



City of Aurora Community Partnerships Funding Policy Fiscal Year 2026

1. Purpose

The Community Partner Funding Program is established to support nonprofit and community-based organizations that provide measurable community benefit to residents of the City of Aurora.

Funding is intended to:

- Enhance quality of life for City residents
- Address identified community needs
- Support vulnerable or underserved populations
- Complement municipal services
- Demonstrate responsible stewardship of public funds

2. Available Funding

For Fiscal Year 2026, the City Council has allocated a total of \$5,000 for Community Partner Funding. There is no predetermined award structure. City Council retains full discretion to determine:

- The number of organizations to fund
- The amount awarded to each organization
- Whether to award full or partial funding
- Whether to award less than the total allocated amount
- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

3. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, an organization must:

- Be a nonprofit organization or recognized community-based entity
- Provide services benefiting residents of the City of Aurora
- Be in good legal and financial standing
- Not have outstanding reporting obligations from prior City funding
- Demonstrate organizational capacity to implement the proposed program

4. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Description of the proposed program or service
- Identification of the population served (including vulnerable or underserved populations, if applicable)
- Clear statement of measurable community impact and expected outcomes
- Explanation of how the program addresses community needs
- Detailed program budget and amount requested

- Specific description of how City funds will be used
- Identification of other funding sources
- Organizational financial information
- Incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible.

5. Evaluation & Scoring Process

All eligible applications shall be evaluated using an adopted 100-point scoring rubric.

Scoring Categories:

Community Benefit & Measurable Impact – 30 points

Responsiveness to Identified Community Needs – 25 points

Service to Vulnerable or Underserved Populations – 15 points

Financial Need & Appropriate Use of Funds – 15 points

Organizational Capacity & Accountability – 15 points

Independent Council Scoring

Each City Councilmember shall independently review and score all eligible applications using the adopted rubric.

Council members shall:

- Score applications individually
- Avoid discussion of scoring prior to the public meeting
- Submit completed scoring sheets to the City Clerk or City Manager for tabulation

City staff shall compile:

- Each Council member's total score per applicant
- The average score for each applicant
- A ranked list based on average scores
- The compiled scoring results shall be presented at a public meeting.
- Scoring sheets shall become public record following award decisions.

6. Final Award Determination

City Council shall deliberate and determine:

- Which applicants will receive funding
- The amount awarded to each
- Whether to award full or partial funding
- Whether to award less than the total allocated funds
- The averaged scoring results shall serve as the primary evaluation tool to promote fairness and transparency; however, City Council retains full authority to make final funding decisions.
- If Council chooses to deviate from ranking order, the rationale should be stated on the record.

7. Award Conditions

Organizations receiving funding must:

- Use funds solely for the approved purpose
- Maintain detailed financial records of expenditures
- Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws
- Obtain prior written approval before materially altering the approved use of funds

- Funds may not be used for purposes not identified in the approved application without written authorization from the City.

8. Mandatory Reporting & Documentation Requirements

As a condition of funding, recipients must submit a Final Performance and Expenditure Report including:

A. Program Performance Summary

- Description of activities completed
- Number of City residents served
- Measurable outcomes achieved
- Explanation of how the program addressed community needs

B. Financial Documentation

- Itemized accounting of all expenditures of City funds
- Copies of receipts, invoices, or proof of payment equal to the awarded amount
- Documentation clearly demonstrating that funds were used solely for the approved purpose

Reporting Deadline

Reports and supporting documentation must be submitted:

Within 90 days of program completion, OR

By the end of the City's fiscal year, whichever occurs first

Noncompliance

Failure to submit required reporting and documentation may result in:

- Ineligibility for future City funding
- Requirement to return improperly spent, undocumented, or unused funds
- Withholding of any pending disbursements

9. Council Authority

City Council reserves the right to:

- Award full or partial funding
- Decline to fund any application
- Request additional information from applicants
- Reallocate funds in the best interest of the community
- Decline to award all available funds if applications do not meet established standards