

# **AURORA WARD 1 RESIDENTIAL AND NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

A Committee comprised of 1st Ward residents (Ward Committee) and their Alderman, shall receive, review and approve requests for grants for community enhancements and/or improvements in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. The program, without limitations, will be geared around the following:

- Enhancements and/or improvements, such as, landscaping or infrastructure projects for public use.
- Demonstrate a benefit for the immediate area.
- Promote the character and integrity of the neighborhood and community.
- Improve safety in the neighborhood.

The Ward Committee may also consider other information when approving or denying grant requests such as previous approvals, past history, and future development plans.

## **Qualifications:**

- 1) Applicants must be residents of Aurora's 1st Ward or conducting business in the 1st Ward.
- 2) Grants will not be considered for public improvements or enhancements if applicant is also utilizing an existing city program whereby applicants are receiving assistance or compensation from said program. Grants are not meant for commercial use and hence requests for such will not be considered.
- 3) The program will allow for an annual budget amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. No applicant may be awarded more than \$15,000.00. Except for trees, stated in qualification 4, projects must not fall below the \$1,000.00 minimum threshold.
- 4) Approved tree requests not fulfilled in the City Spring or Fall planting can be considered for this grant (Tree Grant). Said trees are limited to parkway trees and will follow the City of Aurora selection and planting.
- 5) The grant program includes homeowner and condo associations that are organized under Illinois Law and in good standing with the Secretary of State, and nonprofit organizations registered 501 ( c ) (3). Grants awarded may not be for the primary or the exclusive benefit of the association or its members. In other words, a homeowners association would have to demonstrate that the

grant has a benefit beyond the association's property (e.g., repairs to a swimming pool or renovation of the interior of a club house.)

- 6) Applicants shall be responsible for all applicable permits from the City. Neither the City nor the Ward Committee will be responsible to ensure that the contracted work is done to the applicant's satisfaction.
- 7) The Ward Committee will confirm with the City staff, via Aldermen's Office, to ensure there are no monies owed to city, no violations, liens against the property or entity where the enhancements/improvements are to be completed.
- 8) Except for a Tree Grant, the applicant shall submit at least 3 bids for the project unless not feasible. All bids shall be obtained from contractors that pay prevailing wage\*. Local Vendor Preferred. (See attached application.)
- 9) Selected contractor must pay prevailing wage\* consistent with Illinois law. 820 ILCS 130 et. seq. Applicant is solely responsible for paying contractor in full.
- 10) The Alderman and the 1st Ward committee both shall have to approve the application.

Upon notification of the grant approval, the applicant will proceed with the project.\* The Alderman and a representative from the Ward Committee will verify that the work has been completed and forward the appropriate documentation to the City. Except for a Tree Grant, the applicant shall submit the appropriate invoice(s) to the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Committee and their Alderman for reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and funds will be distributed based on availability of annual budgeted funds at the discretion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Committee and their Alderman. Any application(s) received after the funds are depleted, will be placed on a waiting list. Every four years, after City Council approval of the program, the waiting list will be refreshed and the program will be re-determined. The grant period is based on calendar year and funds will not be carried over from year to year.

**NOTE: This program will not be extended past the current Alderman's term.**

Payment(s) will be made to the applicant who is solely responsible for payment to the contractor(s).

\*Applicant may request grants for projects already completed provided the application for said enhancement/improvement is submitted no later than 6 months from the completion date. All requirements as previously mentioned shall apply.

**Submitting false information on the grant application or failing to comply with the grant application requirements may result in denial of reimbursement.**

For more information about prevailing wage see:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Laws-Rules/CONMED/Pages/Rates.aspx>