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Contact: Kery Venezia
Public Information Officer
City Of Margate
954-935-5330
Email: pio@margatefl.com

Need Help Beautifying Your Neighborhood? Margate's First Ever Neighborhood Matching Grant Program Might be Able to Help

Margate, FL, July 26, 2005 – Ever wish you could be reimbursed for the beautification work you do for your community? If you live in Margate it just might be possible. The Margate City Commission has created an opportunity for City dollars and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars to be combined to form a neighborhood beautification grant program for its residents.

The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program consists of a \$20,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that was matched by the City of Margate to total \$40,000. Since half of the money is funded by CDBG resources, half of the grant money will be targeted towards CDBG eligible areas. The other half of the total funds will be available for any group of residents in the city. According to Mary Dunning, Grants Writer for the City of Margate, “Your group might consist of a neighborhood or homeowners association, but you don’t have to be an organized group to qualify.” As to how the grant should be used, Dunning says, “Residents can apply for funds for a variety of improvements in common areas, including landscaping, signs, tree planting, or street lighting.”

Since the grant funds total \$40,000, there will at least eight grants of up to \$5,000 available for residents. Applicants will be required to provide a match at a minimum of twenty percent of the total project cost. Those applicants providing a higher match will be given higher priority in the grants scoring process. This is a “matching reimbursement” grant program, so money spent on beautification projects will be reimbursed to those who are awarded the grant; however projects must be approved before the work begins.

The program gives residents three options for making a match: cash, in-kind services or another grant. This opens up the opportunities beyond a cash match. An “in-kind” match would be something like volunteer labor for the project or a nursery’s donation of materials. If you have another grant (for example, “Broward Beautiful”) you may use that as a match in order to secure the Margate Neighborhood Matching Grant.

Applications will be available at Margate City Hall beginning August 22, 2005. The deadline for accepting applications has been set for September 30, 2005. Areas designated for improvement must be fully within the City of Margate to qualify.

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