

Alert Neighbor Program Overview

Criteria for Neighborhood Selection

Neighborhoods throughout the city of Milwaukee are eligible for participation. Depending on the number of applications received, funding will be prioritized based on an analysis of drug complaint data by the Milwaukee Police Department.

Outreach/Application Process

- Program will be announced and information will be available through local alders, on the City website, and through the Program Administrator.
- Two informational meetings will be held (on both the North Side and the South Side) to explain the program and the application process.
- Local residents can apply to participate in the program by submitting an application with signatures of a minimum of eight households and a commitment to form a block watch or a neighborhood task force* and work in partnership with the City, MPD, and other partners to improve safety conditions in their neighborhood. In addition, residents must have organized and conducted an initial organizational meeting.

*In *addition* to the above—existing active block watch groups and neighborhood task force groups with at least eight members may apply for the program.

- Applicants must agree to contribute 5% of the cost of any safety related improvements provided in their neighborhood as part of the program, or \$20/resident, whichever is less.

*A “neighborhood task force” is a group of at least eight households in close proximity to each other (1–4 block area) that work together to promote resident engagement and improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Selection Committee/Neighborhood Selection

- Applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of a representative from:
MPD / CPU / DNS / Safe and Sound / Local Foundation Rep / DCD / Neighborhood Rep / LISC
- Applications will be evaluated based on:
 - The number of residents involved in the block watch/task force (are there a minimum of eight residents who are currently active in the neighborhood or have committed to participate in the program?)

- Commitment to provide required match for safety related improvements that will be implemented as part of the program.
 - Past experience in regard to neighborhood engagement and working collaboratively (e.g., past examples of neighborhood cleanups, working with MPD, neighborhood improvement projects, etc.)
- The Selection Committee will also meet during the program implementation time period to review and monitor program progress and identify and address challenges to successful completion.

Planning/Implementation

After selection, selected groups will meet with MPD, Community Prosecutor, and Program Administrator to evaluate problems and prioritize a list of *physical improvements* and *resident involvement strategies* to help address safety issues in their neighborhood.

Physical Improvements

Lighting

- House lighting
- Garage lighting
- Public Alley/Street lighting (cost and appropriateness to be evaluated in conjunction with MPD and DPW on a case by case basis)

Surveillance Cameras

- Alley (mounted on garages)
- House
- Street

In general, appropriateness of cameras will be evaluated by MPD based on location and street conditions (i.e., ability of cameras to capture activity based on pole locations, tree lines, etc. and potential effectiveness in addressing problems identified).

Signage

- Neighborhood Watch signs

Other

- As part of the planning/collaboration process for each neighborhoods physical improvements plan, other safety enhancement measures may be considered.

Below is an estimate of the approximate cost of the improvements above

| Improvement | Cost Estimate |
|--|---|
| House Lighting: Porch Light (installed) Spot Lights (2 per fixture, installed) Lamp Post Light (installed) Address Plaques with solar lighting (installed) | \$175–250 \$450–650 \$450–650 \$50–75 |
| Crime Watch Signs (installed) | \$25-50 / sign |
| Public Alley Lighting | \$1,500–2,000 / pole |
| Enhanced Street Lighting | Variable—evaluated on a case by case basis depending on type of enhancement and layout/ configuration of existing street lighting |

Based on the list of safety improvements, a budget will be created for the costs of purchase/installation of the improvements.

The budget will be submitted to the Program Administrator for review and approval. The participating neighborhood will be required to show proof that they have the required matching funds to implement the physical improvement plan.

Resident Involvement/Collaboration

In addition to the implementation of a physical improvement plan, residents will collaborate with MPD, Community Prosecutor, and other partners (e.g., Safe and Sound) on how they can help address safety issues and promote resident involvement in addressing quality of life issues in their neighborhood.

Examples include:

- Neighborhood information campaign on identifying illegal activity, including car to car drug dealing
- Reporting of suspicious and criminal activity
- Holding regular meetings
- Recruiting new members
- Undertaking neighborhood cleanups or small projects that improve their neighborhood and encourage resident involvement

Program Administrator (City of Milwaukee Department of Administration)

The Program Administrator responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in providing outreach for the program
- Staffing the informational sessions and responding to questions on the program and the program application process
- Distributing and accepting applications
- Convening and staffing the Selection Committee
- Once neighborhoods are selected, working with residents and other partners to create a physical improvement plan for each selected neighborhood and creating a budget for implementation
- Contacting vendors and obtaining quotes for improvements and/or working with DPW as it relates to lighting enhancements in the public way
- Contracting with vendors for improvements
- Authorizing vendor payments and providing payments*
- Working with residents on their companion collaboration plan
- Serving as a point of contact for participating neighborhoods in regard to answering questions, troubleshooting problems and assisting in insuring successful implementation of the program
- Collecting information and reporting on program activities, including program results

*The Department of City Development will serve as the fiscal agent in regard to managing/disbursing payment for work performed under the program.

Evaluation

An evaluation strategy will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program. Evaluation criteria may include:

- Changes in criminal activity—at initiation, MPD will provide baseline crime statistics for the neighborhood. These will be tracked at 3-month intervals after implementation of safety improvements in the neighborhood.
- Changes in the incidents of reported criminal activity by neighbors.
- Number of block watch groups/neighborhood task force groups formed and involvement of residents in meetings and activities.
- Changes in resident perception of the safety of their neighborhood.