



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT FUND

This fund provides eligible neighborhood associations with city resources for community-driven projects that help to make neighborhoods better places to live, work, play and shop. All projects are initiated, planned and implemented by community members in partnership with the City, and must be located on city owned property.

Program goals:

- Build neighborhood capacity and participation
- Allow neighborhoods to self-determine improvement priorities
- Leverage citizen involvement and resources to revitalize and reinvest in neighborhoods
- Stimulate development of partnerships between City and Neighborhood Associations

Neighbors getting to know each other and working together to create change has a positive impact on the quality of life in that neighborhood. Therefore, a key element of the Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) is the community involvement portion of the project. Neighborhood Associations are asked to describe how they will invest in the project through volunteer time or in-kind donations or services.

Program guidelines:

Applications are accepted anytime from October 1– August 1 of the following year and must be received at least six weeks prior to the start of the project. Each project request is reviewed and applicants are notified of award decision within two weeks of application submission.

To receive support projects must:

- Provide public benefit and be free and open to all members of the public
- Involve the benefitting neighborhood in project identification, planning and execution
- Be feasible for completion by September 1, receive prior approval for extension in writing

Program guidelines: (continued)

Projects not eligible for funding:

- Duplication of an existing private or public program or service
- Projects that conflict with existing city policy
- Maintenance of projects built with previous city dollars

Project Categories:

Crime and Public Safety – *projects are aimed to reduce crime and increase feelings of safety in the neighborhood. Some examples include street light installation, security fencing, speed control signage, etc.*

Neighborhood Physical Improvement—*include physical improvements to public areas within the neighborhood. Some examples include landscaping, murals, benches, signage, community art, sidewalks, and tree planting.*

Energy and Environmental Sustainability—*projects help neighborhoods curb energy consumption and protect natural environments. Some examples include bicycle racks, walking trails, and rain barrels.*

Application Process:

- Complete application and submit to City of Tupelo Development Services Department between October 1 and August 1 of the following year.
- Each application will be reviewed by a NIF committee made up of Tupelo Development Services staff. Each applicant will be notified of approval within two weeks of application submission. An initial meeting will be held to review the application and go over the fiscal responsibilities and processes before any work is begun.
- **All supplies and/or capital items needed for the project shall be procured by the City and payment will be made directly to the vendor providing the services and/or materials for the project. Project must be complete and/or materials delivered before funds are disbursed. No funds will be reimbursed nor paid directly to an individual nor a neighborhood association.**