

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the grant?

The Enhance Alexandria grant program provides funding to 501c3 nonprofit community organizations and governmental agencies to address a need in the Alexandria area in the priority areas of housing, arts and other projects.

How were the city's grant funds acquired?

The 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) invested funds in Minnesota's COVID-19 response and recovery. The City of Alexandria received \$1,510,499 in ARPA funds. In October 2022, the City Council approved use of \$600,000 in ARPA funds to be distributed through the Enhance Alexandria grant. This is the first of two rounds of grant cycles that will be presented in 2023.

What else were the city's ARPA funds spent on?

The city has allocated some of their ARPA funds to bringing staffing back to pre-pandemic levels, parks and trails planning, the ACCESS partnership between the Police Department and North Ambulance, and a new timekeeping system. Spring 2023 projects include a Classification and Compensation Study and an Organizational Study.

In addition to the Enhance Alexandria grant program, the City Council continues to evaluate the best use of remaining ARPA funds. ARPA funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024.

What is the total sum of funding in the Enhance Alexandria grant program?

The City of Alexandria has set aside \$600,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. These funds are being used for the Enhance Alexandria Grant Program. A total of \$300,000 is available for this current grant cycle, with the application deadline of January 2023. Another \$300,000 will be available for the second grant cycle, and timing for the second cycle is TBD.

How much money are organizations allowed to ask for?

Organizations are encouraged to ask for any monetary amount that fits their project, with the minimum amount being \$5,000 and the maximum possible amount being \$100,000.

Why can't religious or political organizations apply?

Although these organizations are an important part of the city, they are not eligible for this specific grant.

Why are you requesting a Letter of Interest?

The Letter of Interest simply allows the city to anticipate and prepare for the committee's workload. Organizations that do not submit a Letter of Interest will not be disqualified from applying to the grant before the final deadline.

Will there be another round of the Enhance Alexandria grant program?

Yes. The City Council will administer a second round of the Enhance Alexandria grant program in 2023. The requirements and focus areas for the second round will remain the same. The timeline for the second round of the Enhance Alexandria grant is TBA.

I have a question that hasn't been answered. Where can I get more information?

You are welcome to contact the City of Alexandria with additional questions at enhancealex@alexandriamn.city or 320.759.3607.