



Clean Community Challenge Interest Form

Deadline: May 15th

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 trash and illegal dumping. We work to cultivate cleaner neighborhoods through maintaining vacant lots, cleaning alleys and sidewalks and servicing public trash cans. In 2025 Clean Corps expanded to operate within 42 neighborhoods across the city.

Program Description

The Clean Community Challenge is a neighborhood beautification competition and grant program, taking place during the summer 2026. Through this program, Clean Corps is providing up to \$1,500 of financial support for block-level cleaning and beautification projects. Drawing inspiration from the AFRO Clean Block competitions of the past, this program is meant to support residents in creating flourishing neighborhoods that are healthy and beautiful. The AFRO Clean Block 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.

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. Applications located in a Clean Corps service area will be prioritized. However, anyone located in Baltimore City is eligible to propose a project type of their choosing to receive up to \$1,500. By participating in the Clean Community Challenge, each neighborhood will be entered into the competition. There will be three winners chosen within the categories: Youth Power, Small but Mighty, and Best Community Glo-up. Judges will be assigned specific projects early in the summer to note progress over time and determine a winner for each category in September.

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, the Afro Charities, Civic Works, and Bon Secours.

Questions or concerns? Let's talk! Please reach out to Maddy Silberger-Franek

Email: Maddy.franek@baltimorecity.gov , Phone: (443)308-8284

Guidelines

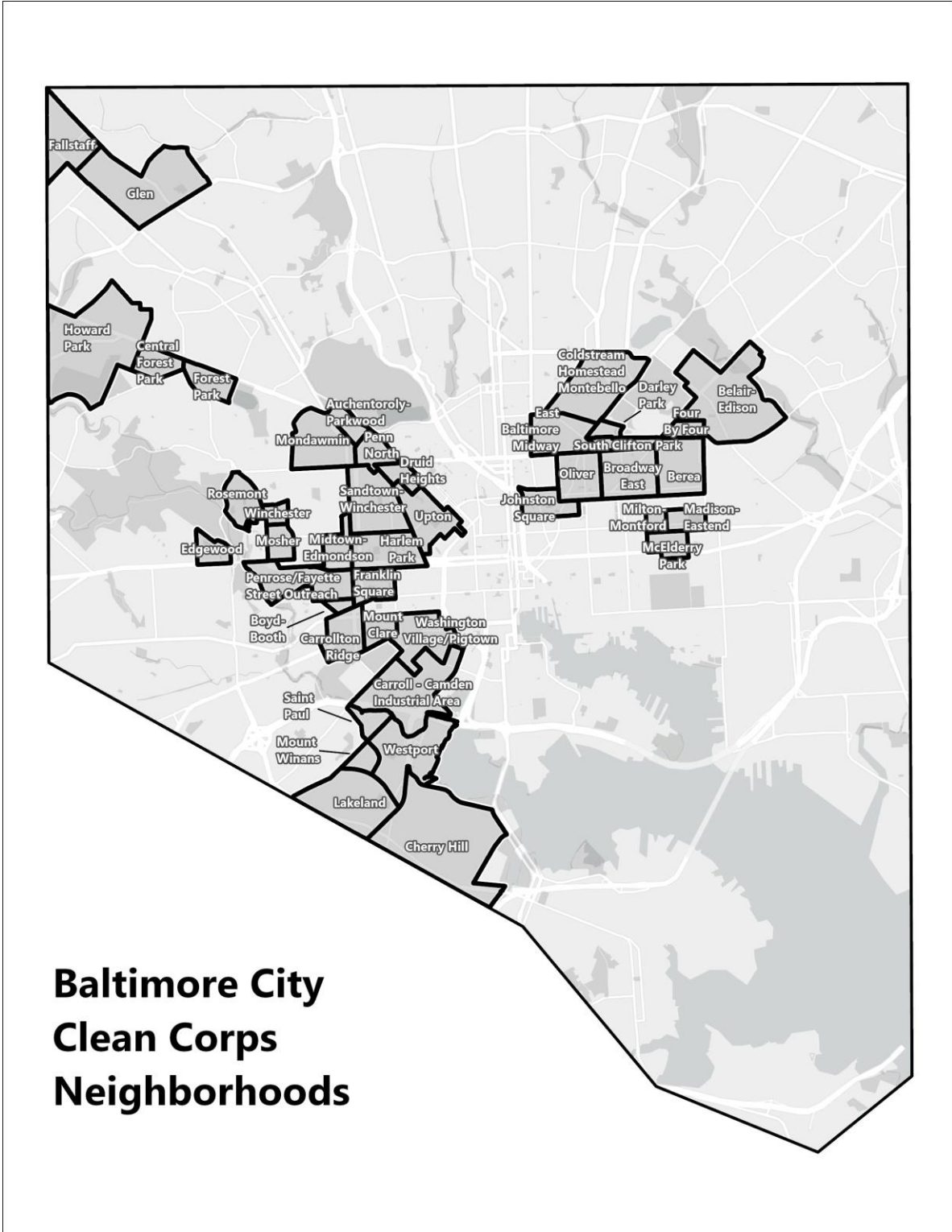
Eligibility:

- Main contact person must live in the neighborhood that your proposed project is taking place in, **priority is given to applications in or near Clean Corps service areas** (see map below)
- 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. You must specify this in your application.
- 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 May 15th**
- Participants notified May 22nd
- Supplies and money distributed starting June 1st (upon the providing of required documentation)
- Mandatory orientation session will take place in June (exact date TBD)

- Projects must take place between June – August





Required Items

- Completed interest form
- Photos of the project site
- Project coordinator signature
- **Current W-9 from fiscal organization (dated and signed in 2026)**
- If your project needs additional approvals, we can 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 , or drop it off at 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD

Applicant Information

Organization name:

Organization address:

Neighborhood:

Type of organization (Mark all that apply with an X):

- 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 (Mark all that apply with an X):

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:

Have you received the Clean Community Challenge or Block Captain Boost grants in the past? If so, briefly describe what you were able to accomplish and how these funds will allow you to build off of those efforts:

Please describe your project:

What is the project area? (Mark all that apply with an 'x')



_____ 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? (Mark all that apply with an X)

____ 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?

Will the Clean Community Challenge funds be layered on top of other funding sources? If so, please specify what the Clean Community Challenge funds will be dedicated to.

Project Budget:

(Be sure to include any marketing costs and incentives for volunteers, if desired)

Item	Description of use	Source / vendor	Cost per item	Total



[] 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:

Name	Title	Signature	Date
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