



## Love Your Block Grant Funds Spending Guidelines

Cities of Service Love Your Block grant funds are to be used for direct support of projects. The proposed projects should be: clear and thoughtful; address important community concerns; contribute to building stronger communities through neighbors working together; engage the mayor or city chief executive, and result in concrete improvements that can be sustained by the community. The following guidelines are subject to change; grant fund spending is approved on a case by case basis.

Acceptable use of grant funds include, among others, costs associated with:

- Repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional housing, or community facilities (schools, community centers, senior centers, etc.)
- Weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income housing or community facilities
- Planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities
- Vacant lot cleanup
- Litter removal; cleaning up illegal dumping
- Graffiti removal and/or replacement of graffiti with a mural
- Repairing damaged or missing street signage
- Creating new tree beds
- Replacing broken or worn-out litter bins
- Installing speed humps or speed bumps
- Creating/managing a “tool library” where neighborhood groups can borrow tools for cleanup projects; tools are returned after projects are completed for future use by other groups
- Repairing broken street lights
- Crime prevention through environmental design interventions (<https://www.cptedtraining.net/>)

Proposals for costs associated with the following activities to support direct program activities will be considered. Examples of acceptable costs include:

- Film, music, television, video or media production projects or broadcast underwriting
- Development of a volunteer matching website
- Refreshments related to a project, meeting, or event

Cities of Service Love Your Block grant funds should not support:

- Services covered by existing city infrastructure, such as standard trash collection, printing flyers, and staff salaries.
- Rent or utilities
- 501(c)(3) incorporation fees
- Speaker honorariums
- Computer equipment
- Improvement projects that primarily serve churches and/or other religious organizations and not the overall community
- Scholarships or other direct support to individuals or families
- Fraternal, political, labor, athletic or social organizations, civic clubs, candidates or projects
- Events such as block parties, conferences, festivals, dinners, sports competitions, art exhibits, fundraisers (e.g. dinners, walks/runs/relays, golf tournaments and auctions) unless directly connected to a project with measurable neighborhood revitalization outcomes
- Capital campaigns, endowments or endowed chairs
- Any other support that does not meet the IRS’s definition of a charitable purpose.