

Neighborhood Match Fund (NMF) – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NMF?

The Neighborhood Match Fund provides contracts to support resident-led projects that bring neighbors together and strengthen community in Grand Rapids.

Who can apply?

Grand Rapids residents, nonprofit organizations based in Grand Rapids, and informal resident groups may apply. The project must be led or co-led by someone who lives in the neighborhood where the project takes place.

How much funding is available?

Contracts range from \$500 to \$5,000.

When can I apply?

Applications are accepted twice a year:
June 1 – June 30 and December 1 – December 31.

What types of projects are eligible?

Projects must be free, open to the public, and focused on building community. Examples include block parties, community gardens, cleanups, and neighborhood events.

Is a match required?

Yes. Your match can include volunteer time, donated goods or services, and/or cash contributions.

What is a fiduciary?

A fiduciary is a nonprofit organization that manages and distributes funds on your behalf. If you don't have one, we can help connect you with a partner.

When are funds released?

Funds are released after the contract is signed and the fiduciary is registered as a vendor with the City. Please keep this timeline in mind as you plan your project start date.

What can funds be used for?

Funds can be used for project-related expenses such as supplies, materials, rentals, and services.

What is not allowed?

Funds cannot be used for salaries or wages, alcohol, lobbying, bounce houses, or neighborhood association swag.

How are projects selected?

Projects are reviewed by a community-based team and selected based on community impact, feasibility, and alignment with program goals.

Is there a final report?

Yes. A closing report is required to share what was accomplished and the impact on your community.

How many times can I apply?

You can apply once per calendar year.

How many times can I receive funding?

You can receive funding as many times as your project is selected by the advisory committee.

What does the advisory committee look for in a strong project proposal?

Strong project proposals center community through collaboration and interactive activities. Strong project proposals also have a lot of detail about how their project will support a sense of community. Repeat/annual projects or projects led by the same people over several years may not be as likely to receive funding to provide equitable opportunities for new projects.