



## Orange County Crime Prevention Grants Criteria and Program Guidelines



Applications for Crime Prevention Grants are taken on a **year-round** basis. Grants are awarded as funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Prior to completing a Crime Prevention Grant application, please contact Orange County's Neighborhood Services Division to check for availability of funding and to discuss your specific project idea ~ 407-836-5606.

### Applicant Criteria

Crime Prevention grants are available to any organized neighborhood organization, homeowner's association, and neighborhood council. Non-profit organizations that partner with a neighborhood may also apply. The following criteria must be met by each organization:

- Organizations must be registered with Orange County Neighborhood Services Division. Please call 407-836-5606 to register your organization.
- The organization must have its Board of Directors or voting membership vote on and approve the grant application before submission.
- The organizations must show that it has the capacity and planning skills to complete the project successfully.
- Organizations that have a history of successful crime prevention efforts, or an existing Neighborhood Watch group, will receive special consideration.
- All grant recipients must provide a cash match of 10% of project costs. The cash match requirement will be waived if the application includes a letter of support from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Contact the Sheriff's Homeland Security Section at (407) 254-7100, if you need assistance obtaining a letter of support.
- The organization must be in unincorporated Orange County. Organizations within municipalities can participate with a letter of support from their municipal police department but are still required to submit a letter of support from the Sheriff's Office to qualify for a match waiver.
- Each organization must have a committee of volunteers (e.g. a Crime Prevention Grant Team) in place to carry out the project and must provide a list of volunteers along with role/responsibilities assignments.
- The grant application must include a detailed budget for the project, including required quotes from vendors for all planned expenditures.

### Selection Process

Applications will be selected based on:

- Potential impact of project on reducing crime and increasing neighborhood safety
- Experience of organization in accomplishing similar projects, including neighborhood watch programs
- Innovative or creative solutions to problems
- Detail of project work plan submitted, including realistic timeline and budget
- Support of neighborhood in completing project
- Involvement of Orange County Sheriff's Office or Office Of Emergency Management in project development
- Quality of application and materials submitted

### **Project Guidelines**

The intent of the Crime Prevention Grant program is to provide funding for neighborhood driven projects to reduce crime and increase safety. Grants are available for projects ranging from \$500 - \$10,000. Eligible projects can address issues such as senior safety, youth safety, volunteer patrol programs, National Night Out celebrations, security materials, resident training, and others. The following guidelines apply:

- Grant funds can only be used for projects that benefit the entire neighborhood and allow all residents the opportunity to participate, if they choose.
- The organization must provide a detailed work plan of how the project will be implemented if funded. All projects must be completed within six months of approval.
- To ensure that progress is being made on the project, all grant recipients are required to provide status reports every three months until and including the completion of the project.
- All projects must be related to crime prevention and/or safety.
- Funding will cover training and materials. It will not cover food, drinks, and ongoing maintenance costs.
- Applicants are encouraged to develop a relationship and seek assistance from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Projects that are developed in partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Office (evidenced by a letter of support) will not have to provide a cash match. Projects within municipalities will require a letter of support from the local police department in addition to a letter of support from the Sheriff's Office to receive a matching fund waiver.
- Applications will be considered as they are received, based on funding availability. The review process will take approximately 4-6 weeks.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

### **Eligible Projects**

- Neighborhood "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) Analysis Projects and physical enhancement projects as recommended through a certified CPTED Analysis. (Call Neighborhood Services to find out more about this type of project...)
- Projects that include home security or safety equipment such as house numbers, engravers, window locks, solid core doors, fire extinguishers, (911 only cell phones - for seniors or disabled only), or gunlocks – must include a distribution plan must be included for projects in this category. Organizations must also document the distribution of giveaways over \$10 in value.
- Training for residents in areas such as personal security, theft prevention, senior safety, etc. – must include estimates of how many residents, where the training will take place, and how residents will be involved.
- Programs or projects geared toward youth safety or providing meaningful activities for youth.
- Neighborhood health and safety fairs. (i.e. Bike Safety Rodeo, Children Safety Day, Fire Safety, Crime Prevention)
- National Night Out, or other crime and safety related celebrations, excluding food and drinks.
- Materials used to increase involvement in or start a neighborhood watch or community volunteer patrol program, such as flashlights, safety vests, or shirts.
- Landlord and resident crime prevention training and assistance for apartment complexes.

### **Ineligible Projects**

- Salaries or payments to staff members or law enforcement officers.
- Projects that can be funded through a ReNEW grant, such as beautification projects, newsletters, and neighborhood signage.
- Weapons of any type, including firearms, pepper spray, etc.
- Electronic surveillance equipment
- Security gate installation and/or maintenance

Neighborhoods are encouraged to be creative in coming up with projects tailored to their specific community. Remember to contact Orange County Neighborhood Services at 407-836-5606 to discuss your specific project prior to completing an application.