



# CITY OF TOPEKA

Community Engagement  
215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 250  
Topeka, KS 66603

[www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org)

## 2024 TOPEKA DREAMS NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

### DREAMS 3 - PROGRAM SUMMARY & GUIDELINES

**Preliminary Application Deadline:** Friday, September 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

**Final Application Deadline:** Monday, October 2, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

**Application Questions / Technical Assistance:** Bianca Burnett, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator,  
[lburnett@topeka.org](mailto:lburnett@topeka.org) or 785-368-3663

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED – HANDWRITTEN APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

#### What is the Topeka DREAMS Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives Program (NIIP)?

The Topeka DREAMS Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives Program (NIIP) is a neighborhood investment partnership program between the City of Topeka and area Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIAs). The program is designed to assist NIAs with improving their neighborhoods through, community collaboration, neighborhood planning, public infrastructure improvements, and affordable housing and housing rehabilitation in low and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods of Topeka. This partnership allows for the planning, design, and completion of projects that address current conditions, and the identification of goals for future neighborhood infrastructure, housing, and other quality of life improvements. The City works to implement the priority projects, identified by the community, into the City of Topeka's Capital Improvement Plan, Capital Improvement Budget, and annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block (CDBG) Funding priorities for neighborhood projects through three initiative levels.

**DREAMS 1** - 1 NIA awarded Bi-Annually to receive up to \$1.4 million in infrastructure improvement investments + \$150,000 in Utilities Infrastructure Improvements + up to \$330,000 in housing rehab improvements/affordable housing investments. **(APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN 2024)**

**DREAMS 2** – Multiple neighborhood projects awarded between \$100,000 up to \$1,000,000 Bi-Annually and up to four NIAs to receive major/minor housing rehab improvements. Total funding available: \$1.4 million in infrastructure improvement investments + \$150,000 in Utilities Infrastructure Improvements + up to \$330,000 in housing rehab improvements/affordable housing investments. **(APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN 2024)**

**DREAMS 3** – Multiple neighborhood projects awarded between \$1,000 and up to \$50,000 annually. Total funding available: \$200,000 (\$140,000 (GO Bond Funds) + \$60,000 (CDBG Funds)) **(CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS IN 2023)**

## DREAMS 3 PROGRAM OVERVIEW & TENTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Topeka Neighborhood Dreams Fund is funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and from the City's General Obligation (GO) Bonds. These funds are used to support a variety of small neighborhood-based public projects or local match funds for larger public projects. Projects must be located within predominately low/moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. Program priorities include community engagement, infrastructure improvements, and neighborhood empowerment and pride. \$200,000 (\$60,000 (CDBG) and (\$140,000 (GO) Bonds)) is available to award grants ranging from \$1,000 up to \$50,000 annually in this program. NIAs may also partner with Interested community partners to apply for grants.

### TENTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:

2023	2024
Application/ Selection	Projects Implemented/Constructed

**Note: Estimated funding indicated for all program initiatives is subject to change based on final authorization provided by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or authorization of the City of Topeka's Governing Body.**

## TENTATIVE APPLICATION PROCESS SCHEDULE

Date	Activity
June 27, 2023	Informational Workshop & Applications Available Online
July 14, 2023	Community Engagement will provide Consultation Summary Reports to participating NIAs (NIAs that participated in the January and February 2023 consultation meetings with the City of Topeka Planning, Public Works, and Utilities Departments personnel)
September 1, 2023	<b>Preliminary Applications due to Community Engagement:</b> by hand delivery/mail to 215 E 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 250; or electronically to <a href="mailto:niarequests@topeka.org">niarequests@topeka.org</a> by 5:00 p.m. <b>Applications may also be submitted online at:</b> <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BQQMK3">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BQQMK3</a> <i>*must include all necessary scope and budget estimates and project recommendations provided by City, County, State, Federal, partnering entities, etc.</i>
September 2023	<b>COT Internal Review Committee Recommendations</b>
October 2, 2023	<b>Final Applications due to Community Engagement (Only if revisions are required):</b> by hand delivery/mail to 215 E 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 250; or electronically to <a href="mailto:niarequests@topeka.org">niarequests@topeka.org</a> by 5:00 p.m. <b>Applications may also be submitted online at:</b> <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BQQMK3">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BQQMK3</a> <i>*must include all necessary scope and budget estimates and project recommendations provided by City, County, State, Federal, partnering entities, etc.</i>
October 7, 2023	CAC Review Committee Saturday Workshop
October 27, 2023	CAC Review Committee Application Scores Due to Community Engagement
November 1, 2023	CAC Selection at CAC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DREAMS 3 NIAs (Multiple NIAs) Annual Program Fund Project Grant Awards between \$1,000 - \$50,000.</li> </ul>
	City Council Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 14 - Presentation to City Council</li> <li>December 5 – Tentative City Council Approval</li> </ul>

## THANK YOU!!!

Please attach all required documents to your application in the order listed below.

You may also attach any of the optional documents listed below.

### REQUIRED

1. Project Budget Form (Use Form Provided. *Excel*)
2. Supporting Project Budget Quotes, Engineer Estimates, Additional Funding documentation, etc.
3. Approval letters (*if required – City, County, State, Federal, property owner, etc.*)
4. Documentation of how the stakeholders were notified about the project (flyers, newsletters, etc.)
5. Documentation of how the stakeholders were included in the decision of the project (meeting minutes, notes, meeting attendance, etc.)

### OPTIONAL

6. Supporting signatures of stakeholders in the impacted area (See template provided and make copies as needed.)
7. Letters of support from stakeholders (See example provided)
8. Relevant pictures, maps, and other documentation related to your project