



LOVING MY COMMUNITY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Loving My Community Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program?

The Loving My Community Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program, or the LMC, is a new initiative that offers a small financial incentive to neighborhoods to work together to develop and conduct a community operated project or program to address specific neighborhood level needs and help improve the quality of life for their area.

2. What is the maximum amount a group can request per application submission?

The LMC will award a maximum of \$10,000 in grant funds to the top ranked projects and programs presenting a community-sustaining concept that contributes to the development of a strong, stable and healthy neighborhood.

3. Who is eligible to submit a project or program for funding consideration?

To apply for LMC funding, applicants must be a neighborhood-oriented group. Examples of eligible groups include but are not limited to the following:

- homeowners associations
- neighborhood associations
- crime watch groups
- community garden groups
- PTAs
- Organized children groups (scouts, sports leagues)
- Group of neighborhood members that come together to develop and submit a project or program idea

If you are a business or a non-residential organization, you may apply for a LMC grant only if you join with a group of area residents and a resident serves as team lead.

4. Can a neighborhood group that has an area resident on the LMC Advisory Board still submit an application for funding consideration?

Special measures were developed to prevent bias ranking so all neighborhood groups apply for funding consideration.

5. What type of idea can a group submit for consideration for a LMC Grant

Communities are encouraged to find unique and innovative ideas and develop a project or program that support the unique needs and dynamics of their neighborhoods and accomplish

- Building a stronger and healthier community
- Providing a public benefit in that community
- Meeting an obvious neighborhood need or desire
- Involving residents and other members of the community in all aspects of the project
- Being completed or launched within 1 year of signing the funding agreement
- Being maintained by the neighborhood or the applicant group for a minimum of
 - 4 years (construction projects)
 - 2 years (on-going service programs)

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6. How will applications be evaluated?

All approved applications will review and rank every project application based on the five (5) categories of the Evaluation Criteria:

- Project or Program Idea
- Community Benefit
- Community Match
- Project Feasibility
- Other

7. Will assistance be available to provide help to neighborhood groups with understanding the general guidelines and restrictions related to submitting an idea for funding consideration?

To ensure that all interested parties understand the requirements, restrictions and guidelines related to developing ideas and application submission, each applicant group is encouraged to send at least one member of their team to one of the application workshops that will be held at City Hall.

8. When can a group submit an application to be considered for funding through the LMC?

For this cycle, the window for application submission is scheduled to open February 22 and will close on April 30, 2010.

9. How will communities be able to find out what projects and neighborhood groups won a LMC Grant?

A list of all projects awarded each quarter, including a general overview of that project, will be available on the LMC webpage.

10. How many grants will be awarded during this application cycle?

The number of LMC grants awarded will depend upon the amount of funds requested by the top ranked applications that present a quality idea or concept. Currently, the minimal number of LMC grants that may be awarded is eight.

11. How can I get more information about the LMC or upcoming deadlines?

For more information, interested parties can go to the Office of Strategic Customer Services page on the City website and click on "Loving My Community", email us at lovingmycommunity@dallascityhall.com, or contact the Office of Strategic Customer Services at 214-670-5551.

12. What was changed this year with the LMC Program?

The two main changes to the LMC Program were the elimination of the requirement to attend an Application Workshop and an increase in the value of the Evaluation Criteria from 100 points to 200 points and the inclusion of new criterion.