

# Neighborhoods Small Grants Program



## Grants Available for 2026

Traditional Mini-Grants	Up to \$1,000
Next Level & Arts Mini-Grants	Up to \$5,000
Transformation Grant	Up to \$25,000

*Note: Variations may occur in grant awards*

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint Neighborhoods Small Grants Program is seeking to fund projects in the following categories:

***Funding for the Neighborhoods Small Grants Program is made possible by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ruth Mott Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.***

The Neighborhoods Small Grants Program (NSGP) was created to support established and emerging **citizen-based groups or organizations** in moderate to low-income neighborhoods in and near the City of Flint to develop projects that address pressing issues within their neighborhoods; build alliances with other community institutions; and develop community-based leadership.

The intended outcomes of NSGP grants are:

- Community members actively engage in community change efforts
- Community members view themselves as stakeholders that can partner with institutions to address critical issues
- Community members have pride in their neighborhoods and motivation to continue their work

## 2026 Grant Category Guidelines

### Traditional Mini-Grants:

Funding up to \$1,000 will be awarded for projects that support community building and engagement efforts. Projects can include but are not limited to: neighborhood clean-ups, block parties, crime watch activities, neighborhood newsletters, and the planting of community gardens on vacant lots.

*For technical assistance or help with questions about the application contact:  
Damon Ross, CFGF Program Officer – (810) 382-0068 or [dross@cfaf.org](mailto:dross@cfaf.org)*

**Who is eligible to apply:** Block clubs, neighborhood associations, community-based and faith-based organizations that serve neighborhoods in partnership with residents of the neighborhood. A bank account in the group's name, and a D.B.A. with Genesee County is required if not formally organized as a nonprofit. Formal 501(c)3 status **is not required**.

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## Next Level Mini-Grants:

Funding up to \$5,000 will be awarded to support larger, more comprehensive community projects based on needs assessments conducted by methods such as, neighborhood surveys, focus groups, or community dialogue or listening sessions. The purpose of the Next Level Mini Grant is to provide support for the development of projects that help to engage residents in identifying and addressing community needs in new and creative ways. Grants will be awarded to groups who can successfully demonstrate how this funding would increase their ability to move beyond traditional mini-grant projects such as expanding a simple beautification of a single property or lot to a phased landscaping effort; repurposing vacant and/or abandoned property into vibrant community spaces, i.e. a pocket park, or a community resource center; and/or increasing the size, scale and distribution of a community garden. Next Level Mini-Grants typically leverage other funds and resources to bring about the desired community change.

**Who is eligible to apply:** 501(c)3 charitable nonprofits and other formally recognized tax-exempt entities such as faith-based institutions, municipalities, schools, and hospitals who are actively partnering with, and informed by residents and neighborhood leaders.

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## Transformational Grants:

At least one grant of up to \$25,000 will be awarded for a project that improves the condition of a Flint neighborhood by transforming a vacant and or blighted outdoor public space into an area that is well-maintained; and that creates, enhances and/or significantly expands a community gathering space. Other criteria for the Transformational Grant are as follows:

- Project must be driven by resident input
- Project must be part of a formal planning process such as, neighborhood, parks or land use plans
- Project involves partnerships between resident-led groups and non-profit, charitable organizations and/or institutions
- Projects must have or leverage other sources of financial support
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a track record of capacity to plan and carry out effective community place-making projects.

**Who is eligible to apply:** 501(c)3 charitable nonprofits and other formally recognized tax-exempt entities such as faith-based institutions, municipalities, schools, and hospitals who are actively partnering with residents to improve community.

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Damon Ross, CFGF Program Officer – (810) 382-0068 or [dross@cfqf.org](mailto:dross@cfqf.org)*

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## Other Considerations

Block clubs, neighborhood associations and other community-based groups that are not tax exempt are encouraged to partner with eligible nonprofits for Next Level and Transformational Grants.

***Priority consideration will be given to applications at each level with projects that involve residents in planning development and implementation.***

**Restrictions:** Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible for grant funding.

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## HOW TO APPLY

### *Apply Online*

**New in 2026:** CFGF has launched a new online grant system. Organizations initiating a grant, including previous applicants, must register their organization in the new grant system. A step-by-step guide to registration can be found at: <https://www.cfgf.org/grantmaking/grant-application/online-grant-application>

**Organizations that are working with a fiscal sponsor:** Please contact your fiscal sponsor to initiate your online NSGP grant application. The fiscal sponsor will start the online application process. You will receive an email inviting you to create an account in the online grant application portal that will allow you to collaborate on grant application.

**Complete & submit the online application by 11:59 p.m. on March 9, 2026:**

- All online applications are required to complete and upload Attachment A: NSGP Project Planning Worksheet.

### *Apply by Email, Mail or In-Person Delivery*

- **Traditional Mini-Grants** – Complete the **NSGP Application** including Attachment A: NSGP Project Planning Worksheet and Attachment B: NSGP Project Budget Worksheet
- **Next – Level and Transformational Grants** – Completed the **NSGP Application** including Attachments A and B plus Attachment C: Next Level & Transformational Grant Applications Additional Questions

By email to [NSGP@cfgf.org](mailto:NSGP@cfgf.org) or

By mail or in-person delivery by 9:00 p.m. on March 9, 2026:

Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
500 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 200  
Flint, MI 48502  
C/O NSGP

*For technical assistance or help with questions about the application contact:  
Damon Ross, CFGF Program Officer – (810) 382-0068 or [dross@cfgf.org](mailto:dross@cfgf.org)*