

Rancho Cordova Community Grants Program

Organizations

Have a great idea for your community?

Rancho Cordova thrives on good ideas and creative, engaged citizens. We want you to unleash your ideas – and we will help with our Community Grants Program! You dream up the project, and the City will pitch in up to \$5,000 per occurrence to make it a reality.

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

What are Community Grants?

Community grants are a growing trend in many cities as a tool to inspire community involvement and leverage City resources. Community grants have incredible potential to catalyze powerful community projects in a cost-effective way. Rancho Cordova's 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 \$5,000 to community organizations for special projects in our community. Community organizations 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 organization 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 Community Grants Program?

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

- Inspire creative and innovative thinking
- Connect with more citizens
- Reach local grassroots groups looking to do something positive in their community
- Strengthen existing and create new partnerships to improve Rancho Cordova's quality of life

Community Grants Program Guidelines

- Eligible Organizations: Any 501c3 or community organization that is seeking funding to complete an activity or project that improves the quality of life in Rancho Cordova. All projects must take place within the city limits of Rancho Cordova. It is preferred that they take place in a public space such as a park, public school site, City Hall, or similar location. All activities/projects must be free to participants and open to the public.

Eligible Projects: The Community Grants program is intended to spark the innovative, positive ideas that exist in Rancho Cordova. 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.
- Activities that directly fund any private, sectarian school.
- 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 Rancho Cordova Community Grant by submitting a completed application form. Up to two applications per organization 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 \$5,000 Rancho Cordova Small Community Grant?
3. Does the proposed use of the funds have a reasonable likelihood that it will benefit the Rancho Cordova community?
4. Does the project serve a public purpose?
5. Can the project be completed in the calendar year?

Other Important Information: The nature of the project may require that the organization submit insurance to the City and/or have participants sign a waiver of release. A determination will be made during the application review process and listed in the letter of confirmation if the project proposal is approved. A completed W-9 is also required before paying an organization. If you have any questions, please contact Saige White at swhite@cityofranhocordova.org or (916) 851-8758.