Neighborhood Grant Program Overview

The City of Arvada offers two grant opportunities for neighborhood groups: the **Neighborhood Improvement Grant** (up to $3,000) and **Neighborhood Mini Grants** (up to $100, $250 and $500) with the goal of promoting positive neighboring activities and community improvement with three focus areas in mind:

- **Connection:** Provide welcoming and inclusive gathering spaces and opportunities for neighbors to celebrate one another, grow social networks and reduce social isolation.

- **Sustainability:** Become an active partner in making Arvada a vibrant and sustainable community by demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship, resource conservation and community vitality.

- **Resilience:** Grow and expand your neighborhood’s ability to respond, adapt and recover from disruption. A resilient neighborhood is one that is able to survive and thrive after a shock or stressor such as a natural disaster, water shortage or economic downturn.

Successful projects will demonstrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Involvement</th>
<th>Neighborhood Improvement</th>
<th>Project Readiness</th>
<th>Longevity</th>
<th>Commitment to Focus Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Includes opportunity for broad neighborhood participation and volunteerism</td>
<td>Benefits the entire neighborhood and community at large</td>
<td>Includes project action plan showcasing potential outcomes</td>
<td>Incorporates detailed long-term maintenance plan or demonstration of lasting connections</td>
<td>Demonstrates a commitment to the three focus areas of: connection, sustainability and resilience</td>
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We believe that every neighborhood deserves a great community space -- one that residents can take ownership of and make their own. Your neighborhood may already have an informal place where “neighboring” happens, such as a front porch where you get together on warm evenings, a local park where pets greet each other or a neighborhood garden where information and “hellos” are shared. This grant is an opportunity to activate these places by providing resources to design the most successful and long-lasting neighborhood gathering space possible.

**Purpose:**

Continuing with Arvada’s vision of being a strong, resilient community of neighborhoods, the City invites neighborhood groups to submit grant proposals for the **2022 Neighborhood Improvement Grant** of up to $3,000. The primary purpose of this grant is to activate or establish welcoming neighborhood gathering places that encourage conversation and connection. The goal of this grant is to bring positive, permanent assets into each neighborhood that build connection and encourage the sharing of information on needs and resources, as well as spark conversations about community health, emergency preparedness, safety and environmental stewardship. The most successful projects will demonstrate a commitment to the three focus areas: connection, sustainability and resilience.

**Application Requirements:**

- Groups must be enrolled in Neighbors Connected in order to apply. If not yet enrolled, visit arvada.org/neighborhoods to sign up.
- Applicant(s) must be a resident or property owner in the City of Arvada.
- Completed application form including a completed **Budget Planning and Match Contributions Sheet**, project location or map of the area, and photos must be submitted online at arvada.org/grants by the deadline of Friday, April 1 at 5 p.m.
- The **Budget Planning and Match Contributions Sheet** can be found online at arvada.org/grants.

- All applicable permitting fees remain in effect; City permits are required and are **NOT** waived as part of the grant process. Fees for items including, but not limited to, building permits, fence/wall permits and sign permits must be submitted to the City of Arvada prior to construction installation. Please keep this in mind with formulating your grant budget.

- For projects involving improvements to property owned by public or private entities, property owner approval is required at time of application and must be included in the application. For improvements to City property, the appropriate City department will provide permission and approval during the application review process.

- Neighborhoods with a Homeowner’s Association (HOA) must include in the application why the project cannot be funded through (HOA) funding.

- All grant projects require a 25 percent match of the amount requested through community contributions. These contributions may include: volunteer time, donated materials, donated services and cash contributions. A minimum of 10 percent must be provided in the form of volunteer time to showcase neighborhood engagement and a significant portion of the match must come from the neighborhood impacted by the project. Volunteer hours are valued at $25/hour. This information must be demonstrated in the **Budget Planning and Match Contributions Sheet**.
### Key Details:

- Three grants of **up to $3,000** will be awarded.
- Applicants must be willing to work closely with appropriate City staff to ensure compliance with Arvada building codes and ADA accessibility guidelines.
- A neighborhood may only receive funding for a **Neighborhood Improvement Grant** once per calendar year and cannot receive a grant two years in a row.
- All proposed projects must be open, welcoming, and inclusive of all neighbors.
- Application opens **Tuesday, March 1 at 8 a.m.** and runs until **Friday, April 1 at 5 p.m.** The application can be found online at [arvada.org/grants](http://arvada.org/grants).
- Grants will be provided on a reimbursement basis at the completion of the project(s) or event(s) stated in the application. **PLEASE NOTE:** the City offers alternative reimbursement plans for applicants facing financial hardship.
- All projects and events must be completed by **Monday, Dec. 2** in order to receive reimbursement.

If you are selected, you will be required to sign and submit a **Grant Agreement Form** prior to beginning your project. Following the completion of your project, you must submit the items listed below to [neighborhoods@arvada.org](mailto:neighborhoods@arvada.org) no later than **Friday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.**

- Grant report including the project's final location/address
- Three photos showcasing your project
- Itemized receipts
- Reimbursement form
- Online evaluation

### Previously Funded Projects:

- Benches added to public gathering spaces
- New trees along a neighborhood walkway
- A community bulletin board
- Shade structures in a nearby park
- New neighborhood entry signage
- Materials to build a Free Little Library, community pantry or seed bank
- Community mural
- Garden infrastructure

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### Neighborhood Improvement Grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications Open</th>
<th>Applications Close</th>
<th>Award Decisions</th>
<th>Projects Begin</th>
<th>Projects Complete</th>
<th>Final Grant Report and Reimbursement Materials Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Mid-April</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
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Review Process:
All applications are reviewed by a cross-departmental team of City staff following the application deadline. Applications are rated on a point system for neighborhood involvement, neighborhood improvement, project readiness, longevity and a commitment to the three focus areas of: connection, sustainability and resilience.

Applications will earn points for projects that:
- Includes opportunity for broad neighborhood participation and volunteerism
- Benefits the entire neighborhood and community at large
- Are located on public property
- Includes project action plan showcasing potential outcomes
- Incorporates detailed long-term maintenance plan
- Highlights how the project will further the program’s goals of improving connection among neighbors and making communities more environmentally sustainable and resilient

Additional points and consideration will be given to:
- New neighborhood groups who have not received an award in the past two years.
- Traditional neighborhoods that do not have additional funding sources available.
- Neighborhoods that continue to engage with the City through regular participation in Neighborhood Leader Network meetings and other City events.
We WILL NOT fund projects that:

- Are not free, visible and accessible to the public
- Occur outside of Arvada city limits
- Do not have proper permitting and do not adhere to City codes and regulations
- Are associated with educational, religious or political organizations or use funding for cash prizes, field trips or admissions
- Are a duplication of an existing private or public program
- Are ongoing and/or already established
- Are a replacement of funding lost from other sources
- Are used to cover maintenance costs, motor vehicles or electronic devices, salaries or planning efforts
Neighborhood Mini Grants

Purpose
Creating inclusive social opportunities for neighbors to come together is one way neighborhoods grow stronger and more resilient. The City invites neighborhood groups to submit grant proposals for 2022 Neighborhood Mini Grants of up to $100, $250 and $500. The primary purpose of these grants is to fund projects that build lasting positive relationships among neighbors by supporting neighborhood service projects, social gatherings and workshops.

### Application Requirements
- Groups must be enrolled in Neighbors Connected in order to apply. If not yet enrolled, visit arvada.org/neighborhoods to sign up.
- Applicant(s) must be a resident or property owner in the City of Arvada.
- You must indicate which grant you are applying to in your application and share an itemized project budget to justify your selection. Applicants may only apply for up to one $100 grant and one $250 or $500 grant each round. Applicants who are awarded a grant during Round 1 may submit additional applications during Round 2, however priority will be given to applicants who have not yet applied to receive a grant.
- Completed application form including the specific location of the proposed project or event must be submitted online at arvada.org/grants beginning Tuesday, March 1 at 8 a.m. for Round 1 and Monday, May 2 at 8 a.m. for Round 2.

### Intended Use

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Intended Use</th>
<th>Up to $100</th>
<th>Up to $250</th>
<th>Up to $500</th>
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<td>To be used to purchase food and non-alcoholic beverages to be served at a neighborhood event or supplies for a neighborhood clean-up.</td>
<td>To be used to offset the costs of hosting small neighborhood events or projects. See previously funded projects section for ideas.</td>
<td>To be used to offset the costs of projects or events that require greater financial support. See previously funded projects section for ideas.</td>
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<td>Provided in the form of a preloaded $100 King Soopers gift card or $50 Home Depot gift card.</td>
<td>Provided on a reimbursement basis following the completion of the projects or events stated in the application.</td>
<td>Will be provided on a reimbursement basis following the completion of the projects or events stated in the application.</td>
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### Grant Reimbursement

- Provided in the form of a preloaded $100 King Soopers gift card or $50 Home Depot gift card. Provided on a reimbursement basis following the completion of the projects or events stated in the application. Will be provided on a reimbursement basis following the completion of the projects or events stated in the application.
Block Party Permit fees will be waived and are REQUIRED at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled event if you plan to close a street or host an event in a public park. All other applicable permitting fees remain in effect. These include building permits and sign permits. For more information about applying for a Block Party Permit, visit arvada.org/blockpartypermit.

No match is required.

We WILL NOT fund projects that:

- Are for outside groups. Grant funding should benefit your neighbors
- Occur outside of Arvada city limits
- Do not have proper permitting and do not adhere to City codes and regulations
- Are associated with educational, religious or political organizations or use funding for cash prizes, field trips or admissions
- Include alcohol, cigarettes, and any illegal substances in the proposed grant budget

Key Dates:

<table>
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<th>Round</th>
<th>Application Opens</th>
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<td>June 1</td>
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Key Details:

Applications for **Round 1** open starting **Tuesday, March 1 at 8 a.m.** and will be accepted until **Friday, April 1 at 5 p.m.** Applications for **Round 2** will open **Monday, May 2 at 8 a.m.** and will be accepted until **Wednesday, June 1 at 5 p.m.** All projects and events must be completed by **Monday, Dec. 2** in order to receive reimbursement.

If you are selected, you will be required to sign and submit a **Grant Agreement Form** prior to beginning your project or hosting your event. Following the completion of your project or event, you must submit the items listed below to **neighborhoods@arvada.org** no later than **Friday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.**

- Brief project summary including the project’s final location/address
- Three photos showcasing your project/event
- Itemized receipts
- Reimbursement form

**Previously Funded Projects:**

- Food and supplies for a neighborhood BBQ and ice cream social
- Live entertainment for a block party or neighborhood gathering
- Plants, soil, and mulch to jump-start a neighborhood garden
- Supplies for a neighborhood trail clean-up and shirts for volunteers
- Sports equipment for an annual neighborhood kickball tournament
- Holiday dinner and mailbox decorating contest
- Free Little Library, community pantry, or seed bank project
Other Ideas Include:

- Composting, xeriscaping, or bee conservation lunch and learn
- Neighborhood entryway beautification project and breakfast
- Public art showcase
- Dancing and dessert under the stars
- Materials to host a neighborhood school supply or food drive
- Memorial tree planting event
- Outdoor yoga or bike clinic at a local park

Review Process:

All applications are reviewed by a cross-departmental team of City staff following each round’s application deadline. Applications are rated on a point system for neighborhood involvement, neighborhood improvement, project readiness and longevity. Applicants must briefly explain in their application how their project or event will align with at least TWO of the focus areas of connection, sustainability and resilience.

Questions?

Contact Candice Giffin, Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator, at 720-898-7535 or email neighborhoods@arvada.org.