

Neighborhood Pride Project Grants

What are Neighborhood Pride Grants?

The Oswego Renaissance Association offers a wide range of grants (between \$100 and \$3,000), and a very small number of larger ones, to support projects and activities that sow the seeds of revitalization by engaging residents in the renaissance of their neighborhoods. Pride Grants require coordination with neighbors to improve the neighborhood. **At least 5 neighborhood households must apply together for the grant.** If the work is for public space (sidewalks, curbs, parks, etc), the grants do not require a match. (i.e: The area between the sidewalk and street is considered public space.). If the project improves private properties (roughly between sidewalk & house), and the entire cost for the street is less than \$300, no funds from applicants are required. If the grant exceeds \$300, then a minimum of a 1:1 dollar match from property owners are required for every dollar above \$300.

What types of projects and activities are eligible?

The following are examples of projects, activities and expenses eligible for Pride Grants. The list is not exhaustive, and [more ideas are available at the ORA website](#). If you have questions about specific projects and expenses, email the Oswego Renaissance Association (ORA) at oswegorenaissance@gmail.com or call the ORA Office at 315-216-4338

Street-Level Pride Projects (\$100-\$3000)

- Tree lining a neighborhood street
- Neighborhood Gateway Signage
- Supplies for Street Beautification (plants, soil, mulch)
- Block Party Supplies(food, decorations, equipment rental)
- House numbers, mailboxes, picket fences, hedges, etc for participating households
- Communal Tools and Supplies for Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Landscape lights, plants, landscaping materials for multiple houses

Beautification and Branding of Parks and Public Spaces (\$1,000-\$5,000)

- Beautification projects (trees, plants, soil, mulch, paint)
- Planters, park benches, fountains (acquisition or repair)
- Signage and Logo Design
- Playground Equipment and Repair

*Big impact Grant (B.I.G.) Program: Exterior Beautification of Large Buildings in Residential Areas (up to \$5,000 in matching funds)***

- Churches,
- Large Multifamily Dwellings,
- Neighborhood Offices and Businesses,
- Single Blighted Properties that have a Disproportionate Impact on the Neighborhood

Organizations and Communications

- Newsletter printing and other expenses
- Web site development and maintenance
- Expenses for Regularly Scheduled or Special Meetings

Who is eligible to apply? At least 5 neighborhood households must apply together. Only one Pride Grant can be awarded per project. No more than two Pride applications will be accepted from the same organization or individual

** (Dollar-for-dollar match to the owner. This program has [special eligibility requirements](#).



DUE DATE: May 1, 2026

How do I apply?

Pride Grant applications will be awarded competitively, based upon available funding and the neighborhood's location in [Target Zones](#). A complete application will contain:

- A completed and signed copy of the form labeled "Application—Part 1"
- A two-page (maximum) written summary of the project (see "Application—Part 2")
- A one-page project budget (see "Application—Part 2")
- Optional—Up to eight pages of supplemental material (see "Application—Part 2")
- * Fill out the Supplemental Resident Involvement Form (see "Application -- Parts 3 - 5")

Mail completed applications by May 1, 2026 to:

Paul Stewart
Oswego Renaissance Association
#10 Lanigan Hall
SUNY Oswego
13126

Applications >\$1000 will likely require a brief meeting with the applicant group and an ORA representative. Applications will be approved or rejected within two weeks of submission based on: (1) completeness and clarity of the application; (2) whether or not the proposed project or activity adheres to the program's goals of supporting projects that engage neighborhood residents and/or facilitate visible improvements; and (3) whether or not the proposed expenses meet eligibility criteria.

Applications for Big Impact Grants (B.I.G.) must meet [special eligibility requirements](#).

How are the funds distributed?

If a project and the proposed expenses are approved for funding, the awardee will enter into a funding agreement with the Oswego Renaissance Association that outlines the maximum commitment of the ORA and the agreed-upon expenses. Digital before and after photos are required for funding if the project is a physical improvement. Awarded funds will be distributed in one of the following ways:

- Direct reimbursement to the individual(s) or organization(s) that incur eligible expenses, upon submission of receipts and invoices.
- Direct payment to a provider of eligible goods or services

If circumstances warrant a deviation from these preferred methods of fund distribution, the ORA will work with the awardee to develop an acceptable funding arrangement.

Projects in Public Space: Pride Projects that involve the use of public space (City property) may require permission and coordination with the City of Oswego. Please discuss potential public space projects with the ORA and discuss your idea with the City of Oswego Zoning Office at 342-8158.

Building Permits? If there is any question if a building permit is required for any part of your project, please contact the City of Oswego 342-8158.



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Application—Part 1

Applicant Information

Project name: _____

Organization, neighborhood group or
individual requesting funds: _____

Lead contact: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount requested: _____

If awarded a Pride Grant, applicant agrees to:

- Enter into a grant agreement with the Oswego Renaissance Association, detailing the maximum commitment of the ORA, expenses to be covered by the grant, a timeline for the project or activity, and the method(s) of payment. ***Improvements to private property (>\$300) require matching funds (at least 1:1 dollar-for-dollar from owners) & are reimbursed through submitted receipts (excluding sales tax).***
- Allow the ORA to publicize the grant to local media in order to raise the profile of the grant program and educate the public about the types of projects neighborhoods can undertake to spur citizen engagement and revitalization.
- Submit a one page performance review within 3 months of signing the grant agreement that explains the results of the project and its impact on the neighborhood.

Signature

Date



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Application—Part 2

Project Summary

Please submit a short written (typed) summary of your group's project. In no more than two pages, address each of the six topics listed below. Please number each section (1 through 6).

- Background:** What is the motivation for the project?
- Community Involvement:** Provide the name and street address of EACH of the individuals, organizations, government entities, and/or businesses involved. Specify the role/contribution of each (note: At least 5 nearby households must participate). What volunteer hours, in-kind donations, and other forms of support have already been secured?
*A strong application will clearly demonstrate how Pride Grant funds will be used to leverage or supplement other resources (monetary or non-monetary). * For grants to large commercial buildings in neighborhoods ("Big Buildings Grant"), see additional special eligibility requirements for Community Involvement.*
- Implementation:** Describe the project. Where is it located? What will take place? Who will be involved? Include a timeline. Describe potential challenges and how you can overcome them.
- Impact & Investment:** Describe the projected impact, anticipated results, and how the results will be sustained. *If projects totaling \$300 or more are on private property, what matching funds will be provided by owners (1:1 minimum, for a more competitive proposal, increase the owner match to 2:1 or 3:1, etc)*
- Maintenance:** What plans are in place to ensure that this project or initiative—or the interest it generates—is maintained? If it is a physical project, what maintenance issues are there and how will they be addressed?
- Support of neighborhood revitalization goals:** How does this project support long-term efforts to revitalize the affected neighborhood? How will it stimulate reinvestment in property or expand awareness of neighborhood issues?

Project Budget

All projects must include a simple itemized budget (see example below). Outline the estimated expenses and total cost, and outline the sources that will cover those expenses (including the Pride Grant).

Expenses (materials, equipment, printing, mailing, etc.)	
Tasks/Items	Costs
	Total \$

Funding Sources	
Source	Amount
	Total \$

Supplemental Materials

You may choose to attach any materials (up to eight pages) that may assist you in explaining your project and its implementation—such as site photos or diagrams, letters of support, sketches, or other materials.

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Application—Part 3

Supplemental Form: Resident Involvement Form

Obtain the signatures and contact information of each neighbor you have worked with. **Projects costing >\$1000 must meet as a group with an ORA representative to be eligible for funding.**

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____



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Application—Part 4

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

DUE DATE: May 1, 2026



**Neighborhood
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Application—Part 5

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

Name & Address

Phone: _____
email: _____
(phone & email used only to contact as
a reference)

Please describe your input into this proposal.

Signature: _____

(use more copies if needed)