



City of Los Altos

Community and Emergency Preparedness Grants Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of this new City of Los Altos grant program?

The purpose of this grant program is to:

- Enhance community resiliency, by proactively preparing for emergencies and strengthening the community's ability to respond to and recover from emergencies/disasters/crime
- Increase communication and strengthen connections within the Los Altos community

Why do applicants need to be a registered Block Action Team, Business Watch or Neighborhood Watch group?

Block Action Team and Neighborhood Watch have been operating for several years and align well to the grant goals of strengthening connections within the community, improving neighborhood disaster preparedness, supporting crime prevention efforts and strengthening community resiliency. With Business Watch, local Los Altos business partner with the Police Department to strengthen safety and crime prevention.

What is a Block Action Team?

Block Action Team (BAT) is a managed program of the Los Altos Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Los Altos. The BAT program helps neighborhoods to Connect, Care and Prepare. A BAT leader is a Los Altos resident who wants to get involved and help make their neighborhood an even better place to live. BAT leaders receive training and designate the neighborhood boundaries for their BAT. BAT leaders are invited to several informational sessions each year, which bring them information on community and emergency preparedness topics. See <http://losaltosbat.org> for more information.

What is a Neighborhood Watch Group?

The Neighborhood Watch program is a cooperative program between residents and the Los Altos Police Department. Individual neighborhoods are encouraged to unite, form their own groups, designate their boundaries and establish leadership in the form of Block Captains. Neighborhood Watch Groups are encouraged to coordinate with the Police Department through their Block Captains to stay apprised of crime trends and crime prevention topics. The Police Department can assist you in determining if your neighborhood is already registered and connect you with your Neighborhood Watch Block Captain. Please contact Crime Prevention at (650) 947-2775 or crimeprevention@losaltosca.gov.

What is Business Watch?

Local businesses register with the Los Altos Police Department under the Business Watch program to get information on crime trends, safety tips, and crime prevention techniques. And, Business Watch provides a free onsite security assessment.

What if I want to apply for a grant but am not registered as a BAT, Business Watch, or Neighborhood Watch Group?

You must already be registered or be in the registration process to apply for a grant.

To register as a BAT: Contact the Los Altos Community Foundation or visit <http://losaltosbat.org> to register for an upcoming BAT Leader training class or request a training.

To register as a Neighborhood Watch Group:

- If you have a BAT but also want to register as a Neighborhood Watch Group: please submit a Neighborhood Watch Information Form or contact Crime Prevention at (650) 947-2775. Please provide the boundaries of your registered BAT; this will be the boundaries for your new Neighborhood Watch Group.
- If you don't have a BAT: please submit a Neighborhood Watch Information Form or contact Crime Prevention at (650) 947-2776, and define the boundaries of your new Neighborhood Watch Group. (Please consider also registering it as a BAT.)
- To register with Business Watch:

What kind of projects will qualify for a grant?

If your project meets the objectives of the grant program and the City and is submitted by a BAT, Neighborhood Watch Group, or Business Watch participant (or one in the registration process), your project will be eligible for consideration for a grant. Some ideas include:

Residents:

- Purchasing FRS radios for your BAT leaders, CERTs and Hams in your neighborhood
- Stocking a neighborhood supply of emergency preparedness equipment/supplies like water, food rations, first aid supplies
- Hosting a training workshop or talk in your neighborhood
- Publishing a neighborhood directory
- Sponsoring several neighbors to get started as amateur radio operators, or to train as CERTs

Small business:

- Purchasing emergency supplies for employees
- Hosting a short emergency preparedness training with neighboring small businesses
- Buying first aid kits for your business

The possibilities are endless so please get creative when proposing projects.

Why does my BAT or Neighborhood Watch group need to have a CERT and register for AlertSCC?

Because the purpose of the grant program is to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience, grant applicants must meet these requirements in order to qualify for reimbursement.

AlertSCC is the Santa Clara County emergency notification system, used by the County and the City to notify residents of emergencies. Registering with AlertSCC and providing your home address enables you to get important and relevant emergency information (e.g. evacuation information, lockdown warning).

CERT teaches important skills in emergency preparedness, first aid, fire extinguisher use, basic search and rescue, and more. The 21 hours of training provide hands-on practice, as well as teaching important safety skills to keep yourself safe while helping others.

Why does my small business group need to have an emergency communications plan and register for NIXLE?

Because the purpose of the grant program is to strengthen emergency preparedness and community resilience, grant applicants must meet these requirements in order to qualify for reimbursement.

The NIXLE system delivers alerts from Los Altos Police Department and other local agencies. Registering with NIXLE for your business' zip code will assure your employees' receive important and relevant information (e.g. street closures, emergency information).

An emergency communications plan helps guide your employees to contact the right agency or person during an emergency, contacting the business owner or designee if necessary.

Am I still eligible to apply if my neighborhood received a grant in the 2018-19 Grant program?

Yes.

Applicants may apply for the City of Los Altos Community & Emergency Preparedness Grant program each year that it is offered.

How much money will be in my grant?

There is not set amount for individual grants. The City of Los Altos will fund as many grants as possible within the grant budget, and individual grant amounts will vary by project.

How will the funding work?

All projects must be completed and original receipts submitted to the City of Los Altos by 5:00 p.m. on May 22, 2020. BATs and Neighborhood Watch groups must also submit the name of their CERT resident (or resident who has registered for CERT training), while Business Watch participants must submit their emergency communications plan and Nixle documentation.

A grant recipient will receive reimbursement based on their documented spending, up to the amount of the grant award for their project. Any funds spent must be used for the specific purpose agreed to in the grant.

What is the deadline to apply for the grant? Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2020 at Los Altos City Hall, 1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022.