



Streets as Places Micro-Grant Program Guide

March 2026



Program Overview

Streets as Places is a [community micro-grant program](#) supporting Vermonters in hosting block parties and other street gatherings during the summer and fall of 2026. Led by [Local Motion](#) in partnership with [AARP Vermont](#), the [Preservation Trust of Vermont](#), and [Front Porch Forum](#), the program provides grants ranging from \$200-\$500 that empowers Vermonters to transform their neighborhood or residential village streets into welcoming places for intergenerational connection, celebration, and community life. Learn more about Streets as Places at: https://www.localmotion.org/streets_as_places

Program Goals

1. Reclaim Streets as Safe, Shared Public Spaces

Temporarily transform neighborhood or village residential streets from traffic corridors into places where walking, rolling, playing, and gathering feel safe, joyful, and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Use block parties as a first step toward longer-term community change, strengthening local leadership, encouraging collaboration, and increasing support for vibrant and safer streets.

2. Strengthen Neighborhood Connection and Belonging

Foster meaningful relationships among neighbors by creating welcoming opportunities to gather, share experiences, and build trust.

3. Advance Inclusion, Accessibility, and Intergenerational Participation

Encourage participation from neighbors of all backgrounds, races, ages, genders, abilities, and identities, so that block parties reflect the full diversity of Vermont communities.

Program Timeline

- Applications are accepted [online](#) from March 18, 2026 - April 22, 2026
- [Informational Webinar](#) on April 9, 2026 at noon; Register [HERE](#).
- Awardees are notified by May 8, 2026
- Grant funds distributed by May 15, 2026
- Host events from May 15, 2026 through November 15, 2026

Eligible Applicants

- A resident(s) of the neighborhood, a local neighborhood association, or a community group representing the area where the event will occur.

Eligible Locations

- Event activities **must take place on a neighborhood or residential village street** and obtain necessary town or city permits and approvals. Your private property or a public park may serve as extensions to your block party, but not as the primary venue.
- Priority consideration will be given to neighborhoods in and around Downtown and Village Centers, though all applications will be considered.

Ineligible Locations

- Locations that are not neighborhood or residential village streets
- State highways
- Commercial main streets

- Private properties

Eligible Event Expenses

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- Event supplies (tables, chairs, tents, decorations/art supplies, lawn games, lighting)
- Entertainment (musicians, bouncy houses, performers, artists)
- Printing and marketing related costs for marketing this specific event
- Translation and accessibility services
- Permits and street closure fees
- Safety precautions/measures: signage, safety cones and markers

Not Eligible Event Expenses

- Alcohol
- Partisan, political, election, or religious related activities
- Promoting a for-profit entity and/or its products or services
- Direct cash prizes, gift cards, or giveaways
- Personal purchases not related to the event
- Parking and security services

Eligibility of activities and projects are ultimately at the discretion of Local Motion and its program partners.

Funding and Event Budget

- Awardees will be granted micro-grants from \$200-\$500 to support their block party and street gatherings.
- Applicants will share how you will spend the grant dollars in the application.
- No match is required.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted from March 18 to April 22, 2026. Please apply online at:

https://www.localmotion.org/streets_as_places

Application Evaluation Criteria

A committee of Local Motion staff and program partners will review the grant applications and prioritize funding events that:

Align with the Program Goals:

- Reclaim Streets as Safe, Shared Public Spaces;
- Strengthen Neighborhood Connection and Belonging;
- Advance Inclusion, Accessibility, and Intergenerational Participation.

Include Elements of Creativity and Fun:

- Playful activities, food and music, specific engagement of kids or older Vermonters, public or performing art components, bicycle and pedestrian events, unique themes and programming, and other creative activities to bring neighbors together.

Have a Plan:

- Clear logistics, community support, and plan for spending grant funds.

Are Hosted by First-time Organizers:

- Prioritizes new organizers and residents hosting their first block party.

Are in Priority Locations:

- Prioritized for proximity to [state designated](#) village centers, downtowns, neighborhood development areas.

Event Support, Tools, and Guidance

The Local Motion team will provide practical support, guidance, and tools to support your event, including providing assistance for:

- Community organizing and engagement.
- Permitting and municipal approvals.
- Event planning, budgeting, and logistics (including how to close the street to motor vehicles and open the street to people).
- Outreach including: support with development of materials, graphics, capturing images and videos, and online and in-person outreach
- Tools and equipment, that may include cones, vertical delineators, temporary paint, planter boxes, etc.
- Post event storytelling and evaluation.

The Block Party Manual: Your Step-by-Step Guide

Throwing a block party is a powerful way to build connection and community, but it doesn't happen overnight. That's why Local Motion created the [Block Party Manual](#), a clear, practical resource to help you move from idea to celebration. Whether you're hosting your first gathering or building on past experience, the Block Party Manual provides the tools you need to create an inclusive and fun event on your street. Visit localmotion.org/block_party to explore the Block Party Manual and additional resources to support planning your event.

Note: Every community is different, and the city or town permit or approvals that communities need to host a block party will differ. That is why we offer recipients of the micro-grants support with permitting and municipal approvals.

Grant Awards and Terms**Notification and Agreement**

- Applicants will be notified of award decisions by May 8, 2026 and grant funds will be distributed by May 15, 2026 via USPS.

Event Timeline

- All funded events and block parties must take place on or before Sunday, November 15, 2026.

Use of Photos and Materials

- By accepting grant funds, recipients grant permission for Local Motion and program partners to use event photos, grant information, and related materials for promotional and marketing purposes. Please find a sample waiver and photo release [form here](#).

Funding Decisions

- Local Motion and its partners reserves the right to award more or less than the amount requested, or to decline funding any proposal, based on the availability of funds and alignment with program goals.

Non-Discrimination

- Funded events must be open and welcoming to all. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, ancestry, age, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental or familial status, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law is strictly prohibited.

Grant Close-out and Follow-Up Requirements

Grantees must work with Local Motion to meet grant close-out requirements and share the impact of the event in their neighborhood or village. Within 30 days after the event, hosts must submit a short survey that includes:

- How the micro-grant was used to make an impact in your community
- 3-5 event photos or videos, please indicate that you've [received permission](#) of photos and videos that recognizably shows a person's face
- Estimated number of attendees.
- Ideas for future street events
- Suggestions for improving the Streets as Places application process, guidance and technical support, or other comments on the program.

Block party hosts will be invited to a post-season debrief gathering in the Winter of 2026/27 to share lessons, celebrate, and help shape next year's program. In addition, we may invite you to participate in future opportunities to share best practices and lessons learned with Streets as Places partners and future grantees.

Program Contact

For questions regarding the Streets as Places program, contact:

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