

Salem Youth Development & Family Engagement Mini-Grant Program

Application Scoring Rubric

Applications will be reviewed competitively based on community impact, organizational readiness, youth engagement, and alignment with the City of Salem's goals related to youth development, neighborhood activation, family engagement, and violence prevention.

Total Possible Score: **100 Points**

1. Community Impact & Need — 25 Points

Evaluates how well the proposed program addresses community needs and positively impacts youth, families, and neighborhoods.

Score Range	Description
21–25	Clearly demonstrates strong community impact, meaningful youth/family engagement, and alignment with neighborhood needs.
16–20	Demonstrates moderate community impact and reasonable alignment with identified needs.
10–15	Limited explanation of community benefit or impact.
0–9	Community impact is unclear or insufficiently described.

Reviewers may consider:

- Neighborhood/community benefit
- Positive youth engagement
- Family participation
- Violence prevention and wellness impact
- Accessibility and inclusiveness

2. Program Design & Quality — 20 Points

Evaluates the overall quality, creativity, feasibility, and organization of the proposed activity.

Score Range	Description
17–20	Program is well-organized, realistic, engaging, and clearly planned.
13–16	Program is adequately planned with minor gaps.
7–12	Program plan lacks important details or feasibility concerns exist.
0–6	Program design is incomplete or unclear.

Reviewers may consider:

- Clear goals and activities
- Feasible timeline
- Safety planning
- Participant engagement strategy
- Quality of proposed experience

3. Youth Development & Enrichment Value — 15 Points

Evaluates how the program supports positive youth outcomes and developmental opportunities.

Score Range	Description
13–15	Strong youth development focus with meaningful educational, recreational, leadership, or enrichment opportunities.
9–12	Moderate youth engagement and enrichment value.

5–8 Limited youth development components.

0–4 Minimal or unclear youth benefit.

Reviewers may consider:

- Educational enrichment
- Leadership development
- Career exposure
- Recreation and wellness
- Mentorship opportunities
- Social-emotional development

4. Organizational Presence & Community Connection — 15 Points

Evaluates the organization’s demonstrated presence and engagement within Salem County.

Score Range	Description
13–15	Strong demonstrated history of engagement and community presence in Salem County.
9–12	Moderate community presence and partnerships.
5–8	Limited evidence of community connection.
0–4	Minimal or no demonstrated presence in Salem County.

Reviewers may consider:

- Prior programming
- Community partnerships
- Local leadership or volunteers
- Service to Salem County residents
- Neighborhood engagement history

5. Budget & Financial Reasonableness — 15 Points

Evaluates whether the proposed budget is reasonable, appropriate, and aligned with the proposed activities.

Score Range	Description
13–15	Budget is detailed, reasonable, and clearly connected to program activities.
9–12	Budget is mostly reasonable with minor concerns.
5–8	Budget lacks detail or contains questionable expenses.
0–4	Budget is incomplete or unreasonable.

Reviewers may consider:

- Appropriate use of funds
- Cost effectiveness
- Direct program support
- Realistic expense estimates
- Appropriate coordinator stipend

6. Collaboration & Community Partnerships — 10 Points

Evaluates partnerships and collaboration with schools, nonprofits, residents, businesses, or community stakeholders.

Score Range	Description
9–10	Strong partnerships and collaborative planning evident.
6–8	Some partnerships identified.
3–5	Limited collaboration described.

0–2 No partnerships or collaboration identified.

Reviewers may consider:

- School partnerships
- Nonprofit collaboration
- Community involvement
- Shared resources
- Volunteer engagement

BONUS CONSIDERATIONS (Non-Scored)

While not formally scored, reviewers may also consider:

- Geographic distribution across neighborhoods
- Equity and accessibility
- Support for underserved populations
- Alignment with citywide community events
- Innovative programming approaches
- Long-term sustainability potential

Funding Recommendations

Applications may be:

- Fully funded
- Partially funded
- Recommended for technical assistance prior to funding
- Deferred pending clarification
- Not funded

Organizations with operating budgets under \$100,000 may receive additional technical assistance and capacity-building support to strengthen implementation success.