FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

> Many answers about the grant program can be found on the Neighborhood Connection grants page and on the application FORMS. Other answers may be found below. If your question is still unanswered, please reach out to the neighborhood liaison at 303-441-1895 or **britenour@bouldercolorado.gov**.

Q: What types of projects do Neighborhood Connection grants fund?

Neighborhood Connection projects bring neighbors together to get to know each other in positive, productive ways. Previous projects have included block parties, movie nights, cultural and/or educational programming, community landscaping that involves the community members, creating BBQ/picnic areas, Free Little Libraries, and community murals. We encourage you to be creative with your neighbors!

Q: Who can apply?

- Home Owners Associations
- Neighborhood Associations
- Group of neighbors with fiscal sponsorship

Note: Nonprofit organizations other than those types listed above may be a partner or fiscal sponsor on a grant application, but may not be the applicant.

Q: Who/What does not qualify for funding?

- Political activity
- Projects located outside the city limits of Boulder
- Redundant or duplicated programs/services
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Individuals
- Corporations or small businesses
- Purchase of alcohol or marijuana
- Programming that promotes a single religion over others
- Capital improvement projects that do not have a clear element of bringing members of the community together
- Projects that have occurred before the grant funding decisions have been made

Q: Why is there a match amount for some grants?

Neighborhood Connection grants are designed to be a partnership between the city and the community. Community involvement is important to the success of a project and the city encourages participation by requiring a match amount. The match may consist of cash donations and/or in-kind donations of items/ equipment, products or time. Volunteer time, including application preparation, may be calculated at a rate of $25 per hour.

Q: What does my application need to be competitive?

The strongest applications will demonstrate alignment with one or more of the stated Neighborhood Connection grant goals:

- Increase opportunities for neighbors to meet and get to know each other
- Provide community-building resources to under-resourced neighborhoods
- Enhance community resilience through personal connections

City staff who review applications look for projects that will bring benefit to a large portion of the neighborhood's population. Projects that are proposed by a small group to benefit only that small group are less competitive than projects that demonstrate outreach to and buy-in from a broader cross-section of the neighborhood.

Q: Why do I need a fiscal sponsor?

If you are not already affiliated with a 501(c)3 charitable organization, you will need a Fiscal Sponsor. A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization or small business that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects. The Fiscal Sponsor will receive and manage the grant funding on your behalf.

Q: Can I include my time in the request budget?

For Spark and Neighborhood Improvement grants, project administration/management is an allowable expense but must not be the only expense. It may be included in the "Contractor" portion of the budget form and must be noted as an hourly rate. This expense is not allowed for Block Party Fund grants.

Q: What are the reporting requirements if we receive the grant?

You will receive a link to a Report Form with your grant acceptance package asking you to detail project outcomes. All reports are due by Dec. 31 of the grant year.

Q: What are the contract requirements if we receive the grant?

You will be required to sign a contract with the City of Boulder detailing the terms of the grant, as well as submit an electronic check form for your organization or fiscal sponsor as part of your grant acceptance package. You must also provide insurance or waivers for volunteers who are participating in the project. A template will be provided.

All projects that involve structures or a change of land use must be compliant with applicable city codes and visit the Planning & Development Services office (3rd floor, Park Central Building, 1739 Broadway) for consultation on permitting, flood plains and other land-use issues before submitting the application. You do not need to apply for any permits until your application has been approved. Permitting costs may be included in the project budget.

Civil Rights Act compliance: All applicants must comply with Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, physical or mental handicap, sex or religion, be excluded.