PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

2026 Empowering Community Safety Micro-Grant Cycle Eight

The City of Fayetteville is launching a joint program between Economic & Community Development (ECD) and the Office of Community Safety (OCS) to provide micro-grants to community-based organizations to fund, inspire, and boost community crime reduction activities. The micro-grant is designed to support community groups' efforts to prevent crime and violence in Fayetteville. This low-barrier grant program is intended to allow community members to apply and access grant funding (YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A NON-PROFIT TO APPLY).

The program offers micro-grant opportunities paired with capacity-building training to local groups and nonprofits, with the goal of increasing crime reduction activities and strengthening the City's local nonprofit and grassroots capacity. The micro-grant program will operate over a 12-month period and consist of subsequent grant cycles of six months each.

As part of Cycle Eight, special consideration will be given to those programs that focus on community-led Safe Space Activations.

A safe space activation is a temporary or light-touch investment that:

- Makes an existing space more welcoming, usable, or trauma-informed
- Encourages positive presence, connection, or access
- Removes barriers to participation (physical, emotional, cultural, or social)

This is not capital-heavy construction — it's intentional use + community-centered design.

These activations are designed to:

- Increase community safety
- Expand youth and family engagement
- Strengthening community connections
- Promote healing and trust in neighborhoods

Activities aligned with the Safe Space Activation focus include, but are not limited to:

- Sports or recreational programming (basketball, soccer, dance, fitness, etc.)
- Arts, music, or cultural events (open mics, mural projects, movie nights)

- Healing or wellness circles (mindfulness, journaling, grief support)
- Family-friendly gatherings with food, games, and local entertainment
- Pop-up resource fairs, job or school readiness events, and neighborhood cleanups
- Peace corners or chill zones offering refreshments, conflict mediation, and community resources

Application Deadline

Applications will be available online at
http://www.fayettevillenc.gov/microgrant
beginning **Monday, January 12, 2026**.

The application submission deadline is
Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM.

Applications will only be accepted through the City's application portal.

Grant Amount

A newly added **Tier Four** offers up to **$10,000** for experienced nonprofits or organizations with demonstrated capacity to deliver sustainable, high-impact projects. The total funding available for **Cycle Eight** is **$100,000**.

Award amounts for each tier are as follows:

- **Tier One** – Up to $1,500 for general applicants
- **Tier Two** – Up to $2,500 for applicants who have completed at least one tier
- **Tier Three** – Up to $5,000 for nonprofits demonstrating capacity with federal or City funding
- **Tier Four** – Up to $10,000 for high-impact, sustainable programs
    - Requires Tier Three experience or demonstrated capacity with federal or City funding
    - Requires 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsorship
    - Proposal must include measurable outcomes, partnerships, and a sustainability plan
    - Required attachments include budget, timeline, letters of support, proof of status, and reporting documents

Note: Recipients may receive funding from the same tier for no more than two consecutive years. Continued funding requires demonstrated growth and progression to a higher tier.

Application Process

Applicants must clearly describe the proposed use of funds. Only complete applications will be considered. Applications and attachments may be subject to public disclosure under the North Carolina Public Records Act. Submission of an application does not obligate the City of Fayetteville to award funding, and the City reserves the right to reject any or all applications at its discretion.

See the **Empowering Community Safety Micro-Grant Manual** for detailed requirements.

For More Information

Visit **http://www.fayettevillenc.gov/microgrant**
or contact the Economic & Community Development Department at
(910) 433-1590