



Community on My Mind Grant Program

A Project of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG)
Sponsored by The Georgia Power Foundation



Guidelines

1. **The Community on My Mind Fund** (*hereinafter referred to as the COMM Fund*) shall exist until all funds are depleted.
 2. The COMM Fund shall exist solely for the purpose of funding civic improvement projects conducted by the member clubs, or member garden club councils of GCG, which provide **public benefit**. Civic improvement projects shall be defined as any project which beautifies or conserves in a community setting, and benefits all citizens of that community. Examples of civic improvement projects would be clean ups, landscaping and beautification in a setting such as a public building, public cemetery, public parks, streetscapes, domestic violence shelter, restoration work in watersheds, public school grounds improvements, community holiday decorating, etc. Projects which benefit only private entities or private institutions are ineligible for grants. Flower shows are ineligible. Habitat for Humanity support is ineligible, as the home will be privately owned.
 3. A member club, or member garden club council, shall be eligible to apply for one grant annually, based on the GCG fiscal year of May 1 to April 30. A maximum \$200 grant may be awarded annually. A matching grant, and proof thereof, is required. The required matching grant must be in the form of funds, or in kind services (such as donated shrubbery). Volunteer labor (either from club members or others) may not be counted towards the matching grant requirement. While matching funds may come from the treasury of a member club or council, applicants are urged to seek matching funds from other non profit service organizations and community groups, thereby spreading awareness of garden club work. For example, a garden club may budget \$100 from their treasury for their project, and the local Rotary Club may contribute \$100, thereby raising the required matching grant. The member club or council may then apply for a \$200 grant from the COMM Fund.
- COMM grants are available for proposed projects. In order to be considered for funding, the applicant member club, or member garden club council, shall submit the COMM Fund Application. This application can be obtained from the appropriate state chairmen, or is available on the GCG website. It should be completed and submitted to:

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CHAIRMAN
SHERLE BECK
150 PLUM NELLIE LN
BRUNSWICK GA 31523

912-264-3745
sherlecbeck@gmail.com

Please direct all questions about the COMM grant program to the above State Chairman. Applications must be accompanied by a **Proposed Project Financial Statement**, including proof of other matching grants, or donations of goods/services. An example of necessary financial information is an addendum to this document.

4. The committee is accepting applications for the current GCG fiscal year (MAY 1st through APR 30th,) Completed projects, begun prior to MAY 1st, are ineligible. The deadline for applications for the current fiscal year is APR 15th. Applications received after April 15th will be considered for the next fiscal year. COMM grant funds are limited, and will be awarded to qualified applicants, as applications are received, and for so long as funds are available.
5. Clubs and councils receiving funds (*hereinafter, known as grantees*) for *proposed* projects, are expected to complete their projects within **four (4) months**. Please do not apply for a grant if you are not ready to proceed. Send photographs, proof of expenditures, and news coverage of the completed project to the appropriate GCG State Civic Improvements Chairman. Grantees are **strongly encouraged** to apply for state awards in the appropriate categories, and are requested to list, as part of the brief description of their project application, which GCG awards they intend to pursue. See the current issue of the GCG *Guide*, for complete information about award opportunities. Grantees agree to issue local news media advisories, acknowledging the Georgia Power Foundation, and GCG, for financial support of the local project. A suggested media advisory format is an addendum to this document.

GCG ~ Since 1928, Promoting Beautification, Conservation, and Education



Grant Application for Community on My Mind Fund



Date _____

Name of Club (or Council) _____ Club # _____

City _____ District _____

Name of President _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone () _____ - _____ EMAIL: _____

Project Contact _____ Title _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone () _____ - _____ EMAIL: _____

*On behalf of my group, I hereby certify that my club/council is a member in good standing of GCG, that we agree to all guidelines for this grant program, and that we pledge to utilize the grant funds for the stated purpose or agree to return said funds to GCG within 5 months from issue date of check. **Thank you for your garden club work. Your community pride is showing!***

X

Signature

Title

Date

Give a brief summary of project, and attach **Proposed Project Financial Statement**. Include information about the GCG awards for which you plan to apply:

Send completed application packets for All Districts to:
CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CHAIRMAN
SHERLE BECK
150 PLUM NELLIE LN
BRUNSWICK GA 31523
912-264-3745
sherlebeck@gmail.com



GCG - Community on My Mind Proposed Project Financial Statement



Date Prepared: ____/____/____

Prepared by: _____ Title _____

Contact info: email address: _____

or phone # (____) _____ - _____

Project Name: _____

Garden Club or Council _____ Club # _____

**Source of Funds- include copies of checks from other sources
or letters of intent** **Amount**

TOTAL	

Proposed Expenses – Itemize **Amount**

TOTAL	

Amount requested from the Community on My Mind Fund \$ _____
(Maximum \$200.00)

X

 Signature Title Date

Note: The check from GCG is made payable to the garden club or council, not to an individual, and must be negotiated within 45 days.

Community on My Mind - MEDIA ADVISORY (suggested example)

All grantees must seek news media attention for their funded project. Use the media advisory example below, to guide you in preparing your statement. Contact your local newspaper office and ask them to take a photo and run a story about your project. And then send a copy of your media advisory and any resulting news media attention to the appropriate Civic Improvements Co-Chair.

The _____ (club or council name) announces they received (or will receive) a matching grant from the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. to fund their _____ project. The _____ (club or council) is a member club of the _____ District of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. and the Deep South Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The *Community on My Mind* Grant Fund was established by The Garden Club of Georgia, to support local garden club work in communities, which provides a public benefit to its citizens. The funding for the grant program was originally made possible by a generous donation from the Georgia Power Foundation and for many years thereafter, funding continued with monies from the GCG Treasury. The Garden Club of Georgia was founded in 1928, and its mission is to promote **Beautification, Conservation, and Education.**

(If appropriate) The required matching funds to qualify for the grant were provided by _____ (ex. Rotary Club, county government, etc).

(Brief Description of the project) _____

For additional information contact: _____ (Club member name and contact info)

SAMPLE funding information to use on Proposed Financial Statement:

Source of Funds

Matching grant from _____ Garden Club	\$100.00
Matching grant from Optimist Club (copy of their check attached)	100.00
Home Depot (Letter showing intent to donate mulch)	50.00
Community on My Mind Fund grant request	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL	\$450.00

Proposed Expenses

10 Dogwood Trees @ \$25	\$250.00
10 native azaleas @ \$15	\$150.00
Soil and Mulch	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
TOTAL Proposed Expenses	\$450.00