



INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PACKET

City of Gonzales Community Action Grant Program

**Have an idea to make Gonzales
an even better place to live?**

If so, apply today for a Gonzales Community Action Grant.

PURPOSE: Why is this program being offered?

The City of Gonzales values its residents and community groups and knows they have great ideas for making Gonzales an even better place to live, play, learn, create, work, and serve. The program is an open call for civic-minded people to get support to turn their creative community improving ideas into reality. Caring community members taking positive action together is a great way for improving resident well-being and overall quality of life throughout Gonzales.

ELIGIBILITY: Who can apply?

Any Gonzales resident or Gonzales-based community group working on a project or activity that will improve resident well-being and quality of life in a way that contributes to realizing the City Vision can apply.

***City Vision: Gonzales will continue to be a safe, clean,
family-friendly community, diverse in its heritage,
and committed to working collaboratively
to preserve and retain its small-town charm.***

To apply, a group **must include two (2) or more volunteers responsible** for the group's leadership. **At least one** of these group leaders must be a Gonzales resident. The following is a representative listing of groups that are encouraged to apply; however, other groups with community improving project ideas are encouraged to apply as well.

- Senior citizens groups seeking to address the interests, assets, and needs of our community's elders;
- Children and youth groups providing opportunities for character and leadership development, improved fitness and health, acquisition of life skills, or other positive youth developmental outcomes as well as increased parent involvement and education;
- Art groups engaging residents in free art lessons, community art projects such as murals, and other visual, performing, &/or public art experiences and exhibits;
- Advocacy groups focusing on neighborhood improvements such as after-school programs, sidewalk improvements, park amenities, street lighting, farmers' markets, etc.; and
- Neighborhood or apartment associations, and neighborhood watches that develop resident leadership to identify and resolve neighborhood issues and enhance community safety.

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Ineligible groups include, but are not limited to, those with no involvement of Gonzales residents, and groups seeking funding for religious activities, academic research; debt reduction or legal settlements; campaign funding; business expenses; and/or scholarships.

FUNDING: How much funding is available? What is the source of this funding?

Currently, a total of \$30,000 is available to support projects during the City's 2025-2026 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

- Grants will be made in the range of \$500 to \$5,000.
- Funding requests that specify a level of matching funds from a private source are highly encouraged.
- Funded groups may be required to open a checking account under the group's name.

Measure 'K' Temporary Transaction and Use Tax is the funding source. Measure 'K' was passed in November 2014 by 67% of the voters in Gonzales. A key purpose of Measure 'K' is to: *"continue the development of innovative programs for economic growth and youth, adult and senior activities."*

APPLYING: What is the process for applying for a grant? And what are the responsibilities required if awarded a grant?

To apply for a grant, a group needs to complete the following:

1. Submit a completed application at City Hall no later than November 21, 2025 by 5:00 pm.

All groups awarded a grant will fulfill these responsibilities:

1. Use the grant award only for the purposes stated in the Grant Application.
2. Awarded Groups are expected to have and use a bank account to assist in managing funds.
3. Keep all receipts for project purchases.
4. Allow City and media coverage and publication of the group and project activities.
5. Submit a Grant Report, including receipts and photos; and
6. Make a presentation to the Oversight Committee about the project.

SELECTION: How will projects be selected for a grant award?

Applications received by the deadline are screened for completeness, checked against eligibility criteria, and forwarded to the subcommittee for consideration. The criteria to judge the suitability of an application for a grant will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following criteria:

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- **Community Benefit:** To what extent does the project benefit the community, especially related to improving residents' health, well-being, and quality of life in Gonzales, and achieving the Gonzales City Vision?
- **Leadership:** Is there significant Gonzales resident leadership in devising the project and ongoing throughout the project?
- **Reach:** How many residents will benefit from the project? Is there to be involvement, collaboration, and/or partnership with other organizations/groups?
- **Leveraging of Resources:** What resources has the group secured or will seek to support the project's success beyond this program's funding? What are the sources of in-kind support (e.g., volunteers, donated supplies/materials, etc.)?
- **Completeness of Application:** Is the application complete? Does the group clearly communicate why it should be awarded a grant and how it will ensure stewardship of the grant award?

PROGRAM TIMELINE:

1. Applications become available to the public	October 23, 2025
2. Application Deadline	November 21, 2025
3. Subcommittee Meeting to Evaluate applications	December 3, 2025
4. Committee Meeting to select and recommend grant awards	December 16, 2025
5. City Council to consider and award grants	January 12, 2026
6. Applicants are notified of Decision	January 13, 2026
7. Projects are Implemented	February – June, 2026
8. Project Report Due	2 Weeks after Project Completion
9. Groups present to the Committee	July – August, 2026