

Neighborhood Initiatives Fund Pilot Program

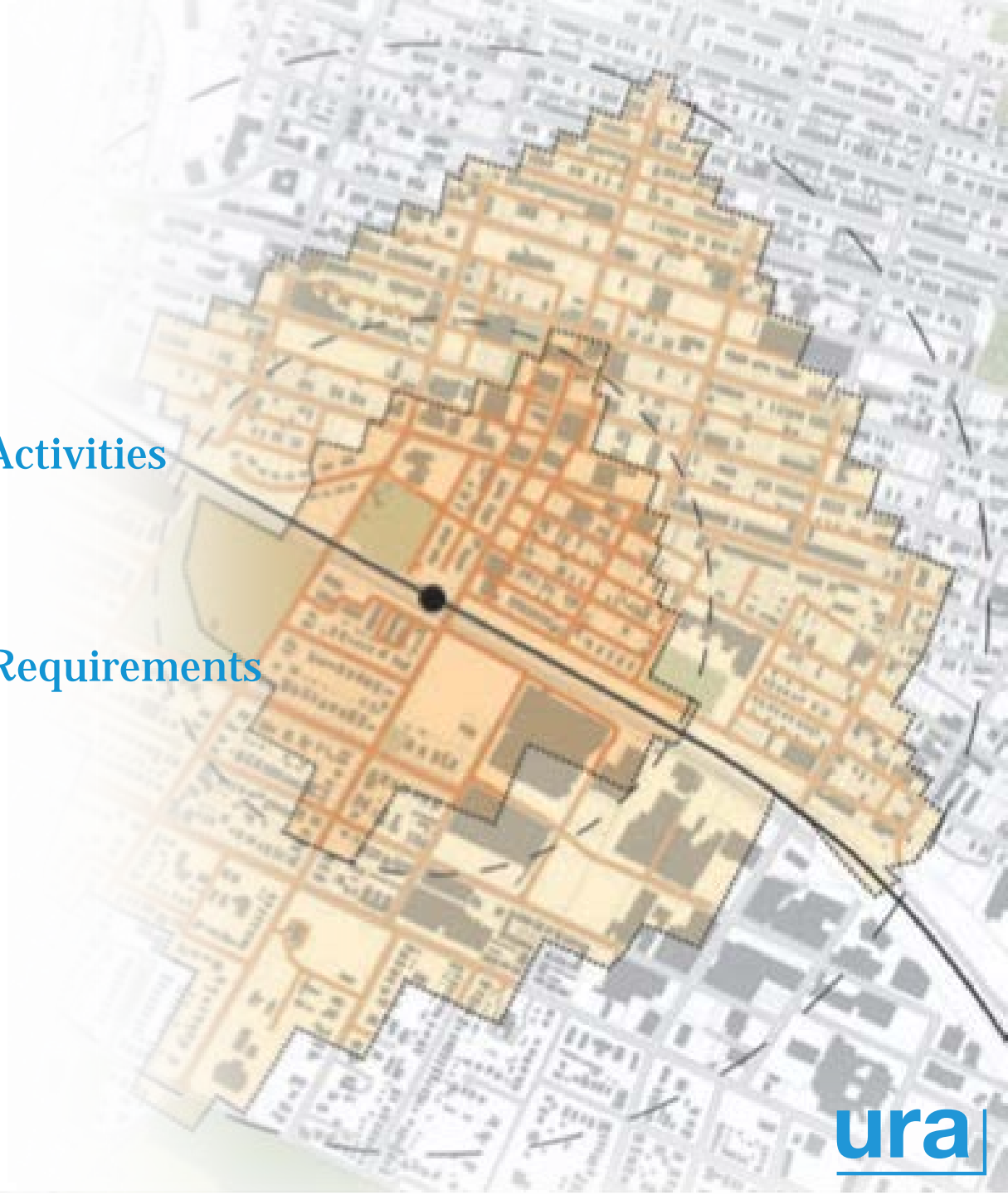


August 2019



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Program Overview
3. Eligible Projects and Activities
4. Program Schedule
5. Program Details and Requirements
6. Q&A



Mission

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods.





The Economic Development Department supports the URA mission by developing public-private partnerships to advance place-based strategies to build an equitable Pittsburgh.

We do this by collaborating with community groups, developers, and city agencies on **neighborhood initiatives** and projects. From **vision-to-action** we assist with community planning, project financing, and **bringing resources to communities.**



Program Overview

- What is the Neighborhood Initiatives Fund?
 - NIF is a pilot program for neighborhood-scale projects
 - Administered by the URA's Economic Development Department
 - Goals:
 - Improve quality of life
 - Make neighborhoods desirable places to live
 - Grants up to \$100,000 for non-housing neighborhood projects
- Who is eligible to apply?
 - Non-profit entities, including government agencies
 - Non-profit organizations with for-profit development partners



Eligible Projects and Activities

- Non-housing neighborhood projects that benefit the community and catalyze economic development.
- Hard and soft costs are eligible
- Eligible categories are:
 - Vacant property reclamation and stewardship;
 - Historic preservation;
 - Brownfield redevelopment;
 - Construction of public space and neighborhood infrastructure improvements, including, but not limited to:
 - Streetscape improvements;
 - Transit and transportation-related improvements;
 - Parks and open space improvements;
 - Green infrastructure; and or
 - Public art.



Eligible Projects and Activities

- Grant funds **may not** be used for the following activities
 - Projects outside of the City of Pittsburgh
 - Residential dwellings or the residential portions of mixed-use buildings
 - Improvements proposed in the City right-of-way that have not been approved and/or coordinated with the City
 - Improvements proposed on properties without site control
 - Operating, marketing, travel, or promotional expenses
 - Operating, overhead, or ongoing programming and maintenance
 - Administrative and development fees



Program Schedule

- July 15, 2019 Funding round opens
- August 2019 Information Sessions
- **October 1, 2019 Applications are due!**
- November 2019 Funding awards
- December 2019 Enter into grant agreement
- **December 2020 Funds must be expended**



Program Details and Requirements

- Two tiers of available grants:
 - Tier 1 – Under \$20,000
 - No matching requirements
 - Tier 2 - \$20,000 to \$100,000
 - For every two dollars (\$2) of Program funds invested into a project, there must be at least one-dollar (\$1) match invested in the project.
 - Matching funds must come from non-URA and non-city sources.
- Proposals must meet the following criteria to be eligible for grants:
 - Demonstrated public support
 - Financially feasible
 - Committed and documented match
 - Contributes to neighborhood stability or revitalization
 - In compliance with a neighborhood plan, if applicable
 - Includes a maintenance plan, if applicable



Program Details and Requirements

- General Requirements

- The project must meet all State and Federal statutory mandates
 - Davis-Bacon wages
- All successful applicants are required to demonstrate and document a good faith effort to obtain MWBE participation for projects or activities that meet or exceed the below thresholds.
 - The City of Pittsburgh's goal is 18 percent minority and 7 percent women business enterprise participation
 - MWBE goals apply to professional service contracts of \$75,000 or greater.
- All properties rehabilitated under NIF are subject to inspections by the URA.

- All projects will be assigned a URA grant coordinator

- Additional technical assistance may be provided if requested



Program Details and Requirements

- Design Standards

- Projects that propose work in the public right-of-way must comply with standards established by the City of Pittsburgh
 - URA and City staff will review all designs to ensure that they are consistent with the approved City standards
- Projects that propose public art on City-owned property or in the City's right-of-way must have the project reviewed by the City's Art Commission

- NIF grants are reimbursement grants

- If a match is required, the payment request must document the matching payment
- Final payments will not be released until all required permits or relevant approvals have been documented, if applicable, and until a final grant report is submitted





Questions and Discussion

For more information, please visit the program website at <https://www.ura.org/pages/neighborhood-initiatives-fund> or contact:

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