

Rancho Cordova Small Community Grants Program

Residential – non 501©3

Have a great idea for your neighborhood?

Rancho Cordova thrives on good ideas and creative and engaged citizens. We want you to unleash your ideas – and we will help with our new Small Community Grants Program! You dream up the project, and the City will pitch in up to \$500 to make it a reality.

It's time to put on your creative thinking caps! Is your neighborhood missing something? How can your neighbors be involved? Can you put the fun in a functional project? We want to hear your fresh take on your neighborhood starting now.

What are Small Community Grants?

Small community grants are a growing trend in many cities as a tool to inspire community involvement and leverage city resources. Small community grants have incredible potential to catalyze powerful community projects in a cost-effective way. Rancho Cordova's Small Community Grants program is intended to engage citizens in creative efforts to improve the community, and generate accomplishments citizens can take pride in.

The City of Rancho Cordova will provide a grant up to \$500 to community groups for special projects in our neighborhoods. Community groups are responsible for proposing, designing, and implementing the project. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis following review by the City. **Up to two application(s) per calendar year will be considered.** Grant funds are dispersed to grantee through a one-time reimbursement for approved budget item costs.

Why is the City starting this Small Community Grants Program?

The City sees potential in providing small amounts of money to community groups that are interested in improving their neighborhoods. We expect the program to:

- Inspire creative and innovative thinking
- Connect with more citizens
- Reach local, grassroots groups that might not have access to more traditional grant opportunities
- Create new partnerships to improve Rancho Cordova's quality of life

Small Community Grant Program Guidelines?

Eligible Organizations: Any neighborhood group, neighborhood associations, collection of neighbors, club, or resident that is seeking funding to complete an activity or project that improves the quality of life in a Rancho Cordova neighborhood.

Eligible Projects: The Small Community Grant program is intended to spark the innovative, positive ideas that exist in Rancho Cordova neighborhoods. For this reason, we think it easier to explain what is *not* eligible so that we do not limit ideas. The program will not consider grant proposals for:

- Retroactive funding for projects already completed.
- Salaries for permanent or temporary employees; a person employed for wages or salary.
- Replacement of funding for preexisting community projects or programs; not limiting start up projects that are ongoing; if a project or program stops for any reason it may not receive funds to restart for up to 3 years.
- One-time, individual benefit activities (not intended for study trips, library memberships, uniforms or similar).
- Projects or activities identified with political initiatives.
- Organizations or activities that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- General contributions to larger capital projects.
- Activities that advocate or promote a specific religion.
- It is recommended events or projects be held in a public space, schools, park, City Hall, or similar.

Application Procedure: Applicants may apply for a Small Community Grant by submitting a completed application form and three letters/emails of support from community members who will be a part of the project and live in the project neighborhood. One application per person per calendar year will be considered. If your proposal is approved, a letter of confirmation will be executed with the City.

Application Review Process: Submissions will be reviewed by designated City employees in a 30-day period. The following criteria will be used:

1. Are City funds currently available?
2. Can the proposed project be completed with local group contributions and up to a \$500 Small Community Grant?
3. Does the proposed use of the funds have a reasonable likelihood that it will benefit a Rancho Cordova neighborhood?

Questions? Contact Saige White at swhite@cityofranhocordova.org or (916)851-8758.