calendar year to complete projects.

Grants will be evaluated on the following:

- Registered with the City's Neighborhood Partnership Program/Neighborhood Planning Area (20 points)
- Neighborhood Participation & Involvement (20 Points)
- Community Benefit (20 Points)**
- Matching donations and volunteer hours contributed toward the event (20 Points)
- Project consistency with established Program goals (20 Points)

Neighborhood Grant Program Criteria/Eligibility:

- Registered neighborhood associations, HOAs and residents of a neighborhood planning area can use funds.
- Neighborhood plan implementation items identified by residents are allowed to receive neighborhood grant funds.
- Neighborhoods can continue to apply for grants for neighborhood projects, one-time projects, application fees for planning projects community building projects and other small projects. However, preference will be given to neighborhood plan identified projects.
- For neighborhood plan identified items, the number of items selected for completion will depend on available grant funds.
- The timeframe for completion of neighborhood plan improvement items will be one calendar year.

What activities or groups are NOT eligible for funding?

- Political Campaigning**
- Alcohol purchases**
- Association business expenses** or trips
- Persons or an individual business**
- Religious organizations**
- Maintenance and up keep** of existing neighborhood projects

Deadlines:

Applications will be available at the Feb. 23 Pre-Application Grant Meeting at 11 a.m. in College Station City Hall Council Chambers. All associations interested in applying for grant funds should plan to attend. Application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 6.

Submission Format:

Applications can be submitted electronically, in person or by mail. If submitting by mail, please send to: Neighborhood Services, City of College Station, 1101 Texas Avenue, College Station, TX 77842. To hand-deliver grant applications, please bring them to the Neighborhood Services Office in City Hall at 1101 Texas Avenue.

Process of Awards:

Neighborhood Grant applications will be reviewed by a city staff committee for recommended approval or denial and level of funding. The committee will handle Gateway Grant applications in the same manner.

Notice of Award of Funds:

All applicants who have been awarded funds will receive a letter from Neighborhood Services noting their award amount. Those not awarded funds will receive letters, as well.

Gateway Grant Process:

The Gateway Grant process requires plans and applications be submitted to the Planning Department. These projects require a Pre-Application meeting among applicants and Planning Department staff. The project will be assigned to a planner and an engineer to guide the project through the planning process. Once the planning process is complete, the project goes before the city's Design Review Board for review of materials used and the soundness and stability of the plans and project. Upon DRB approval, applicants may begin work on the project.

Contracts:

Applicants awarded funds will sign a contract with the City agreeing to use the funds as described in their applications. Likewise, the contract will set out all stipulations and requirements on the use of city funds projects.

Timeframe to use funds: All funds must be used within one year of the date of funds being awarded.



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For more information,
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**GRANT
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