

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning & Development Services

TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager

FROM: Community Development Division

Date: May 11, 2018

RE: CDBG funding of Neighborhood Associations

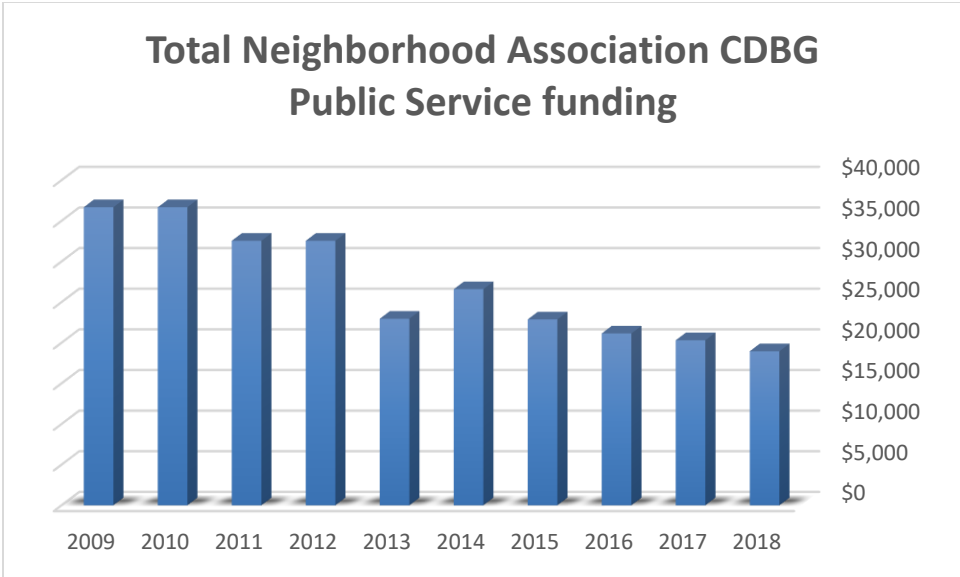
CDBG funded Neighborhood Associations must be low/moderate income based on yearly provided HUD data (at least 51% of the residents must make less than 80% of the Area Median Income). Currently there are 25 registered Neighborhood Associations in Lawrence that qualify to apply for CDBG funding. This [interactive map](#) can be used to determine if a Neighborhood Association would qualify to apply for CDBG funding. Historically, only four or five Neighborhood Associations have applied yearly. CDBG funding for Neighborhood Associations are divided into two separate categories:

1. Public Service Activities

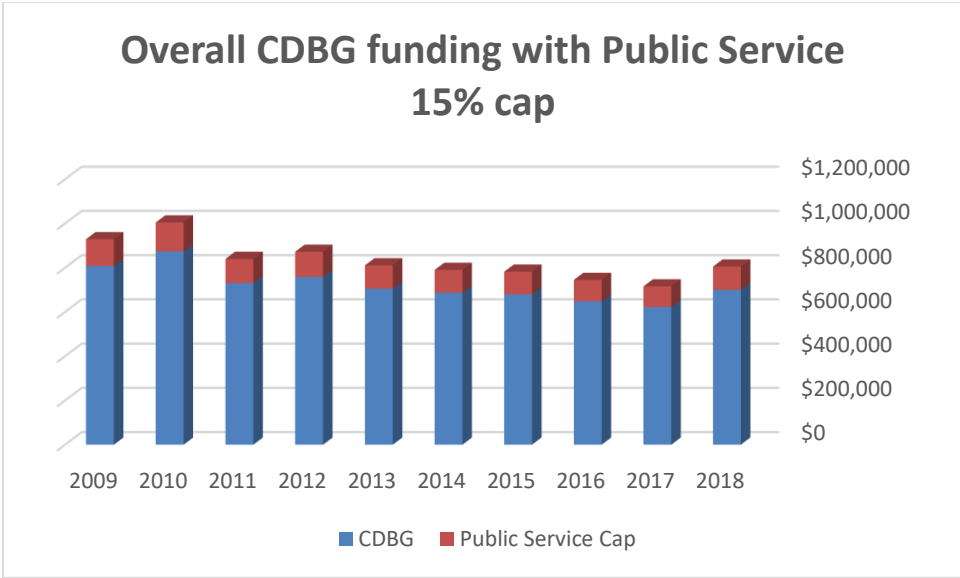
Neighborhood Associations can apply for operating expenses and/or neighborhood coordinator positions. Operating expenses include the printing and mailing of neighborhood newsletters, neighborhood cleanup activities, meeting space rental, office supplies, website hosting, etc. Neighborhood coordinators are paid as vendors of the City, not employees, and are not a requirement for the Neighborhood Association to receive funding. Neighborhood coordinators' duties include, but are not limited to, producing newsletters, managing an internet presence, serving as a liaison between the residents, officers, businesses, and the City regarding the issues and opportunities facing the neighborhood. All currently funded Neighborhood Associations have a neighborhood coordinator.

Neighborhood Association	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Brook Creek Neighborhood Association	\$4,737	\$5,076	\$5,285	\$5,357	\$6,381	\$3,691	\$5,536	\$5,536	\$6,450	\$6,115
East Lawrence Neighborhood Association	\$4,737	\$5,076	\$5,285	\$6,677	\$7,891	\$6,549	\$7,933	\$7,933	\$10,240	\$11,200
North Lawrence Improvement Association	\$4,737	\$5,076	\$5,285	\$5,357	\$4,774	\$4,819	\$5,632	\$5,632	\$7,514	\$6,100
Pinckney Neighborhood Association	\$4,737	\$5,076	\$5,285	\$5,477	\$7,541	\$4,898	\$5,267	\$5,267	\$2,987	\$2,734
Oread Neighborhood Association*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,996	\$8,172	\$8,172	\$9,479	\$10,520
Total Neighborhood Association Public Service funding	\$18,948	\$20,304	\$21,140	\$22,868	\$26,587	\$22,953	\$32,540	\$32,540	\$36,670	\$36,669

*Oread Neighborhood Association has not applied for funding since 2013



Also included in the Public Service category, along with the Neighborhood Associations, are local agencies providing direct services to low income clients such as emergency rent and utility payments, services for homeless persons, and consumer credit counseling. Total Public Service activities are capped at a maximum of 15% of the entire CDBG grant award. The City’s CDBG allocation has decreased steadily over time, leading to a smaller amount available each year to fund Public Service activities, including Neighborhood Associations.



During the 2018 grant allocation discussions, the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) emphasized the importance of providing direct client services over neighborhood activities. The CDAC recommended increasing the funding to the local agencies, thereby decreasing the funding available to the Neighborhood Associations. The CDAC discussed with the Neighborhood Associations applying for 2018 funds a plan to gradually reduce the allocation amounts provided for their Public Service activities. The Neighborhood Associations would still be able to apply for Capital Improvement activities.

2. Non-Public Service Activities (Capital Improvements)

All eligible low/moderate income Neighborhood Associations can apply for public facility infrastructure projects such as sidewalks, traffic calming devices, crosswalks, parks, playgrounds, drainage improvements, etc. These activities can be initiated by the Neighborhood Association or Public Works. The Public Works Department, through the Sidewalk Gap Program, installs sidewalks in low/moderate neighborhoods throughout Lawrence. The following table only reflects funds awarded through Neighborhood Association initiated applications. The majority of Neighborhood Associations do not submit applications for Capital Improvement funding.

Neighborhood Association	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Brook Creek Neighborhood Association										
East Lawrence Neighborhood Association										
North Lawrence Improvement Association	\$40,000*	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$3,500			\$1,000	\$3,200	\$1,000	
Pinckney Neighborhood Association										
Oread Neighborhood Association							\$13,492	\$8,925		\$1,260
Total Neighborhood Association Capital Improvement funding	\$40,000	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$14,492	\$12,125	\$1,000	\$1,260

*NLIA received an allocation for five traffic calming devices

