

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Savannah's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) is offering grants up to \$15,000 to qualified neighborhood associations to coordinate and manage Youth Neighborhood Improvement Teams.

The program is being funded by ONSE as part of the City's youth violence reduction initiative. The purpose of the program is to ensure working age youth have an employment option that keeps them engaged in positive activities, provides youth with basic income, and exposes youth to the types of information and skills they need to make better decisions for themselves and their futures. Once hired, youth and adult supervisors will work up to 20 hours per week, with up to four work hours per month dedicated to attending youth development training coordinated by the ONSE.

Neighborhood associations approved for funding will employ two (2) adult supervisors and a team of ten (10) neighborhood youth to participate in neighborhood pride activities including: community clean-ups, litter collection in public parks, playgrounds and along the right-of-way, minor painting projects, and community service activities assisting the elderly and persons living with disabilities.

WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT TEAMS PROGRAM?

The Neighborhood Improvement Team Program is a summer youth employment program that focuses on community improvement by employing neighborhood youth to carry out neighborhood improvement activities. The Teams are hired, supervised, and managed within the neighborhood by certified neighborhood associations within the city of Savannah.

Youth ages 14-18, hired from the neighborhood, will pick up litter, complete beautification projects, and assist seniors in the community with various minor outdoor tasks/projects. Successful applicants can receive grants up to \$15,000.

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligibility is limited to neighborhood associations which have been certified by the City of Savannah. Neighborhood associations also must: represent a residential neighborhood with clearly defined geographic boundaries; have a mission that is focused on neighborhood/community improvement; and have membership that is open to all residents of the neighborhood.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE

The following individuals and/or organizations are not eligible to apply for this grant:

- Individuals
- Private businesses
- Block clubs/groups
- Community Development Corporations
- Civic, religious, fraternal, or political groups
- Social Service Agencies
- Public Agencies

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

The City of Savannah will provide program materials, including:

- Neighborhood Improvement Team t-shirts, safety vests and hats
- Clean-up supplies, gloves, clipboards, whistles, etc.
- First Aid/Safety kits and water coolers

Funding awarded to the neighborhood association is primarily for wages; however, a limited portion of funds may also be used for project supplies, such as:

- Hand-held gardening tools
- Small, low-growing plants for beautification in the right of way only. Funds may not be used for the improvement of personal property.

GRANT AWARD

City staff will review proposals, determine eligibility, and select projects for funding. Neighborhood associations approved for funding must enter into a grant agreement with the City of Savannah prior to initiating their program or expending any funds. Neighborhood Associations are hereby advised that organizations will not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred prior to contract signing.

Funds must be used to pay hourly wages to employed youths and two adult supervisors for hours actually worked up to a total of 15 hours per week, for a total of 7 weeks. Four hours of paid time per week will be utilized for youth development and violence reduction activities offered by ONSE and partner organizations.

Funding for wages will not be released in advance. Hourly wages will be paid following the review and approval of accurate timesheets that must be submitted to the City, with the signatures of all employed persons verifying the accuracy of time worked. Checks will be available for pickup and distribution to employed youth and adults.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted from January 12th, 2026 through February 27th, 2026. The completed application must be received by the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Department **no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 27th** at the ONSE office, located at 2005 Waters Ave suite 700, or at 11:59 PM by email at: onse@savannahga.gov.
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**THE ONSE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN TO ASSIST WITH APPLICATIONS. PLEASE
CALL THE OFFICE TO CONFIRM AVAILABILITY FOR WALK-INS.**

