



City of Knoxville
Opportunity Youth Engagement Grant
Spring/Summer/Fall 2024

Program Overview

The City of Knoxville recognizes the collective responsibility to invest in the progression of Opportunity Youth in our communities. It is our responsibility to ensure that youth are provided access to safe, nurturing environments that aid in re-engaging them with local support. Connecting young people to positive networks and engaging them in opportunities associated with personal, community, and social development can begin the process of dismantling barriers to success, expanding perceptions of what is possible, and focusing on community strengths and assets. (Currie, Elliot. *A Peculiar Indifference: The Neglected Toll of Violence on Black America*. Metropolitan Books, 2020; 219- 222.)

The City of Knoxville seeks to provide grant funding to non-profit and community-based organizations, including smaller organizations, capable of providing high-quality youth programming and/or youth employment in or around Knoxville. Proposals should specifically engage young people identified as being at the **HIGHEST RISK** of involvement in violent crime based on Opportunity Youth criteria (see “How Funds Can be Used” section). For this grant cycle, the grant opportunity will allow organizations to serve youth continually for Spring, Summer, and/or Fall.

In an effort to ensure funding impacts those at highest risk, the City of Knoxville will partner with Knox County Juvenile Court (KCJC) to serve justice-involved youth. KCJC will make referrals to grant-awarded organizations. **To be eligible for funding, organizations must agree to serve, at minimum, 3 youth referred by KCJC.**

The City of Knoxville has funding available in this round of grants to be awarded in March 2024 for programming carried out between April 22, 2024, and October 12, 2024. Awards may range between \$5,000 - \$40,000 and shall specifically support programming, stipends, payment, or other services directly for the Opportunity Youth engaged in programming.

This is a competitive process. Some applications may not be funded, and some may be only partially funded. Additionally, previously receiving funding does not guarantee selection for funding this cycle.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 23, 2024.

A post-project report of the programs or activities administered, the number and demographics of opportunity youth served, and the impact of programming must be submitted at the end of the grant cycle.

Terms & Conditions

Please read this entire document before you start filling out your application. If you have a question or need help understanding these Guidelines or the Application, call Star Starks at 865-215-4429 or LaKenya Middlebrook at 865-215-3155.

1. Deadline for Applications

Applications must be received via mail, email, or in person no later than **4:30 p.m. Friday, February 23, 2024.** Please submit all applications to Star Starks:

- By email: SStarks@KnoxvilleTN.gov
- In-person or by mail: City County Building, Room 532A, 400 Main Street, Knoxville 37902

If you wish to have someone at the City of Knoxville review your application for completeness, please have your application to the office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Any applications not received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024, or that do not have all requested paperwork, will not be accepted. No applications by fax, please.

2. Funding Disbursement

To receive funding, an applicant must be a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status *or* have secured a Fiscal Sponsor. (See Fiscal Sponsor section in this document.) Applicant must be registered with the State of Tennessee as a charitable organization.

An applicant cannot discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability when carrying out any aspect of the funded project.

For funded organizations applying for program projects 3 months or less, funds will be distributed in a single payment up-front upon execution of the grant agreement. For funded organizations applying for program projects 4 months or longer, funds will be distributed in 2 parts; a partial upfront payment upon execution of the grant agreement and a secondary payment following the mid-project report. The City reserves the right to hold a portion of final grant funding until after the submission and approval of an End-Project report.

Checking Account

To receive funding directly from the City, an applicant must have a checking account prior to receiving the first check. However, if you use a Fiscal Sponsor, you may not need a checking account depending on how your Fiscal Sponsor handles your receipts and invoices. It is not necessary to possess a checking account at the time you submit an application.

Fiscal Sponsorship

Grants can be made only to tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) status.

If an applicant has a 501(c)(3) determination letter from and is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), that applicant can receive funding directly from the City. A W-9 form will be requested in order to provide funding if the City does not already have one from your organization. Each applicant must include a copy of its IRS Designation Letter, verifying the organization's non-profit status, and a copy of the organization's most recent annual report/budget.

Organizations without such tax-exempt status may receive support by partnering with a tax-exempt organization willing to serve as the organization's fiscal sponsor consistent with applicable law. Funds are dispersed to that sponsor, which then provides the funds to the sponsored organization. You may partner with a fiscal sponsor of your choosing. You will be responsible for setting this up on your own.

Please Note: By law, churches and other religious organizations may not serve as fiscal sponsors for taxpayer-funded grants.

3. How Funds Can Be Used

Funds must be used to support programming that serves Opportunity Youth ages 16-24 at the highest risk of becoming a victim of violent crime or perpetrating violent crime. For this program, these young people are referred to as "Opportunity Youth." Opportunity Youth identifiers include:

- **Member of, or associated with, an active crew/group/gang**
- **Juvenile or criminal system involvement**
- **Disconnected from school, work, or consistent participation in community-based programs/services**
- **Previous violent crime victim**
- **Close friend or family member who was shot in the last year**

Programming should be designed to specifically engage Opportunity Youth and provide meaningful activities and experiences. Recruitment of participants should especially focus on Opportunity Youth not already connected to existing programming.

When completing the required Budget Form, applicants should estimate the actual costs of supplies, services, and other costs that are expected to be needed to support Opportunity Youth during Summer Break 2023.

4. Program Reporting

The Office of Community Safety will require an exact accounting of how all funds are spent. Funded organizations will consent to allowing City staff to observe funded programs in action.

Funded organizations applying for program projects 3 months or less will file a post-project report no later than one month after the end of program services. Funded organizations applying for program projects 4 months or longer must submit both a mid-project report AND an end-of-project report.

Project reports must include demographic information for youth served, summaries of activities or services provided, pre-test and post-test data (when administered), summaries of post-project referrals or continued engagement plans for participants, and other data as requested. A template for the project reports will be provided to awardees prior to the beginning of the project cycle.

The project report must be accompanied by receipts for all expenditures paid through this award. Failure to provide a report and receipt in a timely manner may result in the organization's forfeiting of any grant funds held by the City and/or the organization's suspension from future consideration for funding.

Funded organizations will be required to distribute pre and post-surveys to their participants that identify resiliency measures to assess the impact of programming. These surveys will be provided both before programming begins and after programming ends.

For youth referred by KCJC, reporting standards will vary based on the assigned probationary officer. Reporting requirements will be provided at the time of the referral.

Additional Terms

Funded entities will be required to enter into an agreement with the City of Knoxville that includes the following requirements:

1. Comply with the following ethical standards prescribed by the [Knoxville City Code](#):
 - (A) Sec. 2-1048. Conflict of Interest;
 - (B) Sec. 2-1049. Receipt of Benefits from City Contracts by Councilmembers, Employees and Officers of the City;
 - (C) Sec. 2-1050. Gratuities and Kickbacks Prohibited;
 - (D) Sec. 2-1051. Covenant Relating to Contingent Fees; and
 - (E) Sec. 2-1052. Restrictions on Employment of Present and Former City Employees

2. Comply with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. (“ADA”).
3. Not discriminate against any participant, employee, or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, or national origin.
4. Take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, or national origin.
5. State in all solicitations or advertisements for employees that all qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, or national origin.
6. Include these same Non-Discrimination provisions (#2, 3, 4, and 5 above) are included in subcontracts, subleases, etc. relevant to funded work.
7. Religious organizations receiving funding under this program may not utilize grant funds to engage in any of the following activities:
 - (A) Perform inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
 - (B) Acquire, construct, or rehabilitate structures or properties that shall be used for inherently religious activities, including sanctuaries and chapels; and
 - (C) Discriminate against any beneficiary or prospective beneficiary of the grant on the basis of religion or belief
8. Agree to indemnify/hold harmless the City using terms standard to City agreements.