

Neighborhood Initiatives Fund 2020 Round

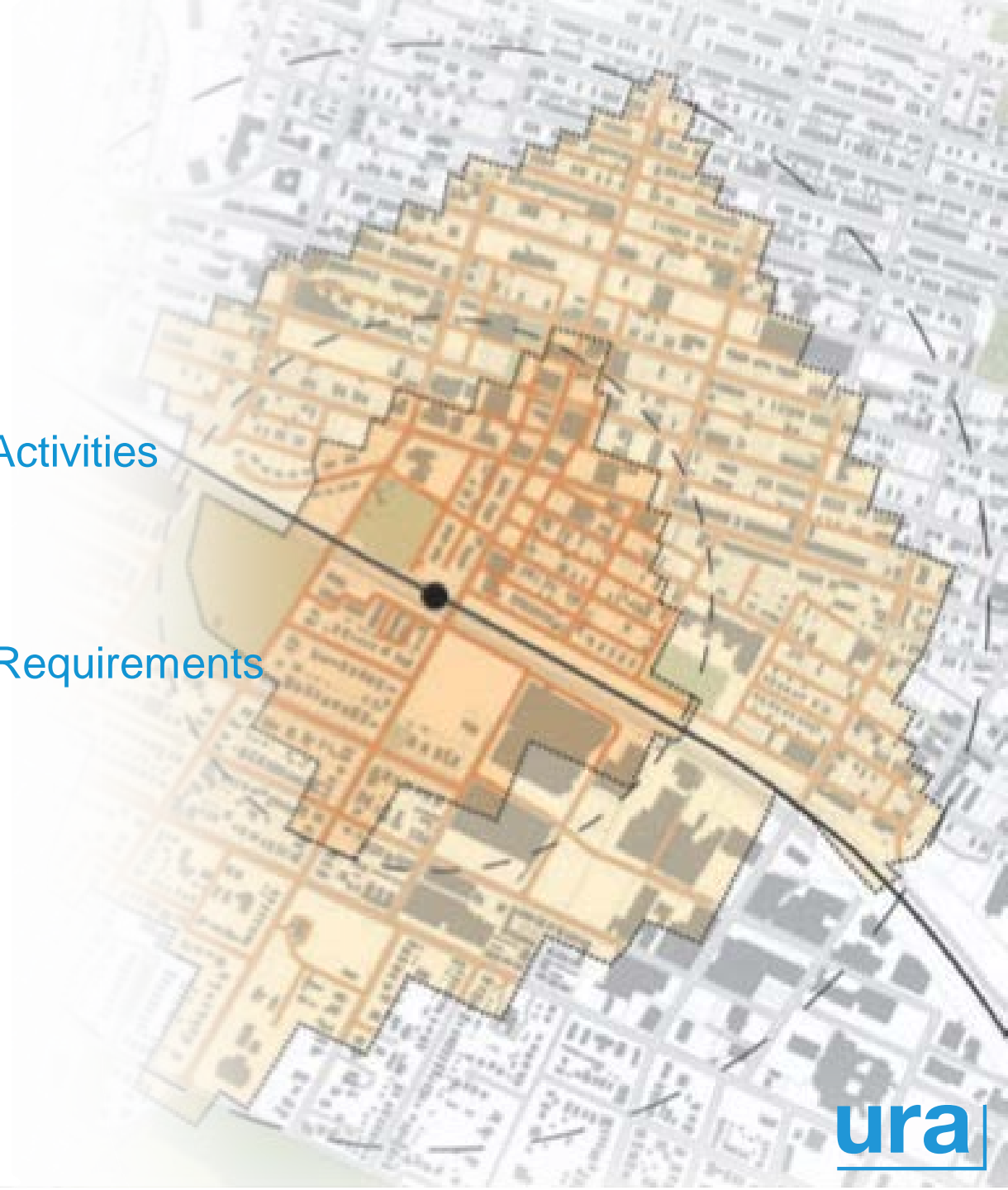


Information Session Webinar
April 8, 2020



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, supporting the City's economic development goals, which are designed to create a city of inclusive opportunity for residents, stakeholders and communities.

The URA is committed to creating more housing that is affordable to the average Pittsburgher; encouraging more entrepreneurship and small business development; promoting inclusive growth and quality job creation; expanding neighborhood and main streets revitalization efforts; and developing a talented workforce that is equipped with the skills of the future.





The Neighborhood 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?
 - Program for neighborhood-scale projects
 - 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



Photo courtesy of Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation

Program Overview

- What are the goals of the program?
 - Help unlock the economic and placemaking potential within neighborhoods;
 - Support vision-to-action community investment strategies that build an equitable Pittsburgh; and
 - Formalize collaborative partnerships across the City.
- Grants fund non-housing neighborhood projects that benefit the community and catalyze economic development
 - Hard and soft costs are eligible



Photo courtesy of Grow Pittsburgh

Eligible Projects and Activities

- 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.
- Up to twenty-five (25) percent of total grant funds can be utilized for operations or administrative costs for those organizations that have faced hardships due to COVID-19



Eligible Projects and Activities

- COVID-19 Hardship
 - Up to 25 percent of total grant funds can be utilized for operations or administrative costs for organizations that have faced hardships due to COVID-19
 - Proof of hardship is required
 - Determination of eligibility is at the URA's discretion



Photo courtesy of ACH Clear Pathways

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;
 - Marketing and promotional expenses;
 - Travel expenses or any lodging/hotel expenses; and/or
 - Development fees.



Program Schedule

- April 2, 2020 Funding round opens
- April 8 – 22, 2020 Information Sessions
- **June 1, 2020 Applications are due!**
- August 2020 Funding awards
- November 2020 Enter into grant agreement
- **Funds must be expended within one year of executed grant agreements**



Program Details and Requirements

- Two tiers of available grants:
 - Tier 1 – Under \$15,000
 - No matching requirements
 - Tier 1 activities are limited to soft costs, technical assistance and training, or public art opportunities
 - Tier 2 - \$15,000 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:
 - **Located in a CDBG-eligible census tract or block group**
 - 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

- Proposals are evaluated according to the eligibility criteria
- Because funds may be insufficient to fund all eligible proposals, additional criteria may be used for evaluation, including:
 - Degree of distress of the neighborhood in which the initiative/project will be located;
 - Impact of initiative/project to be undertaken;
 - Priority will be given to applications which identify workforce development opportunities
 - Response to the COVID-19 crisis;
 - Priority will be given to applications that address consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - The amount of match; and
 - Capacity of the organization and the amount of technical assistance required.
 - Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) are preferred but not required

Program Details and Requirements

- General Requirements

- All 2020 projects will be funded using CDBG funds
 - Projects must be located in CDBG-eligible census tracts or block groups
 - All projects must undergo environmental review, which in some cases may take up to 6 months
- The project must meet all State and Federal statutory mandates
 - Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to most projects
- 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.



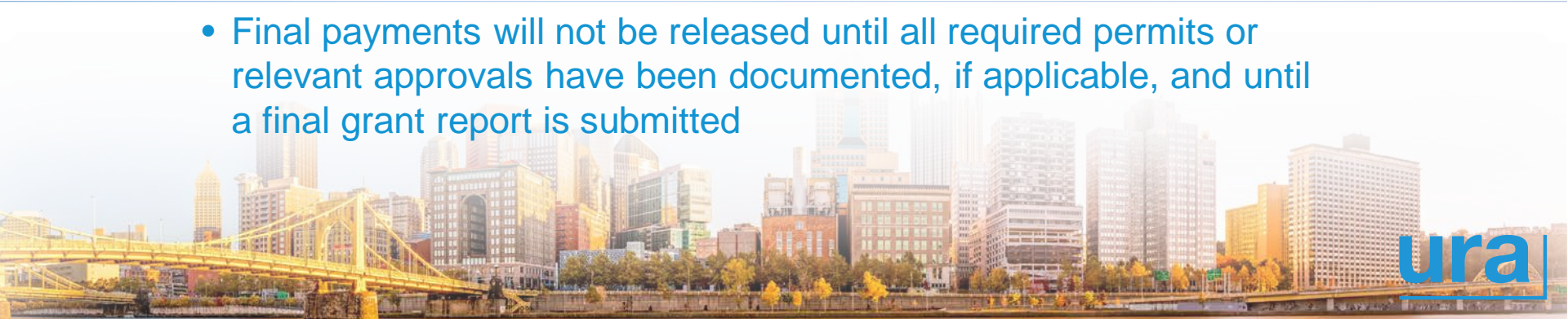
Program Details and Requirements

- 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:

Matt Reitzell at 412-255-6560 or mreitzell@ura.org

Nick Fedorek at 412-255-6616 or nfedorek@ura.org



Here is the [ura](https://www.ura.org)