



PARKS INITIATIVE FUNDING FRAMEWORK

PARTNERSHIP FUND

Background and Summary

Access to nature is essential to our happiness, health, and well-being. Yet, in the U.S., about one in three people, including 28 million children, don't have a quality park close to home. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with communities and supporters to change this.

TPL's [10-Minute Walk® program](#) (10MW) partners with mayors and city leaders nationwide to close the park equity gap. Through reenvisioning how park systems are planned, funded, and activated, the program helps cities harness the transformative potential of parks to tackle pressing challenges such as public health, climate resilience, economic development, and community cohesion.

About the Fund

Community-based organizations play a vital role in helping cities close the park equity divide. These groups not only provide programming and access to social services; they also are a direct line into the community and are key drivers of community engagement. City leaders are increasingly working with community-based organizations to engage more authentically with community members and ensure that city decisions meet the needs of community members.

Trust for Public Land created the 10-Minute Walk® Partnership Fund in 2019 to better integrate community voice into the park decision-making process. With these resources, TPL supports projects designed to meet the shared goals and needs of both the city and local community to accelerate the creation of parks and park partnerships that drive healthy and thriving communities.

The program aims to fund innovative and impactful partnerships and projects, with the goals of:

- Demonstrating on-the-ground successes to spark systems-level change in support of parks and green spaces in cities.
- Fostering a shared vision among all sectors around the integral role of parks and demonstrating how parks can be a catalyst for generating long-term, broad change for livable cities.
- Driving cities to advance park equity by increasing access to parks and connecting community to the benefits of parks.
- Building the 10MW movement by strengthening the role of nonprofits in city building, increasing the capacity of local partners and community leaders, and enabling an exchange of information and expansion of networks in and among 10MW cities.

In 2025, the Fund will support innovative pilot projects in conjunction with the efforts of cities and communities currently engaged in TPL's Park Equity Accelerator technical assistance program.

10-Minute Walk® Park Equity Accelerator “Pilot Projects” Grant Program

Program Description

Trust for Public Land’s [10-Minute Walk® Park Equity Accelerator](#) (PEA) works with cities to implement policy and systems change interventions that increase park equity. TPL’s technical assistance team works directly with city agencies – past Accelerator cities include Los Angeles CA, Fort Worth TX, Scranton PA and Cleveland OH, among others – to identify and locally address common challenges faced by park practitioners across the country. By equipping cities with knowledge, capacity, and relationships, the PEA helps cities address high impact, “frequently experienced” barriers to park equity, to support meaningful local change, test new ideas, and generate nationally applicable learnings.

In over 50 years of working closely with cities, TPL recognizes the value of community leadership and engagement to achieve a city’s park equity goals. The PEA program intentionally brings community organizations to the table to share assets, ideas, and work together with city agencies. This grant program funds community organizations to implement “pilot projects” that will strengthen partnerships and test ideas on the ground – all in the name of building park equity to ensure quality park access for everyone.

Intended Outcomes

Community and city leaders should use the findings from these pilot projects to advocate for permanent improvements, to craft policy documents, design standards/guidelines, or as evidence for additional grants and proposals.

Some examples: if a city is considering transforming vacant lots into neighborhood green spaces to increase park access – a community group might form “friends of” groups to help define, activate and steward those spaces with positive neighborhood use. If a city is considering updating park amenities to serve a changing demographic and achieve more park equity – a community group might host programming events to invite new park users to test out temporary programs.

As projects are developed, TPL asks applicants to propose clear evaluation metrics to support evidence for permanent change and/or a plan for cross sector partnerships/outreach to build political support. Following the pilot project implementation, the applicant (perhaps in partnership with the city) will be able to connect and articulate why the pilot project is important, or what the project/event catalyzed, or how/if the event supported bigger park equity goals.

Geographic Eligibility

Projects must support a city associated with TPL’s 10MW Park Equity Accelerator program. Invited cities or geographies have been determined based upon an existing relationship with TPL for technical support. Funding sources and amounts vary for these active PEA cities in 2025: Birmingham, AL; Boston, MA; Dallas, TX; Pittsburgh, PA; San Jose, CA; and Tacoma, WA. All applicants are subject to the program’s goals and guidelines that follow, along with any city-specific restrictions listed on the individual Funding Opportunity page.

Program Goals

As cities commit to providing safe, easy access to quality parks for all their residents, the 10MW PEA grant program helps amplify community involvement in the process to build a city’s capacity for action – by fostering collaboration between municipal government and community-based organizations. The grant

program supports community pilot projects that are aligned with PEA goals and “test” or build towards practices that may achieve defined park equity outcomes.

Proposed projects will align with one of four program areas related to park equity and access: Park Design and Construction, Programming and Activation, Partnership Development, and Policy/Planning. Proposals to the fund should align with one of these program areas – with community as the center of focus as a valued partner, and all project efforts conducted towards greater park equity outcomes.

Examples of project activities within each program area are listed below, though TPL encourages community-based proposals tailored to the unique qualities of a city and community.

Program Areas + Project Activity

Examples of project activities within each Program Area may include, but are not limited to:

1. PARK ACCESS

We fund projects that increase access to quality parks for those who need them most. Funds in this category may go to install or construct physical improvements in a publicly accessible park or green space to facilitate park use for all. Partnership Funds may be used to “close the gap” for shovel-ready projects.

Project types:

New parks , for example: transforming undeveloped or non-traditional parkland into a usable public park or green space.	Park improvements , for example: adding permanent park amenities such as landscaping, benches, and picnic tables.	Pilot “prototype” improvements , for example: temporary structures such as planter boxes and artwork to help residents visualize and experience future park amenities.
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2. PROGRAMMING & ACTIVATION

We fund projects that encourage increased park use and foster social connections through organized activities, based on community needs and often in partnership with the community. Funds in this category may be used to provide new park experiences, activate the site with consistent programming, and to bring people together to foster meaningful collaboration. Ideally, projects will identify and invest in community skills and assets.

Project types:

Park stewardship and volunteerism , for example: tree-planting programs, volunteer, or public service activities, or “friends-of” programs.	Park programming, activation, recreation , for example: sport or recreation leagues, arts or cultural programs, or gardening groups.
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3. PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We fund projects that foster intentional collaboration and relationship-building between municipal government and nonprofit organizations or neighborhood groups, members of different social groups, or non-traditional partners *towards a specific, defined purpose* related to park equity and access.

Project types:

Relationship building , for example: hire community organizers, spend time at existing community events, build trust with residents who have close ties with the community.	Capacity building , for example: organizational skill-building, leadership capabilities; inclusive engagement efforts.	Accessible communication , for example: cultural or language translation, expanded media outreach, interpretive signage.
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4. POLICY & PLANNING

We fund projects that set the conditions to codify community-centered park policies, decision-making guidelines and protocols—to secure park equity within the government purview. Funds in this category may be used to engage community members and partners in strategic processes that yield a tangible result.

Project types:

Participatory planning and decision-making , for example: formation of park advisory boards, neighborhood councils, or participatory budgeting programs.	Connecting community to public processes , for example: simplifying permitting processes for park use and stewardship; inclusive outreach around available resources and programs	Formal agreements , for example: joint-use agreements, MOUs related to park access and use, establishment of stewardship groups.
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Guidelines

PEA “pilot project” grants are city-specific, and in most cases by invitation only. The primary goal of these grants is to support pilot projects that test ideas generated in the PEA and build or strengthen working relationships between community and municipal leaders. All projects must respond to the Partnership Fund program goals described in the background, summary, and program description - and meet the eligibility requirements listed in these guidelines.

Grantee Eligibility

Grants are available to community-based organizations (CBOs) that work in a 10MW city participating in TPL’s PEA technical assistance program. Funding sources and restrictions may vary depending on the specific funding opportunity to which you are applying. CBO Grantees must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, that is not a private foundation, and in good standing OR have a fiscal sponsor that meets these criteria, OR meet unique criteria of the city-specific funding opportunity;
- Have an existing working relationship with a 10MW city, a history of collaborative work, or shared interest in piloting a partnership;
- Be representative of a community or significant segments of the local community or community they serve, and/or provides services to individuals in the community;
- Have evidence of sound governing operations and finance policies and practices; and
- Have a strong track record of serving and/or representing community members, and/or building successful partnerships /coalitions.

Grantee Role

Grantees are expected to:

- As applicable, partner with a city contact to scope, design, and/or implement the project. Though a city partner does not need to have in-depth involvement in the project, a specific role should be determined prior to submission of an application.
- Supply the personnel and resources necessary to perform the scope of work within grant period.
- Perform grant obligations in accordance with the same qualifications, skills, operations, staff and readiness criteria that led to the Grantee selection.
- Track and report on accomplishment of project activities and deliverables. This includes:
 - Collecting data and analyzing findings/how the project event is important or supports bigger park equity goals.
 - Collecting and sharing photos, videos, flyers, and other documents related to the project.
 - Submitting a Final Report and participating in an interview with 10MW communications or evaluation consultants.

How to Apply

- Confirm Eligibility
- Fill in the standard **Application**, which includes a description of project need, proposed activities and details, planned deliverables, intended outcomes (what the partnership expects to achieve to advance city’s priorities), and planned methods used to track progress. Form link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/cqjPvmKbsD>

- Application deadline and timing considerations are listed in each funding opportunity’s guidelines.

Selection Process

The Review Committee consists of a cross-section of Trust for Public Land’s 10MW team and staff who possess knowledge and expertise in various aspects of our Parks Initiative. The Review Committee will evaluate eligible applications and determine the awards.

Selection Criteria

The Review Committee will consider the following selection criteria:

- Alignment and advancement of the 10MW goals, in concert with the city’s priorities. Project activities shall be designed to lead towards achieving the PEA’s goals, at varying scales.
- Addressing demonstrated needs, especially through equitable and inclusive practices and project strategies that best serve a defined audience that is vulnerable or otherwise underserved. The proposed project will also maximize or expand a local community organization’s capacity and/or embed parks into long-term considerations and practice.
- Partnership and readiness: Strength of potential CBO partnership, and readiness to implement the project will be assessed. Community organizations must have demonstrated ability to perform the work, including experience in the project activities for which they are applying and working in the selected city. The degree to which the CBO is committed to equity and inclusion will also be considered. The partnership and proposed project are feasible within the terms of the grant requirements and timeline.
- Impacts. A relevant plan is proposed for tracking progress and impact. Applicants should describe how the pilot project fits within the “big picture” of a city’s 10MW equity goals, and leverage or identify next steps towards bigger outcomes.
- Financial Readiness. Grants intend to catalyze and extend a CBO partner’s ability to perform this work, rather than be the sole funding source to sustain operations. A reasonable budget must be included.

Period of Performance

The grant term /period of performance is 12 months and will begin after the grant agreement is signed. See individual funding opportunities for specific dates and deadlines for the application, project implementation, and grant reporting. The general award timeline is below:

Activity	General Timeframe (in months)												
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
RFP / Invitation Issued	x												
Applications Due		x											
Grant Agreements Executed		x											
Period of performance begins		x											
Project Planning with TPL		x	x										
Project execution			x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
TPL follow up with grantees										x	x	x	
Final Reports due											x	x	
Period of performance ends													x

Grant Agreement

After awards announcements are made, TPL will finalize a Grant Agreement with each grantee organization. These must be executed ahead of grant disbursement (or reimbursement, in some cases).

Reporting Guidelines

Grantees, with support from TPL Sponsors, will be responsible for submitting a brief written report with information to provide an update on progress, share success, identify lessons learned, inform 10MW measurement efforts, and inform the Partnership Fund structure and implementation overall.

- Following the grant award, a “kick-off” call will be scheduled with TPL’s 10MW team, the Grantee and city contacts, as applicable, to ensure alignment and a smooth runway to project success.
- A brief final report will be submitted after the pilot project is completed, 1 to 3 months before the grant term/period of performance ends. This will include a testimonial from the partner organization (what was the value of the award for the partner organization), with permission to use name/quote, along with photos/videos and other media. It will also include a timeline of project milestones and evidence of measurement and impact.

Marketing & Communications

On occasion, the Grantee may be contacted for "human interest" stories or other anecdotal information, copies of flyers, reviews, relevant news clippings, photographs, or other evidence of your accomplishments. This may include brief interview questions to be used in promotional activities (i.e., social media, impact reports, brochures, etc.). Grantees will make all reasonable efforts to provide such requested information.

Likewise, all marketing and communications developed by TPL or the Grantee around the work funded by Trust for Public Land’s 10-Minute Walk program will reference Trust for Public Land and will be subject to review by the 10-Minute Walk team.

We celebrate the annual **National Walk to a Park Day**, established by TPL and observed each year on October 10 to raise awareness that everyone should enjoy access to a park within a 10-Minute Walk of home. This will be a great opportunity to share any stories or media with TPL so we can amplify your work!

PARTNERSHIP FUND

10-Minute Walk® Park Equity Accelerator “Pilot Projects” Grant Program

Current Funding Opportunity

San José, California

Trust for Public Land’s 10-Minute Walk® Park Equity Accelerator (PEA) works with cities across the country to implement policy and systems change interventions that increase park equity. The PEA aims to address a local manifestation of a common challenge faced by park practitioners across the country.

Park Equity Goals

Many cities across the country are considering approaches to improve the quality of their local parks. Part of what makes a quality park system is how well an individual park serves the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. San José’s Accelerator will focus on developing a new approach for the city to measure park quality and inform policies about how the city decides to spend on parks to ensure that everyone has access to a high-quality park. As part of San José’s efforts to increase access to high-quality parks, the city is working to provide a diverse set of experiences, amenities, and programming at parks across the city.

Part of what will inform the city’s approach to providing and measuring quality is understanding the types of amenities, activities and experiences that are available for residents at different parks. Some parks primarily provide “active” experiences (e.g., courts, fields, etc.); some provide more passive or “social” experiences, and some provide access to nature-based experiences.

TPL invites neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to propose ideas for minor or temporary installations, pilot programs, or community-driven activities that can help test new approaches and gather feedback from residents. These ideas will help shape the City’s understanding of what makes a park “high quality” and ensure that future park programming and improvements reflect the unique needs and preferences of each neighborhood.

For more info on measuring park quality, refer to TPL’s report on [Mapping Park Experience Types](#).

Funding Description

Grant funding is available to community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, and nonprofits who can activate local parks to provide residents with an experience they are lacking in their neighborhood. The activation projects should help the City to assess what types of improvements and programming at parks are most desired by residents. This information would allow the City to tailor its requirements around quality to reflect what residents desire for programming, activities, and amenities.

The activation projects should also provide an opportunity for City staff to engage with residents and talk about their work to advance park quality in San José. Projects should include a plan to collect feedback and reflections from program participants about the value of accessing the

funded “social” or “active” programs. This feedback will be shared with the City. TPL can provide technical assistance to think through how to best collect this information.

Project considerations

Preferably, activation projects will provide “active” and “social” experiences in underserved neighborhoods. Projects developed to meet these goals may include programming, minor improvements and/or temporary installations - or a combination of these.

Minor projects are small-scale upgrades or new features that enhance a park without requiring major construction or rigorous regulatory oversight. Temporary installations are short-term features that activate park spaces, such as pop-up play areas, mobile seating, shade structures, movable gardens, and wayfinding signs. Projects that feature minor improvements and/or temporary installations should be paired with an activation event.

An example of an “active” project event could be a program that gets people moving in parks, e.g., yoga, a walk in the park, a soccer tournament, etc. A “social” project example could be a program that connects people to their neighbors in a park, e.g., a concert, a movie night, a barbeque, etc.

When developing projects, applicants should consider that the project is intended to demonstrate how minor or temporary installations will spark greater outcomes such as long-term interest, connection, and increased use of the park. Ideally, our learning from these projects will have the potential to inspire lasting change or be scaled/repeated.

Available Funding

\$70,000 in funding is available for grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$10,000 for park activation in alignment with the grant program. In addition to funding, all selected projects will receive customized technical assistance from experts at TPL.

Eligibility

Applicants and projects must meet the TPL Partnership Fund’s eligibility criteria. Additional restrictions and requirements for this funding opportunity include:

- Projects should use the [California Healthy Place Index](https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/?redirect=false) as a guide in deciding which areas to focus projects. <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/?redirect=false>. Projects located in areas with lower Healthy Places Index scores will be given special consideration.
- Any proposed programming projects will be free and open to all San José residents.
- We will prioritize pilot projects that:
 - Are in parks with little or no recent capital investment or programming resources
 - Address gaps in access to cultural, recreational, or wellness programming
 - Activate the space in a meaningful way with creative, relevant, and inclusive programming or installations
 - Add unique value to the park experience
 - Demonstrate the support of neighborhood residents (i.e. letters of support, or minutes from community meetings—showing evidence of community backing)
- Because of funder priorities, special consideration will also be given to groups who focus on youth engagement and STEM.

- Opportunities for corporate engagement from the funder (AMD) are also a priority.
- Projects will need to align with any applicable permitting or park use requirements (see below).

The City of San José can provide guidance on the necessary permits, regulations, and procedures that must be followed for proposed projects. For event-related questions, please call (408) 794-6500 or email SPUapplications@sanjoseca.gov to discuss your proposal. Please allow up to 72 hours for a response.

Application Deadline

Please complete the [Application](#) form, describing your proposal and responding to all questions.

Applications are due September 23, 2025 - by 5:00 pm, PDT. The application is available via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/cqjPvmKbsD>

Timing Considerations

All projects, regardless of project type, should be considered “ready to proceed” and must be completed within the grant term/period of performance below.

Activity	Timing
Pre Application Online Public Workshop Zoom Meeting LINK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting ID: 958 2592 8495 • Passcode: 817694 Dial by your location or find your local number LINK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) • 833 928 4610 US Toll-free 	August 14, 2025 6:00 p.m. PST
Applications Due	September 23, 2025 - by 5:00 pm, PDT
Selection / Notice of Award	Week of October 13
Grant Agreement issued (period of performance begins upon execution)	Beginning October 20 th on a rolling basis.
Project planning & implementation	Projects should occur within 12 months of Grant Agreement execution.
Final Reports due	1-3 months after project completion; before period of performance ends
Grant term / period of performance ends	12 months after Grant Agreement execution

How to Apply

- Confirm Eligibility
- Fill out Application Form
- Contact Sam Savin (sam.savin@tpl.org) with questions about the PEA or project proposals
- Contact Jennifer Yip (jennifer.yip@tpl.org) or Jennifer Isacoff (jennifer.isacoff@tpl.org) with questions about the application process

Disclaimer

- Improvements must be approved by the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department.
- Grant funds should enhance—not replace—preexisting programs.
- Murals and other public art on city facilities or property cannot be considered with this grant.
- Grant funds cannot be used to pay for existing operating costs.



TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND®

10-Minute Walk® Park Equity Accelerator “Pilot Projects” Grant Program

Application

Background and Summary

Trust for Public Land works with city and community leaders across the country to advance park equity through several programs designed to accelerate the creation of funding, policies, and quality parks that drive equitable, healthy and thriving communities. The 10-Minute Walk® **Park Equity Accelerator (PEA) Pilot Grants** provide resources to community organizations that, in partnership or collaboration with cities and TPL staff, will plan and conduct pilot activities to test or build towards a city’s park equity goals, as identified through the PEA program.

Application Deadline and Instructions

Applications are due by September 23, 2025. Please complete this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/cqjPvmKbsD>

If you do not have access to submit an application online, you may email a completed version of this application to: Jennifer Yip (jennifer.yip@tpl.org) and Sam Savin (sam.savin@tpl.org). Write “PFUND Application” in the subject line.

Applications to this grant program should align with TPL’s umbrella Partnership Fund Guidelines and the 10-Minute Walk PEA Pilot Projects Grant Funding Opportunity.

Contact Sam Savin with any questions about the PEA or the development of your proposal.

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Project Title:

Location (City, State):

Grantee Organization:

If applicable, Fiscal Sponsor:

Grantee Contact (Name/Title):

Applying for (amount):

\$

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

- (1) **What's the short summary of your project?** In 55 words or less, describe the need for the project, how this project will help address this need, and what you are proposing to do.
- (2) **Describe the proposed project more fully, and how it meets the goals of this grant program.** Include a summary of how you foresee your project activities advancing your city's goals around the future of parks and green spaces.
- (3) **What are your city's goals and priorities around parks and green spaces? Describe the parks/10MW needs or gaps in the city where the project will take place.** As applicable, summarize information from needs assessments, indexes (i.e., TPL's ParkServe®, CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, or EPA's environmental justice tools), and findings from community engagement. As applicable, also reference specific city plans or initiatives (i.e., parks master plans, sustainability plans).
- (4) **Describe the population you are hoping to reach. Why are they selected and what strategies will you use to reach them specifically?**
- (5) **Which Program Area does your project primarily reflect?** (check all that apply)
- ☐ Park Access and Park Design
 - ☐ Programming and Activation
 - ☐ Partnership Development
 - ☐ Policy and Planning
- (6) **Will your project include or influence any of the following?** (check all that apply)
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Trainings or Convenings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create connections to parks (i.e., safe routes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning around a specific topic (i.e., mobility) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programming or Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource creation (i.e., guidebook) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wayfinding/signage or other promotion of parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning at city scale (i.e., master plan) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park activations | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy at city level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (fill in): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning for a new park or renovation | |
- (7) **Detail the proposed activities, timeline, key milestones, and products that will be created.** Please indicate where other partners will play a role (note that regranting is highly discouraged and may create barriers for funding).
- (8) **Please describe what permits might be required for your project proposal, and how you plan to secure them.**
- (9) **What are the most significant outcomes for this project? How do you plan to track these impacts?** Describe how you expect the project to address needs (i.e., those described in question (2) and consider how the partnership and activities will influence your city ecosystem (i.e., developing new practices, or new champions of parks).

You can also use a chart (see below) for the answer to question 8. Focus on outcomes that are directly tied to activities and contribute to 10MW goals. Project implementers should plan to track participation in events.

Outcomes/Impact	Related Project Activities/Outputs	What do you plan to track?
<i>Example: Increased engagement with parks that advances safe access to parks efforts</i>	<i>- Partner with neighborhood “biking club” to conduct network assessments - Share information with city to improve ongoing mobility planning</i>	<i>- Count of people participating in events - Survey about perceptions of parks, safety, and modes of travel - Note response from city/use of information</i>
<i>Example: Generate new champions of parks, focusing on the health sector</i>	<i>Create a “guidebook to local parks” for other health related CBOs</i>	<i>- Track number of copies shared/downloaded - Count of (new) park events/programs - Survey about interest in future parks engagement or interaction</i>
Add yours below...		

(10) Describe what relevant past experiences make you a strong partner to advance parks and the city’s 10MW goals.

III. BUDGET QUESTIONS

(11) Overall Total Project Budget: \$ _____

(12) Project Budget for this Request (Note: Grant cannot support more than 50% of a Grantee’s operating budget or the full subsidy of a nonprofit organization’s salary line):

Category	Description	Amount
Staffing		\$
		\$
Other Expenses (Including printing and production costs, travel, contracts, re-grants, etc.)		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total (should equal Amount Requested)		\$

(13) Leveraged funds/sustainability. Do you currently have, or plan to seek, other funding/ resources to support the pilot project idea and/or 10-Minute Walk goals beyond the project?

Source	Description	Amount
Private Sources		\$
Public Sources		\$
Other		

Applications are due by September 23, 2025. Please submit your application through this online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/cqjPvmKbsD>