



Grants for NYC Waste Management Initiatives

Neighborhood Challenge

Purpose

As part of the Department of Sanitation (DSNY)'s focus on public realm improvements, and the Department of Small Business Services' (SBS) priority to ensure the vitality of the City's commercial districts, DSNY and SBS invite Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) to apply for an opportunity to receive a grant for innovative waste management initiatives in New York City. There are at least five grants of up to \$20,000 available, with the potential for a second-round of additional funding, with approval from DSNY and SBS. These grants will be issued as a micropurchase procurement. Funds should be used for physical improvements or infrastructure and are not intended for staffing or other ongoing costs.

The grant program is designed for projects which would reduce the volume of consolidated materials set out for collection on sidewalks and improve waste management operations and general street cleanliness in business districts. Other project goals include increasing waste diversion (by reduction, reuse, and recycling), while reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with waste collection.

To this end, sample projects could include new litter baskets, compactors, enclosures, containers, compost/organics collection, and other waste management equipment and infrastructure meeting the above goals. Grants are not limited to proposed projects which would occupy City property, such as litter baskets or garbage bag enclosures, but all proposed public space projects would require further review and approval from DSNY and the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT). Grant selection does not constitute final approval from DSNY and DOT, and equipment must be purchased for funds to be disbursed; see Timeline for more details.

Background

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) collects more than 12,000 tons of garbage and recycling every day in New York, much of which is collected on sidewalks. DSNY is working on pilot initiatives to reduce the amount of space which waste takes up in the public realm, including redesigning litter baskets, enclosing and containerizing garbage bags, and implementing commercial waste zones.



BetterBin, the litter basket redesign pilot, aims to limit spillage and inhibit rodent access, among other benefits, while Clean Curbs would implement pilots to containerize or otherwise enclose garbage bags on sidewalks and streets. Grants for waste management initiatives are intended to further improve quality of life.

Grants are funded by DSNY, and also in collaboration with the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) as part of the Neighborhood Challenge grant competition. Neighborhood Challenge supports innovative and catalytic projects from local organizations that will support small businesses, generate economic and community impacts, and attract more jobs and investment to local commercial corridors. [Read more about previous projects here.](#) It is the aim of this iteration of Neighborhood Challenge to encourage organizations to adopt, prototype, or test innovative waste management practices via the existing Clean Curbs program or other means.

Submission and Selection

The submission must include a Submission Portfolio, and a Statement of Experience, and up to two letters of support (optional) demonstrating a record of successful relevant experience.

The Submission Portfolio must describe the proposed project, the planned implementation timeline, how it would improve waste management in the business district, proposed location(s) or service area(s), and how the BID/CBDO would evaluate the success of the pilot as well as when the BID/CBDO would provide performance updates to DSNY/SBS. The BID/CBDO must also identify a staff member who will be responsible for overseeing the project. In addition, an itemized breakdown of requested grant funding is required, and the Submission Portfolio must include a demonstration of need, discussing the BID/CBDO's reasoning for seeking external funding.

If the proposed project would occupy City property, such as a waste container, it is recommended to review [DOT siting guidelines](#) and provide a detailed list of location(s) for preliminary review in the Submission Portfolio.

The Statement of Experience must describe the BID's knowledge, aptitude, and involvement in work on similar projects and may include a portfolio of relevant projects completed by the BID.

Proposals will be reviewed to determine whether they are responsive to the goals of this grant. The evaluation committee will be made up of representatives from DSNY, SBS, and DOT, which will rate all responsive submissions based on the evaluation criteria and weights below:



1. Potential to improve waste management practices, cleanliness, and/or quality of life (60%)
2. Demonstration of need and/or equity (30%)
3. Capacity to execute on the project (10%)

A second phase of funding will be opened by DSNY and SBS in late spring. All eligible organizations are welcome to apply, even if they were not awarded a grant in the first phase. If a first-phase grantee is interested to expand, continue, or otherwise improve their project beyond June 30th, there will be opportunity to be considered for a second round of grant funding, up to an additional \$20,000. Receipt of additional funding would be dependent on the success of the initial pilot, as measured by the evaluation proposed in the Submission Portfolio. In the case where a pilot project is unsuccessful, additional funding would be dependent on improvements proposed by the grantee that DSNY and SBS determine to increase the likelihood of success. Please include interest in this option in the Submission Portfolio and detail how the BID/CBDO would quantitatively and qualitatively determine if expansion would be successful.

Please send all applications and inquiries to publicspace@dny.nyc.gov. Please limit submissions to no more than 5 pages (PDF).

Timeline

The application deadline is April 22, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. Late applications may be accepted. Winners will be selected by May 20, 2022, and all funds will be disbursed no later than June 30, 2022. For BIDs/CBDOs which expressed interest in project expansion or continuation and with capacity to scale successful projects, there will be opportunity to receive a second tranche of grant funding after June 30, 2022, to build on the success (or lessons learned) from the initial pilot.

Containers purchased with grant funding and placed on public right-of-way would separately need to meet DOT's Clean Curbs siting criteria, and submit a [Clean Curbs Program Application](#), which would need to be approved prior to installation. DSNY will notify selected BIDs/CBDOs and begin preliminary discussions about this application process after receiving and selecting winning grant applications. It is recommended to begin with an initial consultation before submitting any formal Clean Curbs application.