**Neighborhood business District Support Grant Program - FAQ**

**Neighborhood: Citywide**

Q. Please provide some examples Neighborhood Public Infrastructure projects.

*Examples could include affordable housing, outdoor dining, façade improvements and/or the creation public spaces (parklets).*

Q. What are some potential uses of the NBDSG?

*The NBDSG will provide aid to non-profit organizations and small businesses. The funds may be used for hiring, re-training, hiring/retention bonuses, capital investments responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, support for strategic planning initiatives, non-profit investment in built environment to help support small businesses (outdoor dining, façade improvements, public spaces), and capital investment into affordable housing supporting neighborhood business district.*

Q. Does that mean the city is going to get us our other contracts “on the street” within a couple months?

*The City has contracted with Homebase as a third-party administrator of the grant program. Homebase will execute a subgrantee contract with each grant recipient. The grant administration for NBDSG is separate from standard request for legal services.*

Q. Why not make round 1 at least somewhat feasible for application organization and notifying our Community Councils to give us time for legitimate projects to get through first round?

*The round 1 application close date has been extended from January 21, 2022, until February 04, 2022, to allow for additional time. There will be at least two rounds of the NBDSG infrastructure applications (perhaps more). The quick turnaround is meant to get these resources deployed as soon as possible. The City only has about a year to spend the funds*

Q. Can we apply for both rounds?

*Yes, an applicant may apply for both rounds of funding.*

Q. How are neighborhoods supposed to complete and submit an application when there is barely a month to apply?

The City has extended the close date for round 1 (from 1/21/22 until 02/04/22) and reserves the right to adjust timelines in future NBDSG rounds.

Q. Are the outlines you have shared available on the City’s website?

*All available information on the grant program including the application can be found here - Link to NBDSG:* [*https://choosecincy.com/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-business-district-support-grants-nbdsg/*](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fchoosecincy.com%2Fneighborhood-services%2Fneighborhood-business-district-support-grants-nbdsg%2F&data=04%7C01%7CGerald.Fortson%40cincinnati-oh.gov%7C128a025cd7634c5d468508d9bc1d90aa%7C6f55bfd1366941fda0e3c98d56adb39f%7C1%7C0%7C637747657425562569%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=cEffFo2CbIYyuM7p9Bf6zmlxvA1B6WOp%2BLWjXLAx8Kw%3D&reserved=0)

Who can be contacted at Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) for to discuss an outdoor parklet as a potential project?

*Parklets must follow the guidelines established by DOTE.*

*Reference* [*https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/covid19/business-recovery/bars-and-restaurants/*](https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/covid19/business-recovery/bars-and-restaurants/) *and the attached guidelines.*

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| *Parklets are permitted through Open Counter RSP.*  |  |
| *Road closures must follow the general procedure in the attached motion.*  |  |

*DOTE Contacts:*

*Angie Strunc, RA -* *Tel:* *513.352.3310 │E-Mail:* *angie.strunc@cincinnati-oh.gov*

*Diego Jordan* *Tel:* *513.352.3310 │E-Mail:* *diego.jordan@cincinnati-oh.gov*

Q. Do we need quotes for the work in the application?

*Budget quotes are highly recommended as, NBDSG awards will reflect the original budgeted request.*

Q. Can NBDSG grant funds be used for property acquisition?

*Yes, but please keep in mind the NBDSG was created to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through aid to non-profit organizations and small businesses as well as, helping build stronger neighborhoods and communities through the development of affordable housing. Any property acquisition contemplated as a project will have to fit the goal of the program to be eligible for NBDSG funding.*

Q. Can multiple neighborhood groups apply from one neighborhood?

*Yes, but there is a desire by the City Administration for applications for projects that benefit Neighborhood Business Districts as defined by the City. Groups representing neighborhoods without a recognized NBD are still encouraged to apply if their project otherwise meets the program requirements.*

Q. What are the reporting requirements?

Each sub-recipient awardee will be required to report to Homebase the outcome of the project for which funding was received. The City of Cincinnati will request program reporting from Homebase on a quarterly basis. More details on reporting requirements will be forthcoming as the Us Department of Treasury continues to make updates

Q. Should I call the Homebase office for more information?

*Yes, Homebase Cincinnati has been selected as a third-party administrator for these funds. Homebase will share updates as they are received* [*https://www.homebasecincy.org/neighborhood-business-district-support-grant*](https://www.homebasecincy.org/neighborhood-business-district-support-grant)*. If you have any questions, please contact Homebase at:* *info@homebasecincy.org* *or call 513-334-3689.*

Q. Can we hire a consultant?

*If a consultant is to be hired to assist with the implementation of grant funded project, then that expenditure must appear in the original project scope and budget submitted in the application. Consultant contract must also be provided, and subject to approval.*

Q. Do prevailing wage rates apply?

Prevailing wage rates do not apply however, wage rate enforcement does apply to the NBDSG.

Q. How will organizations be receiving the grant funds (i.e. is this a reimbursement?)

The City has a contract with Homebase for contract administration and upon initial awards funding will be advanced to Homebase. Once projects are ready to commence and subgrant contracts are executed with Homebase and the awardees, Homebase will be able to disburse funding to repay project expenses.