



Grant Guidelines: 2026 Greatest Green Grants

Applications Due: 5pm Eastern on February 23rd, 2026

Extensions **will not** be accepted, and incomplete applications **will not** be reviewed.

Overview

Scotts Miracle-Gro is teaming up with Keep America Beautiful to bring even more resources to the network to help make America the greenest it can be for its 250th birthday!

Greatest Green Grants provide funding for community-based projects that enhance environmental sustainability and neighborhood resilience. Supported projects include neighborhood and community tree plantings, community and pollinator gardens, native landscaping, and green infrastructure initiatives designed to reduce heat island effects. These grants help neighborhoods become cooler, healthier, and more resilient by increasing green spaces, improving environmental quality, and fostering community pride through sustainable, nature-based solutions for a greener and more beautiful America.

We encourage affiliates to use this funding to help make their community the greenest it can be for the nation's 250th birthday celebration on July 4, 2026. We urge all eligible affiliates to apply.

Funding Available

- \$40,000 in funding will be available.
- Up to \$2,000 per affiliate*

**Grant committee may adjust grants amounts at their discretion.*

Eligibility

- This grant is exclusive to Keep America Beautiful affiliates:
 - Extra points will be awarded to affiliates who have met President's Circle standards for 2025 by the application deadline.
- Applicants will be given priority in the grant review and consideration process if they successfully secured or plan to secure a signature for the Greatest American Cleanup pledge from their highest elected/paid local government official at
- Keep America Beautiful (KAB) state affiliates are welcome to apply either in partnership with local KAB affiliates in their state and/or as pass through funding for affiliates in their state, provided projects and activities can be implemented within the grant activation timeline.
- No more than one (1) application per affiliate will be accepted.
- Affiliates may apply for both Greatest American Cleanup and Greatest Green Grants.

Timeline

- Application Deadline: 5pm ET on February 23rd, 2026.
- Grant Evaluation & Notifications: February – March 2026
- Implementation Period: Activities must be implemented within March 20, 2026, through July 1, 2026
- Final Report Due: 5pm ET July 31, 2026.



Application Guidelines

- While affiliates can use this grant funding to support any greening efforts, we will prioritize applications that clearly articulate goals and strategies to have a broader impact to support the Greatest American Cleanup campaign in 2026.
- While all projects and activities that contribute to the Greatest American Cleanup goals are eligible for funding, projects that include a focus on reducing heat island effects will be prioritized.
- Below are examples of eligible activities:
 - Neighborhood/community tree plantings
 - Community/pollinator gardens
 - Native landscaping projects
 - Green infrastructure to reduce heat island effects
- All proposals must clearly articulate how the proposed projects/activities will help promote healthy and resilient communities.
- All proposals must clearly articulate how the proposed projects/activities will be measured for impact reporting. Outline which data you intend to collect. E.g. Number of trees planted, Number of volunteers, Acres of Public Space Improved, etc. This information will be necessary for the final report.
- Affiliates are also strongly encouraged to articulate how they will ensure the sustainability of their efforts with a detailed maintenance plan for any plant material.

Budget Guidelines

- Funds can be used to purchase plant materials, green infrastructure items, and other supplies or PPE.
- Up to 10% of the project budget can be allocated to administrative and project management costs.
- Up to 10% of the project budget can be allocated to maintenance costs.
- Grantees will be required to purchase signage to recognize sponsors during their Greatest American Cleanup activities.

Other Requirements

- As you plan your grant program activities, please keep in mind that grantees will receive 70% of their funding upon executing a grant agreement and submitting an invoice. The remaining 30% of their award will be issued following the submission of a final invoice and the approval of a final report by Keep America Beautiful.
- All grant recipients will be required to brand their projects and efforts as the Greatest American Cleanup.
- Grantees will be required to display signage to recognize sponsors during their Greatest American Cleanup activities. Signage may be purchased from KAB, or you may use your own, signage, with approval from KAB.



Grant Review Process & Considerations

- Applications will be reviewed by Keep America Beautiful staff and select external advisors and considered based on the following criteria:
 - How applicants plan to engage their community to contribute towards the Greatest American Cleanup initiative goals to do more
 - Clear articulation of project goals, activities and intended impact of project(s)
 - Innovation and lasting impact
 - Populations & communities served
 - Having secured or committing to secure a Greatest declaration from local elected/paid leader