

# Matching Grants

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Public/Private

**Matching** grants are an effective means of funding small projects, especially those with active community support. The concept of a matching grant is simple; state or local governments designate funds to go to particular types of projects. Various groups within the community can then develop project proposals and apply for the grant. If accepted, the local government will match the community contribution to the project, generally at a 1:1 or 2:1 match, but it could be set up for any level of match. It is also important to note that community labor and materials, not just financial donations, count towards the matching grant donation. Thus, neighborhood groups that have time, but not money to donate, can still apply for grants, giving them an effective way to fund local improvement projects. Common design-related uses of matching grants include street tree plantings and creating or renovating parks and playgrounds.

Many cities set up matching grants as a way of improving areas while also involving community and neighborhood groups. Some of these cities include Seattle, Washington, Orlando, Florida, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods is particularly well known and respected for their success with matching grants. The Dept. of Neighborhoods sponsors four types of matching funds for different types and scales of project. The first of these is the Large Project Fund for projects up to twelve months and costing between \$15,000 and \$100,000. Second is the Small and Simple Projects Fund for projects seeking awards of \$15,000 or less and can be completed in 6 months or less. Third is The Tree Fund where neighborhood groups can apply for 10 to 40 trees for planting along residential planting strips. Lastly, the Neighborhood Outreach and Development Fund funds projects that involve new people in neighborhood organizations or activities. However, Department of Neighborhood funds are not currently available for acquisition in Seattle.



Seattle's Belltown P-Patch is just one of many places to benefit from a matching grant; in 2003 the P-Patch received funds to install a 4-foot 4-ft high steel picket fence with iron finials along Vine St. and alley borders.

Photos: <http://www.speak-easy.org/~mykejw/ppatch/whatis.html>

## Resources

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/neighborhoods/nmf/>

<http://www.cityoforlando.net/executive/nso/mnmg.htm>

[http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_306\\_202\\_0\\_43/http%3B/pt03/DIG\\_Web\\_Content/category/Resident/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood\\_Improvement/Cat-1C-2005216-153146-Neighborhood\\_Improvement.html](http://www.raleighnc.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_306_202_0_43/http%3B/pt03/DIG_Web_Content/category/Resident/Neighborhoods/Neighborhood_Improvement/Cat-1C-2005216-153146-Neighborhood_Improvement.html)

<http://www.slcgov.com/CED/hand/Neighborhood%20Matching%20Grant/nbrmatch.htm>