

Community Events Grant Program

Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria Fiscal Year 2019/20

Application Deadline: April 19, 2019, by 5 p.m.

Thank you for your interest in the Community Events Grant Program. Please review the following guidelines and eligibility criteria to determine if your group qualifies. Funding requests will be considered as part of an annual competitive application process. While the City will accept applications through April 19, 2019, by 5 p.m., the exact amount of grant funding available will be determined by City Council when the FY 2019/20 Budget is adopted in June 2019.

Program Mission

The Community Events Grant Program was created to support and encourage groups to build community and celebrate our unique culture by holding community events in Sunnyvale.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

- The sponsoring organizations must be nonprofit or not-for-profit. Applicants must attach a copy of nonprofit documentation if the organization has such documentation.
- Funds may be granted to religious organizations if the funds are not used for a religious purpose including for the promotion of any sect, church, creed, or sectarian organization, nor to conduct any religious service or ceremony. This eligibility criterion is an attempt to preserve separation of church and state while still allowing religious organizations to be eligible for grant funds.
- Organizations that are collaborating with the City in co-sponsoring an event are eligible to apply for grant funding, however, grant funds can only be used to defray expenses incurred by the co-sponsoring organization(s) rather than the City.
- Grants will not be awarded to organizations owing a debt to the City.
- Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
- The sponsoring organization must demonstrate the ability to produce a well-planned, safe event and demonstrate strong financial management and effective management controls, including cost-effectiveness.
- It is not the nature of the organization applying for or receiving the grant, but whether the organization will use those grant funds for a valid public purpose. Some factors that may demonstrate the public purpose of a funded program or service include:
 - Whether the proposed project/service compliments or enhances a service that the City also provides
 - When there is an identifiable secondary, or indirect, benefit to the City
 - When the organization provides a service, the City could provide, but chooses not to

Event Eligibility and Evaluation Guidelines

- All proposed events must:
 - be held within Sunnyvale City limits,
 - be of a citywide nature,
 - demonstrate an ability to draw a crowd of at least 500 people,
 - be free and open to the public, and
 - occur between July 2019 and June 1, 2020.
- Fundraiser events are not eligible for grant funding. A “fundraiser” is defined as any event that solicits funds from attendees either through direct ticket sales or asking for a donation. Furthermore, any subcommittee or sub-organization of the sponsoring organization is barred from asking for funds in the form of raffle tickets, silent auction bids or items of similar intent.
- The event should encourage celebrations of community which focus on the character, diversity and quality of Sunnyvale and provide vitality and identity to the community.
- Higher priority will be given to encouraging new events as well as supporting existing events that have been highly successful in the past, subject to other grant criteria.
- The review team will consider the financial and budgetary capabilities of the sponsoring organization, the extent to which City funds will be leveraged with other funding sources, and the need for City funding. Community event grant funding from the City will represent no more than 40 percent of the total event budget, including the value of in-kind goods and services but excluding the value of volunteer time.
- Grant funding is not intended to be an ongoing funding source for the event. Funding in one year is not a guarantee of future funding. All applications are subject to a fresh review vis-à-vis competing applications each year.

Application Process and Next Steps

To apply: Complete the attached Community Event Grant Program application and submit by April 19, 2019, by 5 p.m. Incomplete applications or ones that are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered during this year’s grant review process.

When submitting the application, applicants must also:

- Submit an event budget, including an estimate of City services required.
- Include a four-year event sustainability plan.
- Identify other co-sponsors of the event. All co-sponsors must be approved by the City.

Application Review and Funding Decisions: A Council subcommittee will review each application. The Council subcommittee may choose to contact the applicant for more information or clarification regarding the details of the application during the review period and/or request an interview with any applicant. Final funding decisions will be made in June 2019 by the full City Council. Grant applicants will be notified, in writing, of final funding decisions in July 2019.

All grant awardees will be required to submit the following to the City of Sunnyvale within 30 days after your event was held and no later than June 14, 2020, whichever comes first:

1. A final report describing the project and use of funds.
2. All original receipts/invoices and an itemized description of each expense, for reimbursement.

Reimbursements: This program is reimbursable, meaning that any approved funds must first be spent by the grantee and receipts/invoices showing payment must be submitted to the City of Sunnyvale. Upon review of eligible receipts/invoices, the City will send a reimbursement to the grantee. The reimbursement process takes approximately two to four weeks.

Grant recipients may be reimbursed in partial payments for ongoing event expenses, rather than in a single lump-sum after the event. Decision to reimburse in multiple payments will require approval from the City of Sunnyvale and may be justified if recipient incurs significant expenses before the event. If that is the case, grant recipients must invoice the City on an ongoing basis for reimbursement of expenses incurred, up to the grant amount.

Special Event Permit and Use of City Facilities: All special events in Sunnyvale must also submit a Special Events Permit Application before the event date. To learn more about the City of Sunnyvale Special Events Permit Process, visit Sunnyvale.ca.gov. Applicant will be required to obtain required permits, clearances, insurance, and event authorization and pay any relevant fees in a timely manner. If you are proposing to use a City facility, applicant must submit a request in accordance with standard rental procedures.

City Co-Sponsorship: Grant recipients (and their sponsors, if applicable) are entirely responsible for planning, promoting and staffing their event. Grant approval does not equate to co-sponsorship from City of Sunnyvale. The City will not be involved in planning, promoting or staffing the event, and is not considered a co-sponsor of the event. However, grant recipients should acknowledge the support of the City of Sunnyvale where appropriate (e.g., event marketing materials, etc.).

If City staff time is requested (such as public safety officers, etc.), please contact the relevant department to obtain a cost estimate, and include the cost estimate in your proposed budget. Staff participation is contingent upon their consent to participate, regardless of whether the funds are granted.

Grant Spending Guidelines: Grant recipients must attempt to expend all grant funding within City limits. Grant funds must be used only for the event applied for, but may be used for any costs, including costs payable to the City. The City will not waive any fees for services associated with the event.

Questions and More Information

For questions or more information, please contact Administrative Analyst, Jennifer Acuña at ncs@sunnyvale.ca.gov or 408-730-7599.