



# **Enhancing Services Through Municipal Grants (The Opposite of What You Think)**

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# Traditional Thoughts on Grants

- Desire to expand or fund municipal service
- Look to State or Federal government for funding
- Sometimes complicated applications
- Significant competition
- Grant does not exactly relate to what you want to do
- Requires significant staff time to manage grant requirements
- Needs in-kind or matching funds

# Flip Grant Making Concept

- Instead of looking for grants from
  - Non-Profits
  - Governments
  - Corporations
- Provide grants to your community
  - Leverage the people power within your community
  - Engage your citizenry
  - Combine many small projects to spark large differences

# Municipal Mini-Grant Program

- Small dollar grants directly to your community
- Leverage the people and resources in the community
- Communicate the values of the community
- Accomplish tasks that may be difficult for local government

# Mini-Grant Guidance

- Using public funds should be used for a public purpose
- Keep politics out
  - Establish clear criteria for funding
  - Have a non-political committee evaluate
  - Establish metrics to decide between many applications
- This is meant to engage the community members
  - Communicate with them at all stages

# Example Mini-Grants

- La Plata
  - Green Building - \$500 each
  - Water Conservation - \$500 each
  - Beautification - \$500 each
  - Neighborhood Events - \$500 each
  - Security Video - \$250 each
- National Night Out - \$200 each

# Example Mini-Grants

- Bowie
  - Education Grants - \$100 - \$1,000 each
  - Arts Grants - up to \$10,000
  - Outreach Grants - up to \$5,000
  - Security Video - \$100 each plus \$100 discount from vendor
- Energy Audit Program - \$100 each
- Tree Rebates - \$50 or \$100 each
- Mulching Mower Rebate - \$50 each

# Mini-Grant Builder – 8 Components



Public Good



Funding



Criteria



Review



Participants



Verification



Time



Promotion





# Thank You!

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