



**Economic Development Administration, EDA
Statewide Public Space Initiative- Placemaking (SPSI) Planning Grant**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When do applications open?

A: Applications open July 15 and close September 1, 2022.

Q: How much funding is available to each community/county/tribal entity?

A: Grant awards are up to \$100,000.

Q: If awarded funds, when do the funds need to be expended by?

A: Project funds must be expended by October 1, 2023.

Q: When will grant awards be announced?

A: Awards will be announced October 15, 2022.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this grant?

A: City, County, and Tribal entities.

Q: Does my community have to have matching funds to apply?

A: No matching funds are required.

Q: Does my community have to be an MSI Community?

A: No, but MSI Communities will be scored more favorably.

Q: Can non-profits, individuals and/or private businesses apply for this grant?

A: No. If a non-profit or private business would like to participate in this grant, we would encourage you to work with your local city, county, or tribal entity to apply.

Q: Can I pay for final specs and plans or architectural designs with my awarded funds?

A: No. The grant funds cannot be used towards any final plans or documents.

Q: Does my community have to have local collaborations and/or partnerships to apply for the grant?

A: Yes. The more collaboration with local partners, the more favorable the score.

Q: Does my community need a letter of support to apply for this grant?

A: Yes. Letters of support from entities that will have a role in final implementation and collaboration should be submitted with your application.

Q: What are the key items this grant must address?

A: The applicants that will be awarded funds must include workforce development, Covid-19 resiliency, and economic growth in their community.

Q: Can we build a pocket park or a splash pad with the awarded funds?

A: Only if they encompass the three key components beyond just a green space.

- Economic Development
- Covid-19 Resiliency
- Workforce

Q: Are there other grants available to help implement this grant idea after the planning phase is done?

A: Yes. There are other grants and resources available to help take the project past the planning phase. Please see <https://www.nd.gov/living-nd/main-street-nd> for more resources.

Q: Is administration allowed for local recipients?

A: No. The funds must be used towards placemaking planning projects, not salaries or projects that were not awarded within the grant application.

Q: Is there a minimum amount (dollars) that a community can apply for?

A: No, there is no minimum amount for this grant.

Q: Can this grant be regranted to other organizations and/or non-profits in local communities?

A: No. Funds must be applied to and used by the community that was awarded the grant.

Q: How will applications be scored?

A: Please see the grant application guidelines for more information.

Q: Do I need to have my contractor in place before I apply for funds?

A: No, the award recipient may select their contractor(s) after the award letter has been received but no amendments or changes to the final dollar amount will be awarded.

Q: What if I do not spend all the funds?

A: Applicants are asked to have a very clear budget in their submission on how they will use the requested dollars. The grant is a reimbursable grant and any dollars not expended will not be awarded. In addition, funds must be identified in the initial application to be awarded.

Q: Will early received applications be reviewed prior to the deadline?

A: The Department of Commerce will review grant applications for a preliminary eligibility only. This is to ensure the applications have met the guidelines and the parameters and/or guidelines. If the grant application does not meet the guidelines, it will be sent back for the opportunity to be resubmitted by the deadline.

If your communities grant application qualifies past the preliminary review, it will be scored by review committee with the other qualified applications on the prearranged review date.

Q: Are any communities off limits to apply?

A: No, all incorporated cities, counties and tribal entities are eligible to apply for this grant.

Q: Is this grant available for a feasibility study?

A: Yes, if the feasibility study includes placemaking includes all the required components

Q: Is this grant only for creating a plan for placemaking, not actual placemaking?

A: Yes, this is correct. This is only a planning grant.

Q: Can a City/County submit more than one grant application?

A: The initial answer to your question is yes, Cities can have more than one application.

But that is a "Yes" with an understanding that the project application needs to approach all opportunities to pursue and get community buy in and have the opportunity to succeed. If communities have multiple projects, the projects should look at how they tie together into an overall community plan.