

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **What are the UnityNYC Grant Awards?**

The UnityNYC Grant Awards is a micro-grant program designed to engage New York City's diverse communities to do their part in building a more resilient City. This partnership between Citizens Committee for New York City, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and community leaders will strategically target and solve local problems to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Grants up to \$3,000 will be awarded to faith-based or neighborhood-based immigrant and non-immigrant groups, enabling residents to give back by implementing effective community collaboration projects. Working together to tackle our most urgent challenges has always made NYC the greatest city in the world.

### **What is the purpose of the UnityNYC Grant Awards?**

UnityNYC Grant Awards aim to recognize the value of supporting immigrant, non-immigrant, and faith-based volunteer groups to collaborate and strengthen their communities together. The grants will support the City's ongoing commitment to sustaining healthy communities through high impact service projects. Cooperation and communication between diverse groups will thrive by involving residents to proactively address critical needs. UnityNYC Grant Awards will tap into New York City's neighborhood reserves of human capital and innovation, widely promoting opportunities that directly contribute to the public good.

### **Who is coordinating the UnityNYC Grant Awards?**

Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) will be leading the operations, communications, and implementation of the grant awards. Citizens' Committee for New York City is the leading organization in New York City to offer funding to grassroots groups working on quality-of-life issues. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs promotes the well-being of immigrant communities by recommending policies and programs that facilitate successful integration of immigrant New Yorkers into the civic, economic, and cultural life of New York City. UnityNYC Grant Awards are a signature program of One NYC One Nation. One NYC One Nation is a two-year civic engagement initiative spearheaded by The New York Community Trust, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and One Nation Foundation. With a specific focus to increase the participation of immigrants in the City's civic life and strengthen understanding among and across diverse communities, One NYC One Nation brings together the City's philanthropic, public, and community leadership to collaborate and leverage resources. The UnityNYC Grant Awards are made possible through the generous support and cooperation of the New York Community Trust, One Nation Foundation, JM Kaplan Fund, and New York Council for the Humanities.

### **Who is eligible for UnityNYC Grant Awards?**

The UnityNYC Grant Awards will support resident-led volunteer groups bringing faith-based, immigrant and non-immigrant communities together to implement community collaboration projects. Eligible groups include (but are not limited to) block associations, tenant associations, community gardening groups, cultural groups, and religious groups implementing non-sectarian projects benefitting neighbors regardless of faith. Groups will be selected based on their demonstrated ability to unite residents from diverse backgrounds, mobilize at least 20 volunteers, and execute a well-planned project. Preference will be given to groups operating in low-income, underserved communities.

### **Who is not eligible for UnityNYC Grant Awards?**

The micro-grants are not for: individuals; for-profit projects; businesses; organizations with paid staff; fraternal and partisan organizations; groups with an annual budget of greater than \$40,000; projects affiliated with staffed organizations. We also do not fund the following: rent, utilities, web hosting, web development, 501(c)(3) incorporation fees, salaries, speaker honorariums, and computer equipment. We do provide support for religious institutions for non-sectarian projects benefitting neighbors regardless of faith.



New York Council for the Humanities

### How and when can I apply for UnityNYC Grant Awards?

Applications are accepted once a year, and **MUST be submitted by January 31st, 2013**. You can access and download the application here: <http://www.citizensnyc.org/programs/grants/communitygrants.html>.

Applications can be submitted in several ways:

- 1) **Mail:**  
Arif Ullah  
Citizens Committee for New York City  
77 Water Street, Suite 202  
New York, NY 10005
- 2) **E-mail:**  
[grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org)
- 3) **Fax:**  
212-989-0983

### What is the applications timeline?

Citizens Committee for New York City is happy to answer questions about the application. They can also offer feedback to final draft applications submitted by January 6. After applications are received on January 31<sup>st</sup>, they will be reviewed by CCNYC staff and the UnityNYC Selection Committee. Awardees will be announced between April 1-5, 2013. Contact Arif Ullah or Wilfredo Florentino at 212.822.9580/9568 or [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org).

### How much funding can a project receive?

Micro-grants of \$500 to \$3,000 will be awarded depending on the requirements of project operations.

### What are some examples of community collaboration projects?

*Examples include:*

Making healthy food available in communities, forming community emergency response teams, transforming empty lots into community gardens, organizing tenants to advocate for better housing conditions, school recycling programs, engaging neighbors of diverse backgrounds in cultural or artistic performances.

*Previously funded projects include:*

**Bronx:** Flower and tree planting program led by youth and seniors to clean the air, prevent asthma, and create shade.

**Brooklyn:** Neighbors transforming an abandoned lot into a nutritious herb, vegetable, fruit and flower garden, which has become a community gathering space for youth and seniors.

**Manhattan:** Recent immigrants hosting a tenants' discussion including long-time and new residents.

**Queens:** Residents cleaning a waterfront dumping site, and offering environmental workshops about the importance of open space.

**Staten Island:** Organizing a holiday toy drive and celebration after Hurricane Sandy.

### Will there be any help available for project implementation?

In addition to grant funds, your group is also eligible for project planning assistance and skills-building workshops from CCNYC. We can work with core members of your group to design strategies around a particular project or campaign, as well as to develop mission statements, work plans, and effective ways to engage new members. Additionally, your group may access items from the CCNYC Loan Library, including an amplifier and microphone system, camcorders, a DVD projector, and canopies. We can also refer you to other relevant resources. You do not have to be a grant recipient to receive these services.

