

# Neighborhood Partnership Grant Application

**Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026**

**(Cycle A)**



**Due date on or before:  
Monday, August 25, 2025, by 4:00 pm**

***NOTES:*** *All required back-up material (quotes, meeting minutes, etc.) must be submitted with this application in order to be accepted.*

*Grant applications will go before the City Commission on October 20, 2025, therefore, no grant projects should commence until after this date.*

# ***Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program Guidelines***

## **Program Intent**

The intent of the Neighborhood Grant Program is to assist and strengthen the City of Sarasota neighborhood associations and improve the quality of life within City neighborhoods.

## **Eligible Applicants**

Neighborhood, Resident, Homeowner, and Not-For-Profit Business District Associations and Coalitions of Associations, located within the City of Sarasota, and on record with the Planning Department, are eligible for grant funding.

Neighborhood Partnership Grant applications will be acceptable until **Monday, August 25, 2025, 4:00 PM**. Applications must be hand-delivered by appointment to the Neighborhood Planner, City of Sarasota, 1575 Second St, 4th Fl, Sarasota, FL 34236. All required back-up material (quotes, meeting Minutes, etc.) must be included with the application in order to be accepted. Applications received after the deadline date and time will be disqualified.

Only one grant application per City recognized association will be funded per fiscal year. Funds will be allocated based on average scores of applications in descending order until funds are depleted. The average scores are derived from the members of the Grant Review Committee.

## **Available Funding**

The maximum award amount is **\$2,000** per City recognized association, per fiscal year. Associations with 1,000 parcels/units or more may request up to **\$3,000**. A 50% match is required at all levels. For example: A request for \$2,000 in grant funds requires matching funds in the amount of \$1,000—the total project cost would be at least \$3,000. Matching funds may be in the form of volunteer labor (\$25/hr), donated services, goods/materials, in-kind contributions, and/or cash. The match must be substantiated with a signed Contribution/Match Worksheet (page 6) as part of the neighborhood grant application. City resources may not be used as matching funds. Matching funds are not transferable to other projects.

Grant funds are to be disbursed as either direct payments to vendors or reimbursements to associations with a valid checking account. In order to reimburse an association, the following items must be submitted: 1) Invoice from the association to the City of Sarasota; 2) Vendor invoice(s) marked "paid" and/or credit card receipts; 3) Copy of front & back of canceled checks to vendor(s) and/or credit card statements paying vendor(s). Associations without a valid checking account will be limited only to direct payment to vendors. NOTE: All vendors receiving direct payment from the City must be on record in the City's financial system, if not, they must complete a W-9 & Vendor form.

No grant expenses should be incurred before the City Commission meeting on **October 20, 2025** and staff authorization. After the City Commission's approval, the Association's president/chairperson will be required to sign a Grant Agreement before any funds will be distributed. All grant funds must be spent prior to **September 25, 2026**. Any proposed changes to approved project/program funding must first be thoroughly explained in writing and show evidence of association support. Staff has the ability to approve or deny proposed changes.

## **Application Requirements**

- All questions/worksheets must be thoroughly completed.
- All projects/programs must demonstrate the potential to benefit the neighborhood.
- Evidence of association consensus for the project must be provided.
- All project improvements and installations (such as signage and landscaping) must be on public land.
- The original application must be completed and signed by the neighborhood association/entity president or chairperson.

## **Responsibilities of Applicant**

- The applicant and/or contractor awarded the work must obtain all appropriate permits prior to project initiation, if applicable.
- The applicant and/or contractor awarded the work must adhere to all applicable City Codes.
- Substantiation of individual budget amounts being requested is required as set forth below and the vendor with the lowest quote will be awarded the work:

\$250.00 or less	No quotes necessary
<b>\$250.01 and above</b>	<b>Three (3) written quotes from vendors</b>
- All projects/events must be completed and funds expended by September 25, 2026.
- Payments to contractor/distributors that are in excess or outside of the grant award and arranged by the applicant are the responsibility of the applicant. The City shall not be held responsible for arrangements of services made by the applicant.
- Any proposed project which may be considered an increase to the City's standard level of service may require a maintenance agreement and proof of liability insurance as a condition of grant approval.

## ***Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program Guidelines (continued)***

### **Projects for Consideration**

The following is a sample list of projects/programs to be considered for funding. Ideas are not limited to this list – neighborhood leaders are encouraged to be creative in addressing their individual neighborhood needs:

- **Beautification** – community clean-ups, landscaping in public right-of-way, minor park improvements, public art.
- **Children/Youth** – short-term neighborhood operated programs which would benefit children (after-school/summer program, tutoring/mentoring), neighborhood-based sporting events.
- **Communication/Membership** – website creation, newsletters, membership drives, postcard mailings, yard signs, member directories.
- **Crime** – signage, newsletters and items associated with neighborhood crime watch operations.
- **Events** – supplies, notices, entertainment, free giveaway items, equipment rentals such as A/V, stages, portalets. *(NOTE: Must obtain applicable City event permits and this grant cannot be used to purchase food or beverages)*
- **Identity** – neighborhood signs, logo design, membership t-shirts, and magnets (light pole banners are excluded).

The following is a sample list of projects/programs that would **not** be eligible for funding:

- Capital items (any individual item over \$500 that would require tracking by City property control).
- Computer hardware/software and other electronic devices and related equipment.
- Food and/or provisions for festivals/celebrations.
- Ongoing multi-year projects.
- Operational costs, including salaries/personnel, annual registration fees for incorporation, and annual website/email hosting fees.
- Projects/programs already funded from another source (including current operating budgets).
- Projects/programs that have already been completed.
- Projects typically funded under other sources such as City (or County) department operating budgets, Capital Improvement Program, Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Projects which conflict with existing City plans/policies.

### **Application Scoring and Ranking**

Each application may be given a maximum of 110 points as follows: **Project Description** (20 points) - *How well does the application clearly describe the project and its goals?* **Demonstration of Community Need** (20 points) - *How well does the application describe, communicate/address a community need?* **Evidence of Community/Association Strengthening** (20 points) - *Does the project have the potential to strengthen the overall neighborhood and association?* **Community Support** (20 points) - *Does the application show evidence of community consensus for the project and resident involvement in the implementation?* **Appropriateness of Proposed Budget** (20 points) - *Are the budget revenues and expenses clear and justifiable, funding source(s) appropriate?* **Bonus** (10 points) - *Up to ten (10) additional bonus points may be allocated through the incorporation of sustainable/"green" initiatives that are directly related to the project and documented in the grant application.*

The "average score" derived from the Grant Review Committee will be determined by dividing the total points given to an application by the number of scores. The highest scoring applications will be considered first. Funds will be allocated based on application average scores in descending order until funds are depleted. Funds will not be allocated to any application with an average score less than 65.

### **Performance Reporting**

- Grant recipients are required to produce a final performance report evaluating the success of the project within 60 days of project completion. These reports should include photographs, if applicable, and evidence of project completion.
- Failure to submit a final performance report may result in disqualification from future grant cycles.
- Final report forms will be provided by the Planning Department, who will also monitor and maintain grant files on all projects.

### **Instructions**

Please complete and submit Pages 1 thru 10 of the application plus all required back-up material (quotes, meeting Minutes, etc.). Please read each question carefully and respond in the spaces provided. If extra space is needed, please attach additional pages ( must be 8½" x 11").

Page Intentionally Left Blank



### 1. Association Information:

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Type:

- Neighborhood, Community or Resident Association
- Not-For-Profit Business District Association
- Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Association incorporated? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, what is the Tax ID #? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Leadership Information:

President's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Add'l Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Neighborhood Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Boundaries: North: \_\_\_\_\_ South: \_\_\_\_\_

East: \_\_\_\_\_ West: \_\_\_\_\_



#### 4. Project Information:

A — Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B — Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

- i) Describe the proposed grant project and intent. (Examples: Postcard mailing to notify residents of meetings, newsletters to inform residents of neighborhood activities, landscaping in Right-of-Way for entrance beautification, neighborhood event for residents to socialize, neighborhood sign for recognition)*
- ii) How was the project(s) determined and in what ways did you gather input and feedback from the association membership?*
- iii) How will this project(s) strengthen the association and foster a sense of community among residents?*
- iv) Will your association proceed with the project(s) if the grant is not approved? Why or why not?*
- v) BONUS POINTS: Will the project(s) incorporate any sustainable/"green" initiatives? If yes, please detail.*

*Additional pages, photos, drawings, maps may be attached to application if necessary.*

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)



v)

**C — Resident Involvement, Notification, and Consensus:**

- i) Does this project(s) support or create opportunities for neighborhood involvement? Please explain.*
- ii) How will the association membership be notified to participate if the project(s) moves forward and how will you track the volunteer hours, if applicable?*
- iii) Can you provide documentation reflecting consensus for the grant application submittal? (Example: Include an attachment of Association Meeting Minutes where there is evidence of discussion of proposed grant project(s) and consensus.)*

i)

ii)

iii)



D — **Other Sources of Funding:** Describe any other sources of funding that are available for the project/program(s) (e.g. association membership dues collected and/or other grants received/applied for).

E — **Time Line:** Estimated Start Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(must start after 10/20/25)  
Estimated Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be completed by 9/25/26)

F — **Prior Funding:** Within 36 months, have you received Neighborhood Partnership Grant funds?  
 Yes  No

*If Yes, please list all previously funded project(s)/program(s) within the last 36 months (include specific year) and describe the lessons learned and outcomes of the project(s). (Do not include any references to Community Building Grant projects, as this is a separate program.)*

G — **Ongoing Project Maintenance (if applicable):** What project maintenance will be assumed and provided by the applicant? Be sure to include the name/phone number of those who will oversee ongoing maintenance.



### 5. Funding Information:

A — **Total Grant Funds Requested:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Line 1)

*Maximum \$2,000 per City recognized association/entity, per fiscal year. Associations/entities with 1,000 parcels/units or more may request up to \$3,000.*

B — **Matching Funds:**  
(Enter total amount below on Line 2)

*A 50% match is required at all levels. For example, if you are requesting \$2,000 in grant funding, then evidence of a minimum \$1,000 match is required — the total project cost would be at least \$3,000. Matching funds which are not directly related to the project will not be considered. All matching funds must be substantiated. All volunteer labor hours must be allocated after grant approval date (10/20/25).*

**Compilation of matching funds:**

**Volunteer Labor** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Calculate at \$25/hr — Please complete Volunteer Labor Worksheet—Page 7)

**Cash** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please itemize in Contribution/Match Worksheet—Page 6)

**Donated Professional Services** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not including Volunteer Labor—Please itemize in Contribution/Match Worksheet—Page 6)

**Donated Materials/Supplies** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please itemize in Contribution/Match Worksheet—Page 6)

**Other (please describe)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Matching funds which are not directly related to the project will not be considered)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Matching Funds:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Line 2)

C — **Total Project Cost:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Sum of Lines 1 & 2)

**NOTE: COMPLETE THE BELOW ONLY IF YOUR ASSOCIATION IS MATCHING WITH OTHER THEN VOLUNTEER HOURS**

## 6.A Contribution/Match Worksheet

Please provide information for each donation (*except volunteer hours*) to be used as part of the grant project. If more than two donations are being received, additional worksheets must be provided.

**1) Grant Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Type:**  Cash  In-kind  
*(check all that apply)*  Services  Goods/Materials  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Information:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Organization/Company/Individual Name*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Address* *City/Zip Code*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Telephone #* *E-mail*

**Itemized Description of Contribution/Match:**

**Total Value:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Authorized Signature (Donor)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The value of in-kind contributions must be determined by the donor, not the applicant.)*

**2) Grant Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Type:**  Cash  In-kind  
*(check all that apply)*  Services  Goods/Materials  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Information:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Organization/Company/Individual Name*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Address* *City/Zip Code*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Telephone #* *E-mail*

**Itemized Description of Contribution/Match:**

**Total Value:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Authorized Signature (Donor)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The value of in-kind contributions must be*





## 7. Expenditure Information:

Specify expenditures for this project in first column and dollar amounts on Column A including: supplies, equipment, professional services, postage, printing, and any other related expenses. Individual expenditure items \$250.00 or less require no quotes, but any back-up information provided is helpful. Items \$250.01 and above require three (3) written quotes from vendors and the description of work being proposed should be identical for each quote. The vendor with the lowest quote will be awarded the work if the grant is approved. Applications without required written quotes submitted for expense items over \$250.01 will be disqualified.

Matching Funds from Page 10 and/or Total Volunteer amount from Page 11 should be listed on Column B.

A —	LIST EACH EXPENDITURE ITEM SEPARATELY BELOW AND DOLLAR AMOUNT(S) ON COLUMN A  IF USING MATCHING FUNDS AND/OR VOLUNTEER HOURS - LIST TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT(S) ON COLUMN B AND WRITE IN "MATCHING FUNDS OR VOLUNTEER HOURS" BELOW	FUNDING SOURCE TO BE USED		TOTAL  (Column C)
		CITY GRANT FUNDS  (Column A)	MATCHING FUNDS/ VOLUNTEER HOURS  (Column B)	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$</b> See Page 9 - this column should equal 5.A - Total Grant Funds Requested	<b>\$</b> See Page 9 - this column should equal 5. B - Total Matching Funds	<b>\$</b> See Page 9 - this column should equal 5. C - Total Project Cost



## 8. Work Plan Worksheet

List in chronological order the specific steps or key activities necessary to reach project goals and the estimated dates (month/year) of completion. All work must start after 10/20/25 and be completed by 9/25/2026.

Steps or Key Activities	Start/Completion Date



### 9. Applicant Checklist:

- ◆ Were all questions answered thoroughly?
- ◆ Is there evidence of consensus (meeting minutes) supporting the proposed project?
- ◆ Is there evidence of the 50% required match?
- ◆ Have all listed volunteers signed the volunteer labor worksheet ?
- ◆ Is there adequate backup (quotes) to substantiate budget line items greater than \$250?
- ◆ Is the budget accurate?

### 10. Certification:

As association/entity President or official signatory, I hereby certify that the information included in this application is correct and represents the consensus of the residents in the neighborhood described.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print)*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please print)*

### Submission:

This grant application and all back-up material must be hand-delivered by appointment to the Neighborhood Planner, Nancy Kelly at:

**City of Sarasota**  
Planning Department  
1575 First Street, 4th Floor  
Sarasota, FL 34236

by:

**Monday, August 25, 2025, 4:00 PM**

*Applications received after posted deadline will be disqualified.*

**Questions may be directed to  
Nancy Kelly (941) 263-6378 nancy.kelly@sarasotafl.gov**