

2025 Kauffman Capacity Building Grant Award

Ordinance 250591

Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Technical Assistance Training

July 29, 2025

Prepared for

Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee



What is the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant program?

The program started as a collaborative effort between Mayor Pro Tem Rayna Parks-Shaw, Neighborhood Leaders, and the Neighborhood Services Department

On the 2nd full year of grant funding

- Grant cycle is aligned with the City's fiscal calendar – May through April
- Annual award, with optional mid-year award depending on funding

NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT GRANT



Neighborhood Empowerment Grant

This grant is for not-for profit Neighborhood Groups or Associations that are registered with the City, seeking funding in one of the following categories:

- Community Engagement
- Neighborhood Identity and Culture Building
- Public Safety/Crime Reduction
- Quality of Life Enhancements
- Neighborhood Investment
- Blight Remediation
- Beautification Efforts
- Youth Programming

Past awarded projects include:

- Tree plantings, Youth workforce program - community beautification, Mural installation, Community master plan outreach, Park improvements

100 total grant awards have been distributed to 68 neighborhood organizations

- Historically NSD has awarded all eligible applicants

Neighborhood Empowerment Grant

Patterns emerged through out the 4 cycles of funding that show a lack of capacity of the neighborhood organizations

- 12 eligible neighborhoods were not able to meet City contracting requirements (18%)
- Out of 2 completed cycles, 17 out of 56 awards had remaining unspent funding at the end of the project period (30%)
- Majority of neighborhoods have missed grant deadlines for reporting, invoicing, and executing their projects
- Neighborhood leaders are stretched thin in both time and resources

This points to a need for education and training

- Providing technical assistance training has been proven successful for other City programs through BizCare, Health Dept
- Through feedback and experience, there is a need for technical assistance in the following areas:
 - Financial Management
 - Project Implementation and Execution
 - Volunteer Recruitment
 - Community Engagement and Outreach

Neighborhood Empowerment Grant

Kauffman Foundation – FY25 Capacity Building Grant

- Applied in April 2025
- Project was selected for funding from over 300 applications
- \$250,000 award for grant period of June 2025 - May 2027

Technical assistance training will begin with the next cycle of Neighborhood Empowerment grant funding

- Anticipated in the next fiscal year - May 2026

In the meantime, next steps include:

- Creating RFP for technical assistance providers
- Formally surveying past participants for continued input and direction
- Building outcomes and indicators of long-term impact and growth