



Request for Proposals Public Space Enhancement Mini-Grant

**Issued by:
Feet First Philly/Clean Air Council**

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Background

The built environment of a neighborhood can either hinder or help residents enjoy time outdoors and choose active modes of transportation like walking and rolling. Neighborhoods outside of Center City have historically had less investment (or active disinvestment) in the built environment, resulting in sidewalks in disrepair, lack of street cleaning, litter, unsafe street crossings, lack of walkable destinations, abundance of vacant land, and lack of quality green space. Philadelphia residents have often stepped in to address those conditions. Feet First Philly Public Space Enhancement Mini-Grants bolster community efforts with information, financial support, and technical assistance to build Philadelphians' capacity to assess and advocate for healthy built environments and pedestrian safety improvements.

Feet First Philly is partnering with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) to fund grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to address the financial and technical barriers that residents and organizations face when creating safe public space enhancements.

Awardees can use grant money to support projects located in public space, including stipends, staff time, education, materials, insurance, or other needs. Examples of public space enhancement projects include but are not limited to [parklets](#), [pedestrian plazas](#), temporary demonstrations, [daylighting](#) and other traffic calming, art installations, lighting installations, sidewalk repair, stewardship efforts, green spaces, and education programs. See these blogs to learn about past recipients: [year 1](#), [year 2-part 1](#), [year 2-part 2](#), [year 3-part1](#), [year 3-part 2](#), [year 4](#), [year 5](#), and [year 6](#).

Improving neighborhood conditions is essential to improving health, including preventing injuries and chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Public space design can encourage physical activity and promote mental health and social connection, leading to better community health outcomes. Whether a new mural, a sidewalk in good repair, a local playground, or an

outdoor plaza, the design of public space plays a significant role in supporting clean, green, connected communities and active living.

Philadelphia suffers from high rates of traffic violence as well as gun violence. In 2025 alone, there were over 7,000 traffic crashes in Philadelphia. [In 2024, 120 people](#) were killed in crashes. According to the City's Vision Zero program, 80% of traffic deaths and severe injuries occur on just 12% of Philadelphia streets. This 12% is known as the [High Injury Network \(HIN\)](#). Improvements to the built environment have been shown to improve public safety. Project proposals located on/near the HIN or in areas with high rates of gun violence will be given priority consideration for funding.

Submission Requirements and Guidelines

The criteria below will be used to score your application, with equal weight being given to each category. The strongest proposals will be for projects that benefit the public, engage the community, are feasible, and have long-term potential to improve the pedestrian environment.

1. Application Criteria:

- a. **Located, Resident Led, and Serve:** Priority will be given to projects or organizations located in, led by, and serving historically underserved communities, including but not limited to immigrant populations, low-income communities, communities of color, and people with disabilities. If your proposal demonstrates that the project has all three, it will receive the maximum points.
- b. **Public Benefit:** Projects should be centered around a public benefit, and have the potential for a long-term positive impact (including by acting as a pilot, demonstration, or proof of concept, but with some potential for long-term implementation).
- c. **Community Engagement:** The project should have meaningful community involvement, collaboration, or ownership. Applications should demonstrate community engagement and support in the proposal from residents, businesses, and organizations.
- d. **Accessibility:** The location must be accessible to a wide range of users. The project should be structured to serve the widest possible range of users and show steps to maximize accessibility.
- e. **Feasibility:** Projects must be feasible. For example, projects must be able to be completed in the grant period (January-August 2026), within

the **proposed budgets**, **have required permits** or know how to get them, and **have site control**.

- f. **Safety:** Proposals should include safety components for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Examples of safety projects include, but are not limited to, mural crosswalks, lighting improvements, sidewalk repair, clean-ups, bike racks and planters that prevent illegal parking, or projects that otherwise help to address public safety by improving the built environment. Safety can also address other public safety issues, such as gun violence.

2. Eligibility

- i. Organizations, businesses, and individuals are welcome to apply.
- ii. The location of the public space enhancement must be on public property or be open for the public to use. Enhancements cannot be used for financial gain by charging for use or demanding a purchase.
- iii. Proposals that include [public space permits](#) are required to hold insurance, as stated by the City of Philadelphia. (*Grant funds may be used to pay for additional insurance needed.*)

Report Requirements

At the conclusion of the project, no later than August 31, 2027, grantees will submit:

- ☐ Proof of how the grant money was spent.
- ☐ Designs of the project or photos from the implementation.
- ☐ A brief report of how funds were used and what the community benefits are.

On June 15, 2027, grantees will:

- ☐ Provide a brief status update on the project, including a sketch or design of the public space enhancement.

Note: These reports can be done using a Word document or a PDF.

Application

Application Instructions

Please complete this [form](#) and if needed submit any questions via email to shecht@cleanair.org.

Additional support:

- Register [HERE](#) to attend our Mini-Grant webinar on August 25 at 12 p.m. to learn more about the Mini-Grant process and get your questions answered.
- Feet First Philly will also host individual discussion sessions starting August 4 through September 25. Email shecht@cleanair.org to schedule a meeting to discuss your project or ideas.

- For help filling out the application, please contact shecht@cleanair.org.

Contact Information

Name of Institution/Applicant:

Address of applicant:

Main contact name:

Email:

Phone:

Social Media of Applicant Organization (if applicable):

Complete the following questions

1. Project Name
2. Project Location: neighborhood, address, and zip code.
3. What is your relationship to the project location? Do you own the property, have site control, or otherwise have written permission from the property owner/controlling agency? Is the project located in a historically underserved community? Please explain. (50 words)
4. As the applicant, please explain your relationship to the proposed project. Is the project led by a person or group of people who identify as part of a historically marginalized community, including immigrant populations, people of color, or people with disabilities? (50 words)
5. Please provide a brief description of your project, its purpose, and how you will accomplish it. Include a project timeline. (400 words)
6. Explain how community members and other stakeholders have been informed and will be involved in this project, and any proposed outreach to gain resident feedback/input. (100 words)
7. What is the public benefit of this project, and is there a long-term positive impact? (75 words)
8. What communities, demographics of people, or populations are engaged in and/or served by this project? Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's [Indicators of Potential Disadvantage](#) is one good place to find supporting statistics. (100 words)
9. What safety benefits will your project provide? Include whether or not your project is located on or near the [High Injury Network \(HIN\)](#) or in an area with high rates of gun violence. How is safety, particularly for vulnerable road users (e.g., pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older adults, or people with disabilities) something your project addresses? (150 words)
10. Mini-Grant projects must be open and accessible to the public. Explain how the public will access the enhancement. Will there be a cost to use the space? (75 words)
11. Please attach a budget for your project, including line items and their potential costs.

Note: Attach pictures of your project if applicable.

For help with how to put together a budget, visit:

<https://www.clicktime.com/blog/grant-management/how-to-write-a-grant-budget>

Description	Cost
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

Thank You For Your Proposal

If there are follow-up questions, we will reach out to you! Awardees will be announced by early December.

Application deadline: October 3, 2026 Grant award: Late 2026
