



Orange County
Nonprofit Safety Grant
GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Overview

The Orange County Neighborhood Services Division administers a Nonprofit Safety Grant to reduce crime and enhance safety so Orange County residents and neighborhoods can enjoy a high quality of life (“Grant”). The Grant is funded with County general revenue funds.

Grant applications are accepted year-round and awarded as funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Purpose

The purpose of this Grant is to assist neighborhood organizations with implementing projects that reduce crime and enhance safety in Orange County, Florida. Programs and services that address the needs of high crime neighborhoods, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities are encouraged.

Applicant Eligibility

The Nonprofit Safety Grant is available to charitable and religious nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3). Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be registered with the Orange County Neighborhood Services Division. Call the Neighborhood Services Division at 407-836-4200 to register your organization or to change outdated information. Applicants may also register online at [Neighborhood Organization Directory Registration Form \(ocfl.net\)](https://www.ocfl.net/Neighborhood-Organization-Directory-Registration-Form).
- An applicant’s Board of Directors (or other voting membership) must vote to approve the Grant application prior to submission.
- An applicant must show that it has the capacity and planning skills to successfully complete the proposed project.
- Existing neighborhood watch groups and organizations with a demonstrated history of successfully helping in community efforts to enhance public safety may receive special consideration.
- **All Grant applications may include a letter of support from the Orange County Sheriff’s Office (“OCSO”).**
- Applicants located within municipalities incorporated in Orange County, Florida may include a letter of support from their municipal police department in addition to any letter of support from OCSO .
- Applicant must provide a list of volunteers responsible for carrying out the project and include each volunteer’s roles, responsibilities, and assignments.
- The Grant application must include a detailed budget for the project including required quotes from at least three vendors for all planned expenditures.

Applicants that have already been awarded the Nonprofit Safety Grant for the immediately preceding two consecutive years are not eligible to apply.

Project Guidelines

Grants are available for projects ranging from \$1,000 - \$10,000. Eligible projects can address issues such as senior safety, youth safety, volunteer patrol programs, National Night Out celebrations, home security materials and tools, resident training, and others. Projects must meet the following guidelines:

- Grant funds can only be used for projects that benefit an entire neighborhood and allow all residents the opportunity to participate.
- The applicant must provide a detailed work plan of how the project will be implemented, if funded. **All projects must be completed within six (6) months of entering into the Grant agreement.**
- Grant funds are not eligible to pay for the costs of currently existing programs or ongoing projects.
- All Grant recipients shall provide project reports to the County by the 15th and 30th day of each month until project completion to ensure the County can monitor the project's progress.
- All projects must be related to public safety.
- Grant funds can be used for resident training and material costs.
- Grant recipients are encouraged to develop a relationship and seek assistance from the Orange County Sheriff's Office and Orange County Office of Emergency Management.

Eligible Projects

- Neighborhood "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (CPTED) Analysis. (Call the Neighborhood Services Division 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 individuals, and gunlocks. These projects must include a plan detailing the distribution of the items to the residents. Grant recipients shall document the distribution of giveaways over \$10 in value. Residents must sign for items received that are over \$10 in value.
- Training for residents in areas such as self-defense, theft prevention, senior safety, etc. Applicants shall include estimates of how many residents will participate, 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 (e.g., Bike Safety Rodeo, Children Safety Day, Fire Safety, Neighborhood Watch, etc.).
- National Night Out or other public 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.
- Disaster preparedness.
- Other public safety projects approved by the Manager of the County's Neighborhood Services Division.

Ineligible Projects

- Salaries or payments to staff members
- Weapons of any type, including firearms, pepper spray, etc.
- Electronic surveillance equipment
- Security gate installation and/or maintenance
- Food & Beverages
- Staff or volunteer travel/mileage costs
- Staff training costs
- Purchase or maintenance of equipment (e.g., computers, cameras, vehicles)
- Maintenance & Operations

Sheriff's Office Support

Applicants may include a letter of support from the Orange County Sheriff's Office to support the proposed project. Applicants must be able to provide a summary of the project to the Sheriff's Office. Applicants may contact the Orange County Sheriff's Office at 407-254-7000 for more information.

Application Instructions

Each Grant application must be submitted in its entirety, with all applicable questions answered and all requested attachments included, or the Grant application will not be considered for funding. Please use the Application Checklist for assistance in submitting a complete application. Applicants may submit via email, mail, or hand-delivered.

Application Review

The County's Neighborhood Services Division will review the applications and may inform applicants about missing information, attachments, or budget figures. The County's review of an application does not guarantee funding. For assistance, applicants may contact the Neighborhood Services Division at 407-836-4200 or via email at OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net

Grant Notification and Awards

Neighborhood Services staff will review applications for eligibility, completeness, accuracy, and positive impact on the community. Thereafter, the Neighborhood Grants Advisory Board ("NGAB") will review qualified applications and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") for final approval. Grant recipients will be notified in writing within five (5) business days of BCC approval.

Deadlines

Grant applications are processed quarterly and must be received by **5:00 p.m.** on the second Thursday in September, December, and March in order to be considered for funding during the next fiscal quarter. Applications received after the deadline will be processed in the following application period.

Applications may be mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to the County's Neighborhood Services Division at the following addresses:

**Neighborhood Services Division
Attn: Nonprofit Safety Grant
2450 33rd Street, 2nd Floor
Orlando, FL 32839**

Email: OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net

Mailed applications must be *received*, not postmarked, by the deadline.

Contact Information

For more information about this Grant, please call the Neighborhood Services Division at 407-836-4200, email us at OCNeighborhoods@ocfl.net, or visit our website at www.ocfl.net/Neighborhoods.