



BRACE Grant Program 2023-24 Guidelines

Introduction

At the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF), we believe everyone deserves to live in a clean, green, and beautiful environment. Litter affects our quality of life, destroying our state's natural beauty, harming, or killing wildlife, and diminishing water quality. It also hinders economic development—property values decrease in littered neighborhoods, whereas clean spaces attract families and businesses. That's why we're excited to provide a grant opportunity that will enable more communities to thrive.

Grant Description

The purpose of the BRACE Grant Program is to reduce litter, blight, and illegal dumping on public property and encourage code enforcement efforts. Funded through the Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF), the grant program is designed to provide assistance to Georgia communities to help address these challenges.

Grants of \$2,500 or \$5,000 will be made in October 2023. Any size community may apply. Priority will be given to communities with a population of 2,500 or less according to the most recent [U.S. Census Bureau Population and Housing Unit Estimates data](#).

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants and recipients for the BRACE Grant include:

- a. Counties, municipalities, or any combination of the same, hereafter referred to as local governments
- b. Public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions

Local government applicants must have Qualified Local Government status as of the date of their application, as determined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs maintains an active listing of local governments who are ineligible to receive state funding, including grants:

<https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp>

Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding; however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects. **If you were recently awarded a BRACE Grant during the 2022-23 cycle, then you must wait until the 2025-26 cycle to be eligible to apply again.**

Eligible Activities

The BRACE Grant allows applicants to develop project proposals that best support their community needs. Projects must focus on eliminating litter and illegal dumping, as described by the authorized uses of the SWTF. Examples of BRACE Grant projects may include, but are not limited to, an amnesty day where residents can discard waste items in roll-off dumpsters, educating homeowners about local code compliance, Great American Cleanup activities such as a neighborhood cleanup or community-wide cleanup days, installation of additional security cameras, or conducting a litter law enforcement workshop.

Application Period

The application period will open on August 30, 2023. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on September 29, 2023. View application questions [here](#).

Grants will be administered according to the following schedule:

August 30, 2023	Application period opens
September 29, 2023	Application submission deadline
October 3-15, 2023	Application review
October 2023	Grant funds awarded

Evaluation Criteria

BRACE Grant funds are limited, and contingent upon available funding. Applications received will be reviewed to determine if the applicant and proposed plan are eligible (see 'Eligibility Requirements'). Eligible projects will be scored according to the requirements and criteria described below. KGBF will fund projects starting with the highest-ranking score first and will continue awarding funds to qualifying applicants until available funds have been exhausted for that grant cycle.

In determining whether an applicant will receive a grant award, the following criteria will be considered:

- a. Does the plan submission include a single point of contact, identify the neighborhood(s) or specific location(s), and provide details about the plans to involve the homeowners, community groups, partners, or nonprofits in the challenge area?
- b. Does the submission indicate the population size? All communities may apply. Priority will be given to communities with a population of 2,500 or less according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau Population and Housing Unit Estimates data.
- c. Does the plan detail community need (in relation to reducing litter, illegal dumping, or blight or by encouraging code enforcement efforts), how the requested grant funds will be used, include a detailed budget, and include any in-kind donations (i.e., donated roll off dumpsters, donated equipment use, staff time, volunteer time, supplies, etc.) or additional funding sources? Submissions should also include information that explains to

KGBF how your plan will make a positive impact in your community over time or how the project will prevent reoccurrence of current conditions.

Awarding of Funds

Award limits will not exceed \$5,000 per community per fiscal year. If two or more communities wish to submit a joint application, the award will be eligible to the combined applicants for an amount that will not exceed \$5,000 per community. (For example, if two communities submit a joint application, they would be eligible to receive up to \$10,000).

Once a grant application is approved for an award, KGBF will notify the applicant and provide a grant award statement for signature. Upon receiving the signed agreement, KGBF will send funds through Truist Bank to the recipient within 14 business days.

Awarded funds should be spent by April 30, 2024, and reporting should be completed by May 31, 2024. As part of grant award conditions, recipients are required to submit a final report at the end of the project that includes details of its impact and performance, along with a detailed budget of grant expenditures. Final report forms will be provided.

If the plan to spend funds is not as described in the application, recipients must send an email to KGBF at info@kgbf.org outlining the changes.

If recipients fail to spend funds by April 30, 2024, they must be returned to the Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation at 60 Executive Park S, Atlanta, GA 30329.

If recipients fail to submit a final report by the May 31, 2024 deadline, without prior approval of an extension by KGBF, the recipient will not be eligible for a BRACE Grant again until the 2026-25 grant cycle.