
About the CommunityWINS® Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How many grants will be awarded each year?

There will be eight awards granted per year with two awards per population category. Please see the program guidelines for the award breakdown.

How many programs can be nominated?

There can be up to three initiatives or programs nominated by eligible nonprofits; each require a Letter of Support from the Mayor's office.

What do the eligible programs need to address?

The eligible programs must address housing affordability solutions by increasing availability and affordability of rentals, transitional housing, and/or sustainable home ownership.

Who will select the winners?

An independent panel of external judges comprised of former Mayors and experts will select the winners.

How will the Mayor be notified if we are among the finalists?

After the judging panel makes their selections, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) will contact the Mayor, Mayoral contact, as well as the nonprofit contact listed on the application. When the selected cities have been notified, we will post a box on this page advising cities have been contacted. After the winter meeting award ceremony, we will post the press release announcing the 2020 grant recipients.

When will the winners be announced?

The award announcements will be made in January 2021 during the USCM 89th Winter Meeting in Washington D.C.

What is required of the award winners?

1. Mayors of winning nonprofits must attend the winter meeting in Washington D.C. in January 2021.
2. The top four award recipients must host a local Mayoral dedication event by end of year 2021.
3. All dollars must be utilized within one year of receipt unless otherwise noted.
4. All award recipients must complete and submit a CommunityWINS final impact report within one year of grant award.

Can a nonprofit be nominated by more than one Mayor?

Yes, as a nonprofit may serve more than one city/Mayor.

Is it possible to receive a list of eligible cities that are in good standing?

No, this is confidential information within USCM. Membership in good standing will be a factor considered by the judging panel during the application review process.

Does the nonprofit have to provide matching funds?

No.

Who should fill out the application, the Mayor's office or the nonprofit?

The application notates which areas must be completed by the respective parties.

Does the city have to identify a particular 'muni initiative' in order to compete, i.e., a neighborhood revitalization initiative, a workforce development housing initiative, etc.?

Most cities already have project/initiatives identified or they can identify a new one. They can apply for a new initiative or to assist with funding for an initiative already underway as long as it falls under the eligible categories.

Does this 'muni initiative' need to be documented in a five-year plan, etc.?

All award dollars must be utilized within one year of receipt, and each winning nonprofit will provide detailed reporting on how the award dollars were used. Note: If dollars are used in conjunction with other award dollars, **CommunityWINS** Grant Program funds must be utilized within two years.

You mention that the eight winners must travel to Washington D.C. in January 2021. Who is responsible for covering the cost of this expense?

The award winning Mayor must attend the event in January. We do not cover travel costs for award recipients. Nonprofits do not need to attend; however, generally their attendance at the meeting would be at the invitation of the Mayor.

Will the selection committee consider multiple applications from a single entity?

A nonprofit can make multiple applications in multiple cities, as long as they have the support and letter of recommendation from each city's Mayor. There is a limit of three Mayor-recommended nonprofits for each city.

What are the actual dates for the funding cycle?

The funds will be awarded to the nonprofit after the winter meeting that takes place January 2021. The exact date is not available at this time.

The Mayor's office would like to know the city's level of commitment for the duration of the project?

It is entirely the city's decision to be committed to the duration of the project.

What is the process for cities to nominate applications to CommunityWINS? If nonprofit partners complete the online application are they subsequently submitted to the jurisdictions for review and approvals?

The nonprofit must have the letter of support from the Mayor prior to applying. Once the application is submitted, it will go through the selection process for review by the panel of judges for the grant program. It will not be sent to the city.

Who do we address the letter of support from the Mayor to?

Please address to 2020 CommunityWINS Judging Panel c/o USCM, 1620 Eye Street N.W., Washington, DC 20006.