



# Clean Community Challenge Interest Form

Deadline: April 25th

## About Us

Clean Corps is a mayoral initiative led by the Department of Planning in partnership with Civic Works Inc. and Bon Secours Community Works. As a workforce development program, Clean Corps employs under and unemployed city residents to tackle issues of illegal dumping in their neighborhoods. We work to cultivate cleaner neighborhoods through maintaining vacant lots, cleaning alleys and sidewalks, pruning street trees and servicing public trash cans. In 2025 Clean Corps is expanding to operate within 42 neighborhoods across the city.

## Program Description

Clean Corps' Clean Community Challenge offers financial and logistical support to community leaders across 42 Baltimore City neighborhoods to carry out block-level cleaning and beautification projects during the summer of 2025. Drawing inspiration from the AFRO Clean Block competitions of the past, this program is meant to support resident efforts to make their neighborhoods more healthy, vibrant and beautiful. The AFRO Clean Block program was a community beautification campaign in Baltimore City that began in 1934, ran by the AFRO newspaper. Over the years, the AFRO Clean Block contest has created a strong blueprint for community-led beautification efforts in Baltimore and across the country.

The Clean Community Challenge projects can range in scope based on each individual neighborhoods' needs. Some neighborhoods may choose to plan events focused on cleaning alleys and main street corridors, while others may choose to spruce up an open green space. Ultimately, neighborhood leaders currently participating in the Baltimore City Clean Corps Demonstration Program will be eligible to propose a project type of their choosing to receive \$1,500. By participating in the Clean Community Challenge, each neighborhood will be entered into the competition; primarily weighted on number of volunteers who participated, and trash bags collected, and a winner will be announced at the end of the summer.

By offering monetary support, supplies, technical expertise and organizing support, we hope to strengthen and sustain participation in neighborhood-level beautification efforts. The Clean Community Challenge is a group effort, coordinated in conjunction with local community leaders, Department of Planning, Environmental Control Board, Civic Works, and Bon Secours.

Questions or concerns? Let's talk! Please reach out to Maddy Silberger-Franek  
Email: [Maddy.franek@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Maddy.franek@baltimorecity.gov) , Phone: (443)308-8284

## Guidelines

Eligibility:



- Main contact person must live in the neighborhood that your proposed project is taking place in, which must be a Clean Corps service area.
- You are required to submit a final report. This includes showing before and after photos, number of trash bags collected, people involved and number of activations at the project site.
- Main contact persons are required to be responsive to any inquiries posed by Clean Corps, this includes a brief mid-summer check-in survey to assess the progress of the project.
- Projects **MUST:**
  - include trash collection OR a beautification element (i.e. adding art, plants, lights, or seating to the site).
  - Include participation from people in the neighborhood.
  - Whether publicly or privately owned, project site must be accessible and of benefit to the broader community.
- Please note that this program is distributing federal funds from the American Rescue Plan.
- Up to 20% of funds may be used for refreshments (i.e. food or drinks at events).
- These funds may be layered onto other funding sources as long as they are used to complete one specified portion of a larger project.
- Funds may be used for an initiative involving multiple events, or for one singular event. Some examples include, but are not limited to:
  - Paying stipends to groups of youth who will be cleaning an area in your neighborhood throughout the summer.
  - Organizing a planting event at a local greenspace.
  - Organizing a weekly clean-up along a commercial street corridor in your neighborhood, providing some food, drinks and incentives for participants.

#### Key dates:

- **Interest forms due April 25th**
- Participants notified May 9th
- Supplies and money distributed starting June 1<sup>st</sup> upon providing required documentation
- Mandatory orientation session will take place in the end of May (exact date TBD)
- Projects must take place between June – August

## Required Items

- Completed interest form
- Photos of the project site
- Project coordinator signature
- Proof of organization bank account (i.e. voided check) OR fiscal sponsor
- If your project needs additional approvals, we will help facilitate:
  - Adopt-a-lot form and/or right of entry form, if project is taking place on publicly owned lot
  - If on private property, permission letter from owner or proof of abatement



Please note, applying does not guarantee funding. Please send completed interest form to [cleancorpsbaltimore@gmail.com](mailto:cleancorpsbaltimore@gmail.com) , or drop it off at 417 E. Fayette St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD

## Applicant Information

Organization name:

Organization address:

Neighborhood:

Type of organization:

- Nonprofit
- Faith-based organization
- Neighborhood Association
- School
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Person	Alternate Contact Person
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Email:	Email:
Phone:	Phone:

Preferred method of communication:

- Email
- Phone call
- Text

If you have a fiscal sponsor, please provide their information below:

Fiscal Sponsor name:

Fiscal sponsor address:

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Person
Name:
Title:
Email:
Phone:



Please state the mission of your group:

Please describe your project:

What is the project area?

- Main street / commercial corridor
- Residential street / sidewalk
- Alley(s)
- Green space / Park

What is the current condition of project site?

Has there been work done on the project site in the past? If so, please describe.

Which of the following most aligns with your project goals?

- Strengthen neighborhood organizing capacity
- Sustain current beautification efforts
- Increase capacity of leaders and residents to address neighborhood cleanliness
- Foster emerging leaders
- Connect people across neighborhoods, agencies and organizations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name three outcomes that you hope to achieve: (try to be specific, i.e. this street will have six more street trees, or this neighborhood park will have 50% increased use due to our regular cleanings)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Who will be involved? (youth, neighbors, etc.)

What supplies are needed?

Project Budget:  
(be sure to include any marketing costs and costs for small prizes or incentives for volunteers, if desired)

Item	Description of use	Source / vendor	Cost per item	Total
			Total	

## Signature Page

### Federal funding provisions:

By selecting "I agree", you certify that the organization:

1. Assures these funds are not being used duplicitously ("double-dipping");
2. Maintains at least one physical address within Baltimore City and can provide proof upon request;
3. Is currently in good standing with the US Internal Revenue Service and the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, if applicable;
4. Is not a national-owned franchise business; and
5. Has not had any findings of misappropriation of funds in the last three years.



I agree

**By selecting "I agree", you understand that:**

- 1. Information on this interest form, with permission and unless otherwise noted, may be released for publication; and
- 2. Baltimore Department of Planning has the authority to verify any information submitted as part of this interest form.

I agree

**By selecting "I agree", you attest that your organization:**

Does not deny benefits or services, or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), in accordance with the following authorities: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) Public Law 88-352, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 CFR part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 93-516, 29 U.S.C. 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 CFR part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Public Law 94-135, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., and the Department implementing regulations at 31 CFR part 23.

I agree

***With my signature below, I certify that the information provided in this interest form is true, correct, and complete.***

***I understand that at any point during the interest form and project process, I may be audited by the federal government, State of Maryland, Baltimore City, or the Baltimore Civic Fund.***

By signing the bottom of this page, you state that the answers and information given in this interest form are accurate, and that you acknowledge, understand and agree to the points listed below

- 1. My group is able to provide its own equipment.
- 2. I have provided proof of organization bank account OR fiscal sponsor.
- 3. All required documentation is provided with the interest form, including photos of project site.
- 4. My group has the capacity to meet the maintenance requirements.
- 5. My group will provide proper supervision to all youth under the age of 18 while maintaining lots.
- 6. My group will submit Clean Corps reporting documents when they are due.

Submitted By:

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Name	Title	Signature	Date
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