



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
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## News Release

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**Share!** #Durham now providing grants to help make neighborhoods better places to live; applications due July 31  
<http://bit.ly/2a5XeEh>

## **Durham Seeks Neighborhoods for New Matching Grant Program**

*Neighborhood Project Applications Due July 31*

DURHAM, N.C. – Durham neighborhood groups seeking to make their neighborhoods better places to live, work, play, and shop can now receive funds for improvement projects through a new City of Durham grant program.

The City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department is launching its [Neighborhood Matching Grants Program](#), which provides grants up to \$2,500 to neighborhood associations, homeowner associations, community watch groups, and resident groups for projects that benefit a neighborhood's quality of life.

According to Director Constance Stancil with the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, this new program is designed to build neighborhood pride and resident involvement. "The matching grants are a way for us to provide support and tools for neighborhoods to work together to solve problems," Stancil said. "Ultimately, our goal is to empower neighborhoods by leveraging public and private resources and enhancing community partnerships."

Examples of projects to be considered for funding include physical improvement projects such as beautification projects or tree plantings; neighborhood pride projects such as newsletters or special events; education and training projects such as youth programs; and public safety projects such as crime prevention programs.

Selected projects must provide a dollar-for-dollar match for City funds awarded. There are several types of contributions eligible for meeting the match requirements including volunteer labor, donated professional services, donated materials, and cash donations. “The heart of this program is encouraging neighbors to get to know one another, work together, and have a positive impact on their neighborhood's quality of life,” Stancil said.

Groups can visit the department's [Web page](#) to review the complete application guidelines. Applications are due July 31. Grants will be awarded on a bi-annual basis, with the first round of selected projects notified in August with required completion by November. The next round of funding will begin in January 2017.

Durham's program is based on similar programs such as the City of Charlotte's [Neighborhood Matching Grants](#) and the City of Austin's [Neighborhood Partnering Program](#). For additional information about Durham's new grant program, contact a member of the department's Community Engagement team at (919) 560-1647 or by [email](#).

### **About the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department**

The [Neighborhood Improvement Services Department](#) works to preserve and improve quality of life conditions for Durham residents, and to encourage active participation in neighborhood redevelopment and public policy and decision making dialogue. The department is responsible for enforcement of quality of life ordinances and state statutes including the City's Fair Housing Ordinance; Minimum Housing Code; Nonresidential Code; Weedy Lot, Abandoned & Junk Vehicle ordinances; and the State of North Carolina's Unsafe Building Statute. The department's rapid responders, known as the Impact Team, remediate non-compliant housing properties; abate public nuisances, such as graffiti, illegal dumping, and abandoned shopping carts; and conduct neighborhood service projects. The department's Community Engagement staff provides outreach and education to Durham residents and community organizations. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps ensure that Durham has thriving, livable neighborhoods by providing the highest quality of services to engage and educate the community, eradicating blight, ensuring safer neighborhoods and enhancing neighborhood revitalization.

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