



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0512, **Version:** 1

TO: Mayor Richard C. Irvin

FROM: Alderman Ted Mesiacos, Ward 3

DATE: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT:

A Resolution authorizing a two-year grant program in the amount of \$50,000.00 per year in partnership with Rebuilding Together Aurora (RTA) and The Neighbor Project to assist qualified residents with projects in the Third Ward.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the program is to supplement costs outside the existing services available within the community through RTA and The Neighbor Project. The funds are intended to supplement, not duplicate, services that are not covered by the current RTA and/or The Neighbor Project Programs. This program is aimed towards helping residents of the Third Ward to correct code violations, provide accessibility modifications, and improve home safety.

BACKGROUND:

Alderman Ted Mesiacos established the Third Ward Grant Program in 2021 to supplement costs outside the existing services available within the community through RTA and the Neighbor Project.

DISCUSSION:

Eligible homeowners include Aurora's Third Ward residents who live in their homes, who are over the age of 60, military veterans, persons living with a disability, or single parents with a child under 18 years of age, and who meet the established program criteria of RTA and The Neighbor Project. Homes in an historic district are not eligible for this grant program unless it can be shown that the applicable project costs are not significantly higher due to requirements of the historic district.

In addition to the \$5,000.00 Ward 3 grant, supplementary funding may be available for repairs deemed urgent. Projects categorized as an emergency, due to high need, urgent health and/or safety concerns will be considered for up to an additional \$15,000.00.

The program will be independently administered by RTA and The Neighbor Project in partnership with the City of Aurora, local non-profits, service providers, and community volunteers.

Rebuilding Together Aurora and The Neighbor Project fees will be 9% of total project cost or \$250 per project, whichever is less.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Approval of this program will help residents of Aurora's Third Ward correct code violations, provide

accessibility modifications, and improve the safety of their homes based upon individual's needs

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the annual Third Ward Grant Program in partnership with Rebuilding Together Aurora and the Neighbor Project in the budgeted, not to exceed, amount of \$50,000.00 including administrative fees.

cc: Rules, Administration and Procedures (RAP) Committee



CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. _____
DATE OF PASSAGE _____

A Resolution authorizing a two-year grant program in the amount of \$50,000.00 per year in partnership with Rebuilding Together Aurora (RTA) and The Neighbor Project to assist qualified residents with projects in the Third Ward.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Ted Mesiacos established the Third Ward Grant Program in 2021 to supplement costs outside the existing services available within the community through RTA and the Neighbor Project, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the program is to supplement costs outside the existing services available within the community through RTA and The Neighbor Project. The funds are intended to supplement, not duplicate, services that are not covered by the current RTA and/or The Neighbor Project Programs. This program is aimed towards helping residents of the Third Ward to correct code violations, provide accessibility modifications, and improve home safety, and

WHEREAS, \$50,000 has been allocated for this program. Funds for these projects will be paid out of the Ward 3 Grant account 313-1004-411.50-80, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows: The Third Ward, in partnership with Rebuilding Together Aurora (RTA) and The Neighbor Project, will provide a two-year grant program in the amount of \$50,000.00 per year to be disbursed on a case-by-case basis to correct code violations to provide accessibility modifications, and to improve the safety of homes for qualified homeowners in the Third Ward.

