



**NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**



2026 LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANTS PROGRAM INFORMATION



In partnership with
Phoenix Water Services Department and Phoenix Public Works Department



LOVE YOUR BLOCK PROGRAM

The Love Your Block (LYB) program, administered by the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department (NSD), is for neighborhood groups and/or block watch groups interested in making a difference in their community. The program is designed to improve neighborhoods and increase civic engagement, with technical assistance and grant funding opportunities from NSD and its partners. LYB offers instructor-led workshops designed to provide pertinent information, resources and engagement skills to neighborhood residents, that result in collaborations and partnerships that could bring a positive impact to their respective communities.

THE GOALS OF THE LYB PROGRAM ARE:

- To reduce blight and beautify neighborhoods.
- Engage current and new stakeholders willing to participate in neighborhood improvement efforts.
- Build neighborhood capacity by implementing a sustainable project with a positive impact.

Neighborhood Beautification & Blight Reduction	Engage Stakeholders	Build Neighborhood Capacity
Improve aesthetic & cohesion of the neighborhood by implementing resident-led community improvement projects.	Attract new and existing participants to impact volunteer projects and create opportunities for collaboration in community improvement efforts.	Implement a sustainable project in the community to positively impact the neighborhood.

Awarding grants is one opportunity the LYB Program offers that makes these goals achievable. Neighborhood and block watch groups that meet the eligibility requirements and are listed on Neighborhood LINK, are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$5,000, to implement a sustainable project in their community.

Grant awardees will be responsible for managing the completion of their proposed projects by the deadline, as well as researching and selecting business partners or vendors who will provide services to complete their project at a reasonable cost. Grantees are encouraged to identify local businesses who are invested in the success of the community.

LYB GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Be an active neighborhood group that has been listed with NSD's Neighborhood LINK since January 2026 and before April 27, 2026, at a minimum.
- Must propose a project scope and budget that will benefit the neighborhood/community and be accessible to its residents. Proposal must include a maintenance plan for the proposed project, if applicable
- Must have a minimum of three neighborhood group members involved with the proposed project.
- Must demonstrate the ability to complete the project within six months (extensions may be granted at the discretion of the LYB Program Administrator).
- If the proposed project site is on private property, applicant must include a written letter of permission from the property owner, along with the completed application.
- A completed application must be received by the due date, **5 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2026.**
- If awarded, applicants must be able to attend the LYB mandatory workshop on **Saturday, August 29, 2026**, along with three to five other members of the neighborhood group.

Previous grant awardees are not eligible to apply for the grant within a two-year period.

LYB grant application review process will be managed by the LYB manager and scored by a review committee made up of city staff and community leaders (who are not applying for the grant). The proposal with the highest score from each City Council district will be awarded a LYB grant. A total of eight grants, up to \$5,000 each, will be awarded. If there is no application/proposal received from a city council district, the applicant with the next overall highest score will be awarded the LYB grant.

LYB GRANT AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

- As part of the leadership development, neighborhood groups receiving LYB grants are encouraged to manage and lead their own projects. Groups are responsible for developing their project scope, managing their budget and implementing their project.
- Awardees must research and identify vendors for their project and submit estimated price quotes along with the application.
- Awardees must submit invoices for each expense identified in their project budget to be paid directly by LYB staff. Invoices should reflect the most reasonable price the group was able to find to stay within budget.
- Funds will only be disbursed for a current invoice from the vendor that includes a unique invoice number, date, and total. Invoices should be sent to the LYB email with a brief note explaining what the invoice is for.
- In addition to LYB staff, grant awardees may work with their area Neighborhood Specialist on how to request direct payment to their vendors for goods and services rendered. Specialists can assist in completing any necessary forms and ensuring that receipts and invoices have all been submitted in a timely manner. Awardees may submit their finalized project scope, budget and documentation of invoices or estimates to their area

Neighborhood Specialist, which in turn will need approval from the LYB Administrator and Deputy Neighborhood Engagement Director. Make sure to [connect with the Neighborhood Specialist assigned to your Council District](#).

- Awardees may spend up to the amount awarded. The maximum amount that can be requested by a group is \$5,000, inclusive of all taxes and fees.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- Funds may be used for marketing materials that promote or increase awareness of the neighborhood group's identity, such as T-shirts, hats, newsletter development, flyers, and other materials for branding and engagement.
- Funds may be used to pay for services that support a proposed project, such as services rendered by a muralist or a streets barricade company for a street fair.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages costs, included in the proposed project's budget, must be no more than 5% of the project's total budget (or total amount requested). Therefore, the projected cost for food and non-alcoholic beverages should be up to \$250.
- Funds may be used for building materials needed for the project.
- Groups must spend the awarded funds by **Feb. 1, 2027, which means all invoices and other documentation must be submitted to the LYB Administrator by 5 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2027**. Any remaining funds may not be available after this date or may not be eligible for an extension. The group's main contact for should communicate their request for an extension with their Neighborhood Specialist or LYB staff at least two weeks before the deadline.

PROHIBITED USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- Administration of the grant itself - grant funds may not be used to support or finance any other grant or funding opportunity administered by the recipient.
- Projects on private property, including but not limited to landscaping, fencing, painting, etc. unless the project can clearly demonstrate a direct positive impact to the community (and not just to the private property) - If the project site is on private property, applicants must include in their grant application a letter of permission from the property owner.
- The purchase of gift cards or gift certificates.
- Alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer.
- Awards and raffle prizes.
- Entrance or admission fees for any in-state or out-of-state non-educational field trips, including water and amusement parks.
- Out-of-state field trips or travel (educational or non-educational).
- Toward the rental or purchase of motor vehicles.

PROJECT COMPLETION

Projects must be completed by **March 1, 2027**, unless an extension has been granted in writing by the LYB manager. Upon completion of the project, groups must provide the following to the LYB manager:

- Photos of the project, during the development phase and completion phase, to be included in the final report that tells the group's success story.
- Provide any metrics that demonstrate the efforts and the impact of the project in the community. Metrics may include:
 - Number of volunteers and volunteer hours.
 - Number of residents impacted by project.
 - If the project is a community cleanup, the tonnage of debris removed.
 - If the project is a community event, number of participants or expected participants.
- Completed survey to help us understand your experience with the LYB process, as well as to help us improve it.
- All photos, metrics and narrative related to the neighborhood group's project must be submitted to the LYB Administrator by **March 1, 2027 or sooner**.

EXAMPLE OF PAST PROJECTS

- Installation of street sign toppers to promote neighborhood identity.
- Curbside painting of house numbers for residents to improve identification for public safety.
- Murals that reflect the neighborhood's identity and/or have a water-conservation/sustainability theme (will require written permission from owner of property regarding the use of the wall or building façade that will be painted.)
- Landscaping cleanup projects in the right-of-way to minimize blight and increase community engagement.
- Tree/shrub planting in the right-of way (may require agreement between the City of Phoenix and the responsible party regarding proper maintenance of trees and shrubs).
- Creating dog/pet waste stations that encourage owners to pick up after their pets.
- Installation of a "little free libraries" for neighborhood residents to share their literary favorites with each other and encourage reading.

PROJECTS FOCUSED ON WATER CONSERVATION

The Phoenix Water Services Department has contributed \$20,000 to LYB. Neighborhood groups are encouraged to consider proposing projects focused on water conservation; it is not a requirement to receive grant funds. Eligible projects incorporate desert landscapes, water-saving lifestyles, or convey a message of water conservation. Some examples of water conservation projects that may be funded include:

- A community pollinator garden with native plants.
- Rainwater collection basins and barrels.
- Development of a community leak-monitoring group that identifies leaks and helps neighbors repair them.
- Removal of grass in neighborhood common areas and replacement with xeriscaping.
- A mural with a clear message or theme about water conservation.

Groups that receive funding for their proposed water-related projects will have access to a water conservation expert who can advise them and provide guidance to ensure the project's successful completion.

Grant awardees with water conservation-themed projects will have access to a water conservation expert, who can advise and provide guidance to ensure the successful completion of the project.

ZERO-WASTE PROJECTS

In recent years, the Phoenix Department of Public Works has strongly supported the “Love Your Block” Grant Program, contributing \$20,000 annually to fund various neighborhood projects. This annual contribution allows for the awarding of four grants of up to \$5,000 to neighborhood groups. Groups are encouraged to propose projects with a sustainability focus (recycling, reuse) that emphasize Phoenix’s goal of achieving zero waste by 2050. However, this is not a requirement to receive a grant award. Some examples of projects to consider:

- Installation of a community art project using recycled materials
- Tree planting
- Setting up a repair shop
- Zero-waste themed murals
- Community cleanups

Grant awardees with zero-waste themed projects will have access to a zero-waste expert, who can advise and provide guidance to ensure the successful completion of the project.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

LYB Program email: LoveYourBlock@phoenix.gov

[Neighborhood Specialists, assigned by Council Districts](#), are also a good source of information.