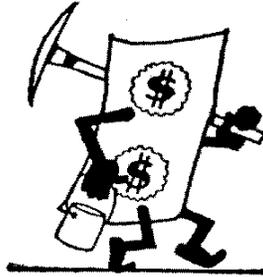


City of Mt. Pleasant

NEIGHBORHOOD MINI GRANTS

A Guide to Getting Funds for Neighborhood Programs, Projects or Improvements



Strong neighborhoods are the foundation of a vibrant community.

In response to the results of a strategic planning study, and input from a survey completed by a random selection of residents, the Mt. Pleasant City Commission is carrying out a priority to strengthen the dynamics of neighborhoods. To achieve that goal, the City of Mt. Pleasant applied for and received an endowment grant from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe to fund neighborhood programs, projects and improvements.

Neighborhood organizations, block clubs, crime watches, tenant associations, etc. may receive mini grants to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood by completing a simple application.

Neighborhood Projects: Almost Anything Goes...

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Newsletters
- Beautification (trees, flowers, etc.)
- Painting or fix-up (exterior only)
- Cleanup (dumpster, hauling, etc.)
- Meet-your-neighbors picnic/cookout
- Awards (most improved home, best maintained property, etc.)
- Crime watch
- Neighborhood signs
- Traffic calming devices
- Sidewalk or alley co-pays

There are only a few project costs which are not eligible for funding:

- Newsletter postage
- Interior repairs or improvements
- Alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances

How can we get a Mini Grant?

Neighborhood organizations or associations, block clubs, etc. consisting of at least three families can apply for a Neighborhood Mini Grant.

An organization or block club must be in existence for at least 30 days prior to making application and have held at least two meetings. The group also needs to have a mission statement of why it was formed and its written goals and bylaws.

The maximum grant per organization is \$500 per year. Grants over \$500 may be considered on a case by case basis if the organization can match the grant funds with 25% of its own funds.

A small educational component will be required for each project category funded. City staff can offer many creative and beneficial ideas.

How will we know if a project is approved for funding?

Applications are reviewed by a carefully selected team of city staff and city commissioners who will recommend viable projects to the Mt. Pleasant City Commission for funding.

The neighborhood organization will be notified of the status of their application within 30 days of receipt.

Successful applicants will be awarded their mini grant by the mayor at a City Commission meeting.

How much paperwork is involved?

A simple application form and a few attachments are all that is required to apply for a mini grant. The information required is provided on the other side of this brochure. Once an application is approved, verification that the project was completed and the funds were spent is all that's required.

Apply Now for a Neighborhood Mini Grant !

Stop by or call (779-5347) the Planning and Community Development Office at City Hall to request an application or make inquiries.



**City of Mt. Pleasant
 Neighborhood Capacity Building Program
 Neighborhood Mini Grant Application**

The City of Mt. Pleasant received an endowment grant from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe to fund neighborhood capacity building. Neighborhood organizations, block groups, crime watches, tenant associations, etc. may apply for mini grants to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood by completing this application. The maximum grant amount is \$500 per applicant per year. Applications are accepted any time. Return completed application to: Neighborhood Capacity Building Program, City of Mt. Pleasant, 320 West Broadway Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858. Questions? Contact the Planning and Community Development Office at City Hall, 779-5347.

Name of Organization _____

Contact: Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

Month and year of organization's formation _____

Frequency of meetings _____

Who are the organization's current officers and board members (name, address and phone #)

Officers:

Board Members:

President	Chair	-
Vice Pres.	-	-
Secretary	-	-
Treasurer	-	-

What is the mission statement or purpose of the organization. How does the grant proposal relate to it?

Attach a copy of the organization's bylaws (contact City staff if help is needed).

Note: If not available, organization must submit bylaws with future grant applications..

Check one or more of the following categories of grant funding for which the organization is applying:

- _____ Newsletter
- _____ Education, training
- _____ Beautification
- _____ Crime watch
- _____ Other _____

Total amount of grant funding requested \$ _____

For each category checked above, attach a sheet which describes:

- Amount requested and how it was arrived at (example: 4 newsletters, 100 people at \$.05 each = \$20)
- The proposed use of funds and how the project will be carried out (describe in detail)
- How the proposed project will include an educational component (see City staff if help is needed)*
- How the proposed project will improve the neighborhood
- How many people can benefit from these funds

Every mini grant is expected to include some type of informational/educational component which is directly or indirectly related to the proposal. City staff can assist the organization in developing an appropriate component which consists of informational materials and/or presentations by City staff.

Potential ideas include one or more of the following: crime prevention, fire prevention, building permits and contractors, code enforcement issues, property valuations, public right-of-way work, historic preservation, parks issues, recreation programs, solid waste issues, recycling, City-prepared articles for publication, public works projects scheduled or in progress in the neighborhood, etc.

On a city map, draw a boundary around the area served by the organization.

Signature

Date