NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH GRANT PROGRAM (NBWGP)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

When does the NBWGP grant application process begin?	The application process will open on **Saturday, November 1, 2025.**
When does the NBW grant application close?	Applications must be submitted **no later than Thursday, December 4, 2025, by 4:00 p.m., Arizona Time.**
Does my group need to be registered on some sort of list to be eligible to apply for a NBWGP application?	Yes. To register, visit the Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) LINK to Neighborhood Groups website and Review the Neighborhood LINK Packet. If you have questions, contact NSD at 602-534-4444 or visit the website at The Neighborhood LINK.
How much money is awarded to neighborhood associations?	The maximum grant amount that can be applied for is $15,000. Organizations that have been in existence for 6 months or less prior to application submission deadline may only apply for a maximum of $3,000.
What is the email address to contact NBWGP staff?	nbwgrants.ppd@phoenix.gov
Can an item be purchased through a City of Phoenix purchase order from a City contracted vendor?	No. Items cannot be purchased using a City of Phoenix purchase order or using a City contracted vendor. Block Watches must make the purchase directly from a 3rd-party vendor.
Will I be reimbursed for fuel for my car when I am patrolling my neighborhood?	Yes, with restrictions. Mileage reimbursement for Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol (PNP) and graffiti abatement can be funded up to a maximum limit of $1,500 per group.
Can cell phone service be purchased with NBWGP funds?	Yes, with restrictions. Cellular phones must be used for the purpose of Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol and Block Watch activities; and can be funded up to a maximum limit of $600 per grant year. Additionally, up to a maximum of $500 can be spent on a cellular device per grant year. A maximum of one (1) phone can be purchased per grant year. Grant funds cannot be used to pay phone charges for long distance or special fee phone calls.
What time period is used for the meeting documentation required to be submitted with the application?	The meetings must be from the previous calendar year. For the 2026 grant year, meetings must have been held during calendar year 2025.
How do I know how much to reimburse for Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol (PNP) and graffiti abatement patrols?	The mileage reimbursement rate is set every January by the IRS. The rate as of January 1, 2025, is 70 cents per mile. Multiply miles driven per patrol by the set IRS rate to calculate reimbursement. Mileage rate subject to change January 2026.

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Can signers on the grant contract be related?	No. Grant signers cannot be related, including by marriage, and cannot reside at the same physical location.
What is deadline for registering a new Block Watch with the Phoenix Police Department or Neighborhood Services?	For applicants requesting $3,000 or less, the deadline to register with NSD is the day the grant application is due. For those requesting $3,001 or more (up to $15,000 maximum), the deadline is six months prior to the grant application due date.
Will the grant program pay for speed bumps?	Lawful traffic mitigation devices must be specifically tied to crime prevention. Contact the Street Transportation Department at 602-534-9529 for information on the Speed Hump Program; or visit their website at: https://www.phoenix.gov/streets/neighborhood-traffic-programs-services/speed-hump-program
My Block Watch needs two-way radios and a police scanner. Will the grant pay for these items?	The following items can only be purchased in conjunction with a Block Watch or Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol program: two-way radios; walkie-talkies; binoculars; equipment/supplies (helium, port-a-johns, and promotional/marketing tools, PNP magnetic signs, and rentals). Police scanners are on the prohibited items list.
Can I pay an accountant to complete the required reports on the spending of grant funds?	No, payment cannot be made to anyone to complete your group's quarterly reports. This is a prohibited item.
Can NBWGP funds be used to purchase pepper-spray or a stun gun to use when we patrol our neighborhood?	No. Weapons of any type are prohibited.
Our Block Watch would like to take neighborhood residents to Disneyland this grant year. Is this okay?	No. In-state educational field trips from, however, are allowed for programs with a youth component. Please review the restricted items list for details.
I do not understand the budget section of the grant application.	Please call 602-262-7602 and ask to speak to a NBWGP Analyst. Analysts are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to answer questions and concerns.
How should I calculate the total amount of time donated to the project as a volunteer?	Multiply the number of hours donated by the national volunteer rate per hour. The rate for the 2026 grant year is $34.79.

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How should Block Watch signs be placed in my neighborhood?	Signs are most effective when placed on private property where they intercept intruder paths, or on the corners of the perimeter streets of a Block Watch or Neighborhood Association. The Street Transportation Department, in conjunction with the Phoenix Police Department, provide guidelines in an effort to help neighborhood groups know the key information as to how they may receive authorization to install metal Block Watch signs. By following guidelines, you ensure that metal Block Watch signs do not conflict with necessary traffic signs and do not present a hazard to pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists. The City of Phoenix DOES NOT manufacture, neither installs or maintains metal Block Watch signs, nor provides the hardware needed to install them. For more information regarding the placement and approved hardware for metal Block Watch signs, contact: Street Transportation Department at (602) 262-4659.
Can I use my bank to set up a checking account if I receive grant funds?	No. Grant award funds are awarded via Chase Bank Declining Balance Card in the name of the primary applicant group. The Declining Balance Card works like a traditional credit card. Commingling of grant funds and personal funds is prohibited.
What is the cost of a metal Block Watch sign?	Metal Block Watch signs are $40 each. Please check the "How to Order Block Watch Metal Signs" section on the following website for current prices: https://www.phoenix.gov/police/resources-information/block-watch-info *Sign prices are subject to change* Additionally, Metal Block Watch sign order forms can be obtained through your Community Programs Coordinator, your Community Action Officer, or at a Phoenix Block Watch Advisory Board Meeting.

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Due to increased crime in our neighborhood, we wish to request a reallocation of grant funds toward the acquisition of several graffiti cameras.	Because the cameras would have to be monitored by Neighborhood Services Department (NSD), it is not an allowable expense. For the graffiti cameras to be purchased, your group must partner with NSD before you submit your grant application. You must acquire NSDs permission to list them as a partner on your application and be a signer for your grant.
A signer on our grant moved out of the neighborhood and can no longer be a signer. What do we do?	The remaining signer(s) must contact NBWGP staff with a replacement signer contact's information. All remaining/new signers must sign a City contract amendment to complete the change.
Will NBW staff mail a grant application to a group?	No. Applications must be completed on the NBWGP Grants Management System website. Visit the main NBWGP website for more information.
I have had a grant in the past, am I automatically eligible to re-apply?	Yes, Primary Applicant groups can submit an application(s) every grant year. Grant applications are reviewed for eligibility criteria as listed in the NBWGP Application Guide.
Have any changes been made to the grant application guidelines for 2026?	No changes were made to the 2026 Neighborhood Block Watch Grant Program application process. NBWGP staff anticipates changes will be made for the 2027 application process.
What are some examples of program crime prevention tools/items?	Examples, but not limited to (1) locks (window, door, steering wheel, and padlock); (2) timers; (3) lighting (motion sensors, dusk-to-dawn, indoor/outdoor emergency lighting); (4) alarms (small/individual door, pool, carbon monoxide, smoke, window, or personal.); (5) document shredders; (6) individual RFID sleeves (only).
What are some examples of program crime prevention tools/items?	Examples, but not limited to pens/pencils, letter openers, mugs, Frisbees, auto-window shades, wrist bands, mouse pads, key chains, kitchen products, microfiber cloths, bags, calendars, lanyards, note pads. Promotional Items / Marketing Tools should have a crime prevention message printed on them.
Additional questions?	Please contact NBWGP staff at 602-262-7602.