



**City of Kinston, North Carolina
Organization Support
Appropriation Application Guidelines**

**PLEASE READ THESE APPLICATION GUIDELINES CAREFULLY. INCOMPLETE OR LATE
APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR CITY FUNDING.
ENTITIES ARE LIMITED TO ONE APPLICATION PER ORGANIZATION.**

Requests-Minimum & Maximum

There is no minimum or maximum request for this grant cycle. A cash match is not required but strengthens an application. In-kind match is required and must be shown.

Application Deadline

Application with attachments must be received by the date indicated on the City's website for the current fiscal year's allocation to be considered for the current fiscal year. Complete applications should be mailed or emailed to the office of the City Clerk. Mailing Address is P. O. Box 339; Kinston, NC; 28502. Email address is debra.thompson@kinstonnc.gov. **Applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be accepted or reviewed.**

Who May Apply/Eligibility Requirements

Grants are only available to agencies with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Agencies applying for Organization Support Appropriation must also meet the following requirements:

- Existed for at least three years
- Based on a physical location in the City of Kinston
- Governed by a Board of Directors that meet at least quarterly

Attachments to Include with the Application

- Articles of Incorporation
- Current Business Corporation Annual Report from the NC Secretary of State
- Letter demonstrating non-profit 501(c)(3) status of the Federal Tax Code
- List of the agency's Board of Directors
- Budget for the specific program that the City is being requested to fund

- Annual Budget adopted by the Board of Directors. This budget should clearly state if your organization is already receiving or has been approved for any other funding from the City of Kinston
- Financial Statement (audit or IRS Form 990)
- Bylaws of the Agency
- Statement indicating if City of Kinston funding will be used to match a federal, state or foundation grant. (This should specify if cash is on hand or is part of a pending request.)
- Signed statement certifying that all information is correct to the best of your knowledge

Evaluation Criteria

- 30%** Purpose of Grant: Goal of the program/project, description of the program/project. In-kind and cash matched/donations.
- 50%** Need & Impact: Description of need for services/program or project, expected outcomes, information stating program or project is not duplicated elsewhere, need for City of Kinston to provide program/project.
- 20%** Administration & Budget: How requested funds will be spent, evaluation process to measure success of program/project, qualifications & experience of staff.

Ineligible Expenses

- Capital expenditures
- Administration costs that are more than 15% of the organization's request to the City of Kinston
- Deficit reduction
- Costs incurred before the effective date of the contract or after the grant period ends
- Competitions, fundraisers, pageants or hospitality costs
- Individuals
- Operational costs
- Administrative costs not associated with the project

Grant Writing Tips

- Type application using 12-point font.
- Adhere to the word limits for each category.
- **Be Specific.** Write in clear, simple language.
- Use facts, not opinions. Present concrete statistics, plans, specific goals and evidence of research and planning. Cite sources where applicable.
- Clearly show in-kind and cash matches.
- The narrative and budget should consistently relate to one another.
- **Proofread.** Have others review a draft of the application. Does it make sense to them? Does it address the questions asked? Are all the attachments included?

Application Review Process

The application review process and final decision on organization support appropriations is established by the City Council.

This is a competitive process. Please remember that an application may or may not be funded, dependent on the number of applicants, the amount of money available, and the application's score based on the evaluation criteria. The acceptance of an application does not imply that it will be funded. All applicants will be notified if funding is appropriated for the organization.

Reporting Requirements

Entities receiving at least \$1,000 from the City of Kinston in organizational support must provide the following:

- The nonprofit's latest financial statement and must include a balance sheet as of the end of the fiscal year and statement of operations for that year. They must also contain details about the amount of appropriations received from the City of Kinston and how the funds were used.
- The nonprofit's most recently filed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, Form 990-EZ or a copy of its Form 990-N submittal confirmation.