City of Knoxville
Office of Neighborhood Empowerment

Funding Resources for Neighborhoods:

Like all not-for-profit organizations, neighborhood groups can raise money in a variety of ways. The most sustainable forms of funding, of course, are the group's own internal activities and projects. These can include membership dues and donations from neighbors, as well as fundraisers ranging from large events (tour of homes, street fair) to smaller, less intensive activities (bake sale). Such fundraisers have the extra-added advantage of increasing social capital in the neighborhood, that is, encouraging neighbors to work together and get to know one another.

But there is certainly room for seeking grants from governments, foundations, businesses, and local benefactors. This document lists a small fraction of the potential funding sources for neighborhood groups in Knoxville. There is no guarantee that the donors on this list will fund your neighborhood project. First, the priorities of a particular donor may have changed since this information was gathered. Second, while some funding applications are quite simple and straight-forward, others require a great deal of work and planning, evidence of which the donor will ask to see.

Finally, some of this information, compiled by Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, might be outdated. We try to update the document annually. But if it is outdated, we would appreciate you letting us know at 865-215-3232. Here are the potential funders listed in this document:

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- City of Knoxville, Parks & Recreation Department
- City of Knoxville, City Council
- City of Knoxville, Mayor's Office
- City of Knoxville, Office of Neighborhood Empowerment
- Dow Chemical
- East Tennessee Foundation
- Kohl's
- Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee
- US Bank
- Walmart Foundation: Community Grant Program
- Alternative Resources

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Website: https://about.bankofamerica.com/en/making-an-impact/grant-funding-for-nonprofits-sponsorship-programs

Economic mobility focused on needs of individuals and families
(workforce development & education and basic needs)
Applications accepted 1/22/2024 – 2/16/2024

Economic mobility focused on needs of community
(affordable housing, small business, neighborhood revitalization)
Applications accepted: 5/27/2024 – 6/21/2024

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
[Grant Funding for Nonprofits & Sponsorship Programs (bankofamerica.com)](bankofamerica.com)

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Program Description
At Bank of America, we're guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better. Through our focus on Responsible Growth, we deliver for our teammates, clients and shareholders, while addressing economic mobility and social progress focused on the needs of the community. We drive meaningful and sustainable progress to help address society's biggest challenges by aligning all our resources – including our financing, our client products and services, our philanthropy and how we manage our own activities.

As part of this work, we develop strong partnerships with nonprofit organizations focused on issues fundamental to economic mobility in low- and moderate-income communities. We focus on improving the lives of individuals and families by investing in health, jobs, and strengthening broader community vitality by addressing needs related to small business resiliency, and community development.

Through our partnerships, we support vulnerable populations, including working families, youth, seniors, individuals living with disabilities, veterans, and those impacted by the criminal justice system – enabling them to move forward in their goals.

City of Knoxville (Parks and Recreation Department)
Website:
https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/parks_and_recreation

Recreation Challenge Grants
[https://cdnsm5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_109478/File/ParksRecreation/Challenge Grant/2024%20Application%20Form%20%20-%20Challenge%20Grant.pdf](https://cdnsm5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_109478/File/ParksRecreation/ChallengeGrant/2024%20Application%20Form%20%20-%20Challenge%20Grant.pdf)

Primary Contact
Tim Hester
865-215-1720
thester@knoxvilletn.gov

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Open Now

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
Friday, June 28, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
Postal Mail :

Parks and Recreation Dept
PO Box 1631
Knoxville, TN 37901
Fax: 865-215-1743
Email: thester@knoxvilletn.gov

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Program Description
The City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department offers an annual Challenge Grant Program, which provides grants to non-profit projects associated with public parks or recreation facilities within the City limits.

The grants are available to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) status community groups, homeowner associations, schools, Scout troops and other organizations.

Recipients of a challenge grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of a single project, up to $3,000.

In past years, grants have been used for playground equipment, water fountains, benches and landscaping. The Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department has been awarding challenge grants to non-profit groups for more than 25 years.

Challenge Grants may also be used to promote activities in City Parks and on Greenways. Grants can provide match funds for various fitness classes such as Yoga, Tai Chi, or other activities. Passive programming for activities such as painting and birdwatching will also be considered. Approved activities must be on City Park properties, and all other rules associated with the Challenge Grant Program will apply.

In order to receive a grant, the projects are preferred to be on City-owned or -leased property, but must be related to a facility that is available to all residents on a yearly basis.

The grant funding may not be used to purchase a new facility, regular maintenance, or for the purchase of individual or team equipment.

City of Knoxville (City Council)
Website: https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_council

Community Improvement 202 Funds
https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_council/community_improvement__202__funds

Primary Contact
Savannah Kirk – Internal Auditor
City Council Office
865-215-3022
skirk@knoxvilletn.org

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Neither City Council nor the City Recorder's Office issues a Request for Proposals.

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
Proposals may be submitted to the City Council office (Recorder's Office) at any time.
However, requests are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
via email: skirk@knoxvilletn.org

via mail:
City Council Office
Attn: Savannah Kirk, Internal Auditor
PO Box 1631
Knoxville, TN 37901

Sample of Previous Recipients
https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_council/community_improvement__202__funds/past_fund_spending

Program Description
Each fiscal year (starting July 1), City Council sets aside --- within the city budget ---
$90,000 in Community Improvement 202 Funds for community associations and other
non-profit organizations.

Procedures for Applying for Community Improvement 202 Funds:

Each Council member is allocated up to $10,000 of these funds for various projects.
Each project is supported by a separate ordinance for each individual grant and
requires Council's approval. These ordinances are always placed at the end of the
"Ordinances on First Reading" section of the Council agenda. These ordinances are
written as "emergency" ordinances, requiring only one reading, and they are almost
always adopted "on consent," meaning that they are passed without discussion at the
beginning of each Council meeting.

An organization applying for 202 funds must be a legally chartered, nonprofit charitable
organization or any nonprofit civic organization and supply the appropriate IRS Federal
Taxpayer Identification Number (IRS, Form W-9).

An applicant organization must also provide the City Council Office with all documents listed on the application. If your organization does not have a specific document, contact the City Council Office to learn if there is a substitute document. This information must be on file with the City Council Office prior to any Council consideration of a request for funds.

Also, if an applicant organization is a non-profit civic organization, then the City must place a "notice of intent to make appropriation" in a newspaper of general circulation prior to placing the ordinance on Council's agenda. Thus, it could take more time to process a 202 funds request from a civic designated organization.

Groups that do not have the required documentation may still benefit from the 202 funds program, but they must utilize the services of a fiscal sponsor that can meet all of the requirements and which must make the request and be legally responsible for oversight of the grant/project. The fiscal sponsor must make the written request. Pursuant to City Ordinance 2-599, no appropriation or expenditure may be made to a religious or sectarian organization.

A specific project can be funded from a single Council member's appropriation of funds or by several members joining together to support a project.

To be considered for funds, an organization must apply directly to the City Council Office by submitting the following form along with supporting documents: https://cdnsm5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_109478/File/CityCouncil/202/General%20202%20-%20June%202023%20Checklists.pdf

Schools must use this form: https://cdnsm5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_109478/File/CityCouncil/202/School%20202%20-%20June%202023%20Checklists.pdf

Some groups first contact a member of City Council to see if that member can support all or part of the request and to confirm that sufficient funds are available. It is perhaps best to write this request on your organization's letterhead, describing the project and asking for a specific dollar amount. If the Council member can support the request, your organization can then submit the application through the City Recorder's office.

Whether you call your Council member first or not, a formal Application must be submitted through the Recorder's Office along with the supporting documents.

City of Knoxville (Mayor's Office)
Website: https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/grant_applications

Community Agency Grant
https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=109562&pageId=213458

Primary Contact

Jennifer Searle
865-215-2267
jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
Both an Electronic and Printed application must be submitted.

City of Knoxville Mayor Attn:
Jennifer Searle 400 Main
Street, Suite 691 Knoxville, TN
37902

or

Email Application and ALL Attachments to: jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov. We cannot receive attachments that exceed 12MB so it may be necessary to send multiple emails. Please include your organization's name on all digital file names.

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Program Description
Your non-profit organization may apply for a Community Agency Grant if it operates within the City of Knoxville, has been in operation for at least five years, and has current registration as a charitable organization with the Tennessee Secretary of State.

There are two different application forms. One is for organizations seeking a grant within the Arts and Culture category and the second is for organizations seeking a grant within the Community and Social Services category. (Providers of homeless services should apply for the Homeless Grant via Housing and Neighborhood Development.)

City of Knoxville (Office of Neighborhood Empowerment)
Website: https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=109562&pageId=189878

Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP)
https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=109562&pageId=1958599
Primary Contact
Hayley Howard
865-215-2113
hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Pre-Application Workshop A   -   **10 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 2024**
Pre-Application Workshop B   -   **6 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2024**
Pre-Application Workshop C   -   **5 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
Postal Mail

Office of Neighborhood Empowerment
City of Knoxville
P.O. Box 1631
Knoxville, TN 37901

or Email: hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
If you would like someone from the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment to review your Grant Application for completeness, it needs to be in our office by **4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024.**

ALL FINAL GRANT APPLICATIONS **ARE DUE BY MONDAY, July 22, 2024 no later than 4:30 p.m.**

Sample of Previous Recipients
See the Grants page on the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment website. Then click on "Previous Grant Recipients."

Program Description
The NSGP is designed to strengthen neighborhoods in the City of Knoxville by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives through grants and technical assistance. The maximum NSGP grant for any one organization, application or project is $3,000. If the neighborhood group has an active partner, then the limit rises to $4,500.

The program is aimed at resident-controlled, resident-led neighborhood groups such as neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood associations, tenant associations, and homeowners associations.

Grants are announced in the fall and funds are disbursed late in the year for projects beginning January 1.

Dow Chemical
Website: https://www.dow.com/en-us/about-dow/locations/tennessee

DowGives Community Grant
https://corporate.dow.com/en-us/locations/tennessee

Primary Contact
Shane Phillips
865-521-8245

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
http://www.cybergrants.com/dow/applications/open

Sample of Previous Recipients

https://corporate.dow.com/en-us/locations/tennessee

Program Description
The Dow Gives program is managed by the Knoxville Plant Community Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP is an open forum for community representatives and the local Dow facility to discuss the goals, activities and concerns of both the local plant and the surrounding community.

Dow's goal, using the DowGives grants, is to enhance the aesthetic qualities of our fenceline neighborhoods and positively impact the overall quality of life in the Knoxville community by providing a grant of $24,000 to the non-profit organization best able to advance its focus on community land use projects.

East Tennessee Foundation

Website: http://www.easttennesseefoundation.org/

Field-of-Interest and Affiliate Funds
Affiliate Funds - East Tennessee Foundation

Primary Contact
Please contact Ashley Siferd Butler, Director of Competitive Grants, at abutler@etf.org, or Rachel Schott, Program Officer, at rschott@etf.org, or call toll-free 877-524-1223.

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Varies by grant

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
Varies by grant

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=easttennesseefoundation

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Program Description
Affiliate funds are field-of-interest funds designated for the benefit of a specific county or geographic area within East Tennessee Foundation's service area. The Foundation's existing affiliate funds range in scope from asset-building or grantmaking programs to full-service, county community foundations. With local advisory boards and a local presence, affiliate funds may engage in independent endowment building, fundraising activities, grantmaking, and other types of activities to promote local philanthropic giving and community building.

All applications must be completed and submitted via the Foundation's online grants management system. Please see the above website for more information.

Kohl's

Website: Kohl's Corporate Website Home (kohls.com)

Volunteer Grant Programs
https://corporate.kohls.com/corporate-responsibility/associates-in-action

Primary Contact
causes@benevity.org

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Not available

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
Not available

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
Benevity Causes

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not Available

Program Description
Through the Kohl's Volunteer Program, Kohl's associates (employees) donate their personal time to make a difference in their local communities by volunteering with eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. For every volunteer hour tracked by each associate, Kohl's will donate $25 to the benefitting nonprofit organization.

To request volunteers and manage details of your event, eligible organizations should register through the Benevity Causes Portal. The link to this portal and other information can be found on this page:

https://corporate.kohls.com/corporate-responsibility/associates-in-action

Kroger
Website: https://www.kroger.com/

Primary Contact
Melissa.Eads@Kroger.com

Approximate Date Proposals Are Requested
Any time

Approximate Date Proposals Are Due
Any Time

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
https://www.communitygifts.com/ .

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Donations of Gift Cards or Products
Request a donation of gift cards or products through https://www.communitygifts.com/

Grants Program Description
At Kroger, we believe strong communities are everyone's responsibility. We are committed to helping the communities we call home grow and prosper. Each year, we help hundreds of local nonprofit organizations that are working to make our communities better places to live and work.

Our charitable giving and grantmaking supports Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste impact plan, our commitment to end hunger in our communities and eliminate waste across our company. See more details about our impact plan in our ESG Report. We also support other nonprofit organizations that are making a difference in our communities. Kroger gives back to our communities through Kroger Community Rewards in these key focus areas:

- Zero Hunger | Zero Waste
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Health & Nutrition
- Education & Youth Development
- Disaster Relief
- Stronger Communities

Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people live healthier lives. One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping customers do every day. Your non-profit organization can sign up for Community Rewards and offer the opportunity for customers to link their Shopper's Card to your organization. Once a Shopper Card is linked to an organization, all a customer needs to do is swipe their card at checkout and their chosen organization earns funds.

https://thekrogercozerohungerzerowastefoundation.com/how_we_give.html

Trinity Health Foundation of East Tennessee
Website: https://trinityfound.org/

Grant Initiative Areas Relevant to Neighborhoods
http://www.trinityfound.org/initiatives

Primary Contact
865-632-5678
https://trinityfound.org/contact-us/

US Bank - Community Possible Grant Program
Website: https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/community-possible-grant-program.html

Primary Contact
Please call 1-866-366-7072 or usbanksupport@cybergrants.com for more information
USBankGrants@usbank.com

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=6020&x_quiz_id=7300&x_order_by=1

Program Description
Community Possible is designed to embrace the diversity in our communities. We consider grant requests without regard to race, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, age, or sexual orientation. While the U.S. Bank Foundation generously funds many nonprofit organizations in our communities, it's impossible to fund every request. In order to make the most meaningful impact in our local communities, we focus our grant giving to fund economic development issues tied to Work, Home, and Play.

WalMart Foundation
Website: http://giving.walmart.com/foundation

Community Grant Program
https://walmart.org/how-we-give/local-community-grants

Preferred Method for Receiving Proposals
https://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=2797&x_quiz_id=4028&x_order_by=1

Sample of Previous Recipients
Not available

Program Description
Through the Community Grant Program, our associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations.

The Community Grant Program awards grants ranging from **$250** to **$5,000** through each of our facilities (Walmart Stores, Sam's Clubs, and Logistics Facilities). Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding. Organization eligibility requirements can be reviewed at the grant websites listed above.

Alternative Resources:

Some organizations support their communities through various means, other than financial support or grants. Here are a few examples.

Panera Bread
Website: https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/food-values/our-values.html

In everything we do, we keep in mind our mission and purpose: "One Panera for a Healthier and Happier World." Our approach to ESG flows naturally from this mission. "Healthier" in that we are dedicated to using high-quality ingredients, while also reducing our environmental impact. "Happier" in providing a welcoming space for guests to gather and break bread.

To identify the issues most relevant to Panera, using the GRI reporting framework, we conducted a priorities evaluation – known as a materiality assessment. Based on this assessment, we set ambitious commitments to make progress toward achieving our sustainability goals. To see the full results of our assessment and our sustainability commitments, read our 2021 Responsibility Report.

The Panera Bread Foundation envisions a world in which young people can unlock their full potential and dare to dream — a world in which opportunity and economic mobility are accessible and equitable for all. We will provide opportunities for children and youth to grow as leaders and gain access to education and career advancement.

https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/panera-foundation.html

Day-End Dough-Nation
Website: Day-End Dough-Nation | Panera Bread

Program Description
Bread is better when shared. We believe no loaf should go uneaten when we know there are neighbors in need. That's why we donate our unsold baked goods to local non-profits at the end of the night through our Day-End Dough-Nation® program. We partner with over 3,300 charities nationwide, including food pantries, veteran services and youth shelters, to provide bread and bakery items to those in need and reduce food waste. To learn more about our impact, read our 2021 Responsibility Report.

Panera Fundraising
Panera Fundraising (panerabread.com)

Program Description
Local nonprofits can host fundraising events at their local Panera bakery cafe. Schools, sports teams or Scout groups invite their friends and family to join them for a meal at Panera. Organizations receive customized materials to promote their event to their networks, and once the event is over, they receive a donation valued at 20% of net food and beverage sales. Between 2017-2019, Panera contributed $1.7 million through these fundraising events. More information is here.

Duck Donuts
Website: https://www.duckdonuts.com/

Quack Gives Back
https://www.duckdonuts.com/about-us/quack-gives-back/

Program Description

Quack Gives Back program promotes partnering with community groups to raise awareness and funds for their causes. Whether the designated organization is looking for donations, or fundraising opportunities, Quack Gives Back is a vehicle to accomplish this.

Anyone can nominate a specific charity, organization, person or a team that is looking for community support. Customers, who would like to nominate one of the above, should fill out a nomination form at their local store explaining why their nominee is deserving or what donation they are looking for.

Mooyah
Mooyah Fundraising: https://www.mooyah.com/fundraising/

Program Description
Eager to get your organization some cash? MOOYAH is eager to help. Giving back to the communities we serve, live and work in is part of our heart at MOOYAH. Our fundraising program lets you raise money just by chowing on burgers, fries and shakes. How awesome is that?

Host a fundraiser or spirit night at your local MOOYAH to raise money for your 501c(3) organization or team, and a portion of the sales you generate will be given back in support. Schedule your fundraiser today!

For more information, please visit the website.

ioby
Website: https://www.ioby.org/

Program Description
IOBY helps neighbors grow and implement great ideas one block at a time. This crowd-resourcing platform aims to connect leaders with funding and support to make neighborhoods safer, greener, livable, and more fun.

crowdfunding + resource organizing = crowd-resourcing

Crowdfunding is the pooling of small online donations for a cause or project.

Resource organizing is a core tenet of community organizing that considers activists and advocates the best supporters to ensure the success and long-term stewardship of a cause or project.

As a combination of these two, ioby's platform gives everyone the ability to organize all kinds of capital—cash, social networks, in-kind donations, volunteer time, advocacy—from within the neighborhood to make the neighborhood a better place to live.