

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Effective: April 2024

The Community Projects Grant Program is designed to support organizations interested in completing projects on Norfolk Southern property that align with our focus areas. This grant intends to foster community engagement while addressing local needs. All grant recipients must be located within the Norfolk Southern territory.

To be eligible, an organization must meet the below criteria:

- Qualifies as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization based off one of the following charitable criteria:
 - A public 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as listed in the IRS Master File
 - A state, county or municipal government entity and seeks funding to serve the needs of the community at large.
- Operate in one of Norfolk Southern's 22-state network
- Align with Norfolk Southern's [Corporate Giving Focus Area](#) to enhance community spaces
- Project must be located on NS property and have an approved NS Right of Entry Form or an approved lease from NS Real Estate

Applications must include the following:

- A valid Federal W9 Form (rev. March 2024)
- A valid 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS or letter demonstrating tax exemption status as a state, county, or municipal government entity
- A valid contact email address & phone number for questions regarding grant
- Copy of approved NS Right of Entry Form or NS Lease Agreement
- If applying as a 501(c)(3):
 - Short overview of the organization (major achievements, recent accomplishments, impact, and major donors)
 - Board of Directors listing
 - Latest IRS 990 filings
 - Budget for proposed project

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Organizations not in the NS territory
- Organizations requesting general operating support (i.e., funding requests for salaries, overhead, rent or utility expenses)
- Organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) public charity status or are not tax-exempt as a government entity
- Organizations that have a written policy or a history of discrimination against individuals because of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status
- Individuals or organizations established to help individuals
- Religious affiliated organizations that do not support the community at large or discriminate based on religion type
- Fraternal organizations
- Political or lobbying organizations
- Fundraising events, telethons, races, or benefits
- Amateur, civic, or professional sports or athletic organizations, clubs, or activities
- Organizations whose programs have an international and/or national scope
- Civic leagues or Chambers of Commerce
- Referral or consulting agencies and organizations