

Lots of Green Youth Greening Grant Program



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******Application Due Date: March 18th, 2016******



About This New Grant Opportunity – Please Read Carefully!

This special grant opportunity was funded through the Centers for Disease Control. The University of Michigan is leading this project, a 5 year, 3-city study of vacant land reuse and youth violence prevention. Youth involvement (ages 10 – 24) must be at the core of proposed projects for this opportunity, and a training on engaging youth will be provided to project grantees. As this is a study, project grantees will be contacted by researchers periodically, and will need to keep basic records of work performed on the vacant lots that are being improved. Forms for documenting work and maintenance will be provided to project grantees. Funds awarded can be used to pay stipends to youth involved in the project as well as for project installation and maintenance costs for 2016 (adult salaries or stipends will not be approved). Funds can also be used for project installation, materials, and small equipment. Professional maintenance cannot be paid for through, though contractors can be hired to do some initial cleanup or installation tasks that cannot be completed by volunteers). Funds will average \$1,700 per vacant lot the project is planning to green and maintain for the season. Funds will be granted to organizations through fiscal agents (unless the organization has 501(c)3 status). Organizations will not receive funding for maintenance beyond 2016 for improved lots, so maintenance plans should be completed for future years of the project. Projects will be owned and operated by the project grantees, and YNDC cannot provide project maintenance or grasscutting. **This funding will be awarded to improve currently vacant and unused lots – they cannot be used for improvements to existing projects, although project expansion to new currently vacant lots is acceptable.**

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are located in the city of Youngstown and include groups of residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local faith-based organizations. All applicants should be committed to working with youth to install and maintain awarded projects.

Eligible Project Sites

All proposed project sites must:

- Be located within the Youngstown city limits.
- Be located in a visible area that will impact the stabilization of the neighborhood.
- Have community support from residents or businesses in close proximity to the project.
- Involve youth in all aspects of the project, including maintenance.

Criteria for Selection

Once applications are submitted, they will be reviewed by YNDC staff and the project review committee. Applications will be judged by the following criteria:

- Does the project involve and benefit youth?
- Is the project or proposed phase of the project feasible during the grant timeline?
- Is the project location impactful to your neighborhood?
- Does the project have a clear long-term maintenance plan?
- Does the project have community support from the neighborhood?

About Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) is a citywide multifaceted neighborhood development organization launched to catalyze strategic reinvestment in neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. The mission of the organization is to improve the quality of life in Youngstown by building and encouraging investment in neighborhoods of choice for all. YNDC operates a broad portfolio of programs to achieve this mission, including home rehab, home repair, home boarding, grasscutting, community workdays, urban planning, vacant land reuse, and small business development.

Grant Timeline

- **February 2016** - Training workshops are held at YNDC, located at 820 Canfield Road. ***A representative from each group applying for project assistance must attend one of these workshops.*** Trainings should last about 1 hour. An RSVP to Liberty Merrill via email at lmerrill@yndc.org is encouraged, but is not a prerequisite for workshop attendance. Please call if a representative of your group cannot attend a workshop, and we will try to accommodate you or schedule additional dates or locations. Workshops are held on the following dates:
 - **Tuesday, February 16th, 5:30pm – 6:30pm**
 - **Thursday, February 25th: 6:30pm – 7:30pm**
 - **Saturday, February 27th: 1pm – 2pm**
 - **Monday, February 29th: 5pm – 6pm**
- **Friday, March 18th**: Applications received (not postmarked) at YNDC, 5pm
- **Week of March 28th**: Grantees notified by phone and project plans are refined.
- **Late April**: Projects can begin
- **November 15th**: Projects end and final reports are due.

****** Application should be mailed or hand-delivered to the YNDC offices, located at 820 Canfield Road, Youngstown Ohio, 44511. Applications must be received (not postmarked) in the office by 5pm on March 18th, 2016. ******

Application Cover Sheet

Title of Project: _____

Name of Organization or Group: _____

Primary Contact Person

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Secondary Contact Person

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Program Application

Site Information

How many lots are involved in this project, and what are their addresses and/or parcel numbers? (contact Liberty at YNDC if you need help researching your project site).

Why did your group/organization choose this site? Are there alternative sites within your neighborhood where this project could be implemented if your first choice is not feasible?

What is the ownership status of the property on which your proposed project sits? Has the owner been contacted for permission or have reasonable attempts to do so been made?

If the property is abandoned, has the Mahoning County Land Bank (330.259.1040) been contacted about property acquisition? While the group is not required to own the property at the start of the project, it is highly recommended that ownership is pursued for the long-term stability of the project. Unfortunately, these funds cannot be used for land acquisition.

Project Information

Provide a description of your project. What would you like to do?

How will your project benefit the community? What problem are you trying to solve with this project?

How will youth be involved in the project? What benefit will the youth receive by being involved in the project?

What is your organization's history working with youth?

Will any other organizations or entities be involved in this project?

What long term maintenance will be needed for this project after 2016? Who will complete this maintenance, and how will the project be sustained?

Fiscal Agent Approval Form

(To be filled out if your project does not have 501(c)3 status)

Project Name:_____

Fiscal Agent:_____

I agree that my organization can act as fiscal agent to receive funds granted for the above project. My responsibilities may include direct purchasing, reimbursement of expenses, and keeping all expenditure documentation in order to be submitted to YNDC at the close of the project period. We will be responsible for ensuring that project funds are used for the awarded purposes. YNDC will provide financial reporting materials if this project is awarded funding.

YNDC will work directly with the grantee for programmatic reporting.

Contact Name:_____

Title:_____

Signature:_____ **Date**_____

****Please contact Liberty at YNDC if you are having difficulty identifying a fiscal agent****