Enhancing Services Through Municipal Grants (The Opposite of What You Think)

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Traditional Thoughts on Grants

- Desire to expand or fund municipal service
- Look to State or Federal government for funding
- Sometimes complicated applications
- Significant competition
- Grant does not exactly relate to what you want to do
- Requires significant staff time to manage grant requirements
- Needs in-kind or matching funds
Flip Grant Making Concept

- Instead of looking for grants from
  - Non-Profits
  - Governments
  - Corporations
- Provide grants to your community
  - Leverage the people power within your community
  - Engage your citizenry
  - Combine many small projects to spark large differences
Municipal Mini-Grant Program

- Small dollar grants directly to your community
- Leverage the people and resources in the community
- Communicate the values of the community
- Accomplish tasks that may be difficult for local government
Mini-Grant Guidance

• Using public funds should be used for a public purpose

• Keep politics out
  • Establish clear criteria for funding
  • Have a non-political committee evaluate
  • Establish metrics to decide between many applications

• This is meant to engage the community members
  • Communicate with them at all stages
Example Mini-Grants

- La Plata
  - Green Building - $500 each
  - Water Conservation - $500 each
  - Beautification - $500 each
  - Neighborhood Events - $500 each
  - Security Video - $250 each

- National Night Out - $200 each
Example Mini-Grants

- Bowie
  - Education Grants - $100 - $1,000 each
  - Arts Grants - up to $10,000
  - Outreach Grants - up to $5,000
  - Security Video - $100 each plus $100 discount from vendor

- Energy Audit Program - $100 each
- Tree Rebates - $50 or $100 each
- Mulching Mower Rebate - $50 each
Mini-Grant Builder – 8 Components

- Public Good
- Criteria
- Participants
- Time
- Funding
- Review
- Verification
- Promotion
Thank You!

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