

LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

We are thrilled with your interest in this grant opportunity.

The Love Your Block program brings city leaders and residents together to build stronger neighborhoods, one block at a time. Through the program, cities award mini-grants to residents and community partners to reduce blight and spur neighborhood-driven change. Our ideal projects elevate the voices of local residents and include meaningful engagement with city leaders. We encourage new ideas that center diversity, equity, and inclusion and are committed to exploring opportunities for long-term, community-driven change. In recognizing the lasting impacts of systemic injustice against communities of color, we encourage proposals committed to impacting the effects of systemic racism.

Before you start the application, we encourage you to review the grant [RFP](#) and [FAQs](#).

Contact Information

Please provide contact information for the primary contact completing this application. All applications must be submitted from the mayor's office.

- What is the name of your city and state?
- What is the name of the author of this application?
- What is the author's job title?
- How long has the author been in their role?
- What is the author's work email?
- What is the author's work phone number?
- What is the author's work mailing address?
- What is the name and title of the author's direct supervisor?
- What is your city's EIN number?
- Will the author of this application be leading the proposed project? If no:
 - What is the name and job title of the person who will lead the proposed project?
 - How long have they been in their role?
 - What is the name and title of their direct supervisor?
 - How involved were they in informing the content of this grant application?

Program Questions

Please tell us about the public problem the city hopes to alleviate or solve with the proposed project below. Specifically include the scale of the problem, who is impacted, and how. Please

provide quantitative and qualitative data to describe the scale of the problem and the impact of this issue.

Character limit: 3000

Please describe your city's commitment to addressing this problem and why it is a priority.

Describe how the mayor or city chief executive has prioritized this problem. If relevant, also describe what has been done to date.

Character limit: 2500

Please provide a brief description of your proposed project. In a few sentences, share your project's elevator pitch.

Character limit: 500

Please describe the specific project being proposed for this grant. Please provide enough detail to give us a concrete understanding of your proposed project. For helpful guidance, review the [RFP](#) and the [FAQs](#).

- 1) How will volunteers be engaged in the project? Please describe what activities volunteers will take on and the volunteering frequency. *Character limit: 3000*
- 2) How will you recruit volunteers who are from and/or currently live in the impacted communities, and who are representative (e.g., gender, race, age, different-ability) of the area of focus? *Character limit: 3000*
- 3) Who will act as the executive sponsor (e.g., chief of staff, deputy mayor, deputy chief of staff) of this project within the mayor's office and ensure the project has executive support? *Character limit: 1000*
- 4) What role will the mayor or city chief executive play during the design, implementation, and celebration of the project? *Character limit: 1000*
- 5) When would the project launch? *Character limit: 500*
- 6) Which city departments/agencies will be involved in the project? What will their roles be throughout the project? *Character limit: 3000*
- 7) Which community partners will be involved in this project? What will their roles be throughout the project? *Character limit: 3000*

In what specific ways have you already engaged residents impacted by the public problem on the proposed project? Additionally, how would you continue resident engagement to further understand the public problem and discussion solutions?

Character limit: 3,000

How do you know this is a public problem community partners want to support and residents would volunteer to address?

Character limit: 3,000

Please identify the specific communities (neighborhoods and/or groups of people) that will be the focus of this work. As an AmeriCorps VISTA program, this grant requires that the initiative serve low-income communities, specifically neighborhoods that are lower than the Census Bureau's average median household income in the city.

Character limit: 3000

What city projects, services, or initiatives are already underway that can be leveraged to support your proposed project?

Character limit: 3000

Are you applying to support an existing initiative?

Yes, this grant will help support an existing initiative

No, this grant will help us launch a new program

If Yes: What opportunity or pain-point of the existing initiative will the proposed project address? Please be as detailed as possible.

Character limit: 3000

- How will the overall initiative impact be strengthened?
- How will volunteer engagement be strengthened?

How will you measure and demonstrate impact?

- What result(s) do you expect to achieve through the Love Your Block Initiative? *Character limit: 1500*
- How will you measure the impact of the initiative? Please identify up to 5 measures the mayor and other key executives (e.g., council members, chief of staff etc.) as well as engaged residents and community partners will receive to show the impact of the project on the stated public challenge. *Character limit: 1500*
- How will you track metrics for the project (e.g., dashboard, bi-weekly status meeting etc.)? You may provide examples of how the city has tracked similar project-related metrics. *Character limit: 3000*
- How often does your city collect demographic data? Who is tasked with this data collection? *Character limit: 1500*
- What demographic data does the city collect and how is that information used? *Character limit: 1500*

Please describe how your city has made grants to community partners and residents in the past. If your city has not provided such grants, please describe how you will implement such a process and what, if any, support you will need to do so, including partnering with a city agency, nonprofit, or university.

Character limit: 3000

How will you ensure that residents and community groups with limited or no involvement with city-sponsored projects are made aware of the opportunity to apply for Love Your Block mini-grants? *Character limit: 3000*

What ideas do you have for making the application process inclusive? What activities, resources, or workshops do you plan to make available for residents and community groups to support them during the application process? *Character limit: 3000*

Please describe your city's practices and considerations around diversity and inclusion when making grants to community partners or residents. What top lessons learned will you translate or adapt to this grant? If this is a new commitment, describe what best practices and considerations you plan to incorporate. We value learning so please highlight any shortcomings with your past efforts towards diversity and inclusion that you would improve or address with this project.

Character limit: 3000

Please describe plans for sustaining the project after the two-year grant period. Indicate any relevant conversations about future funding and partnerships within city hall or with community partners such as community foundations, local businesses, or universities.

Character limit: 3000

Staffing Questions

Please identify city staff who will be responsible for this project. Provide their title, full name, the role they will play in the proposed project, what their other responsibilities are. Please explain why this project falls under their purview.

Character limit: 3000

Please describe how the city will recruit, manage, and support the AmeriCorps VISTA member(s) in City Hall. Describe how the city plans to train, support, and deploy the AmeriCorps member(s), including where in the mayor, city chief executive, or department director's office the AmeriCorps VISTA member(s) will be placed and who will supervise the service member(s). Include any information about previous experience the city has had with AmeriCorps VISTA members.

Character limit: 3000

Please describe how the AmeriCorps VISTA member(s) will be utilized for the project. Their projects can vary and can include but are not limited to: developing outreach and marketing campaigns, building a social media presence, creating a program database, writing grants, managing a program in its first year, and recruiting volunteers.

Character limit: 3000

Please describe how the city will recruit, manage, and support the Love Your Block Fellow for two years in City Hall. Please describe how the city plans to recruit, train, support, and deploy the two-year Love Your Block Fellow, including where in the mayor, city chief executive, or department director's office the Fellow will be placed, and who will supervise the Fellow.

Character limit: 3000

Declaration of Service

Is your city currently a member of the Cities of Service coalition?

Yes

No

If no: Please have your Mayor complete the [Declaration of Service](#) in order for your city's application to be considered.

Please submit the following documents [here](#).

- Letters of support from the critical departments/agencies.
- Letters of support from the critical community partners.
- Organizational chart that shows the relationship between the staff responsible for this project to the mayor and senior leadership.
- If your city is not part of the Cities of Service Coalition please submit the completed Declaration of Service including the mayor's signature.

Prior to submitting, please place your initials next to the following statement to indicate their compilation:

- I have submitted all the required documents to Cities of Service.
- Our mayor has approved and is in support of this application.