



## Grant Guidelines: 2026 Cigarette Litter Prevention & Recycling Program (CLPR) Grants

Application Due: 5pm ET on March 30, 2026

Extensions will not be granted. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

### Overview

The Keep America Beautiful Cigarette Litter Prevention & Recycling Program (CLPR) helps reduce litter in American communities by collecting cigarette waste from public spaces and waterways and recycling it. Since its inception in 2003, the program has been implemented in more than 1,800 communities across the nation, achieving an average of 50% reduction in cigarette waste.

In 2026, in partnership with its sponsors Altria, Reynolds American, Inc. and Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, KAB will offer cash grants to support communities, affiliates and partners looking to:

- Implement the CLPR for the first time
- Scale existing CLPR efforts for broader impact
- Maintain existing or reinvigorate past CLPR efforts

### Funding & Assets Available

- Over \$300,000 in funding will be available across cash funding tracks.
- Cash grants will range between \$500 and \$20,000 depending on the funding track.
- Upon request, grantees can also receive the following assets in-kind: cigarette butt recycling bags/envelopes, pocket ashtrays, auto ashtrays.

### General Eligibility

- These grants are open to Keep America Beautiful affiliates, nonprofits, local governments, and other community organizations. Non-KAB affiliates are strongly encouraged to partner with a KAB Affiliate in their community or state. KAB affiliates in President's Circle will receive priority review and consideration.

### Timeline

- Application Deadline: 5PM ET on March 30, 2026
- Award Announcement: April – May 2026
- Project implementation: May - December 15, 2026
- Reporting Deadlines: Keep America Beautiful will require every grant recipient to complete interim and final reports by the following deadlines.
  - Interim Report Due: 5pm ET, September 30, 2026
  - Final Report Due: 5pm ET, December 15, 2026

### General Guidelines (Applicable to all funding tracks)

- All grantees are strongly encouraged to recycle their cigarette butts. Applicants that signal commitment to cigarette butt recycling and/or outline a plan to recycle their cigarette butts will be prioritized for funding.
  - Note that Grantees who recycle their butts via TerraCycle will also benefit from TerraCycle's commitment to donating \$1 per pound of cigarette waste collected from CLPR grantees. Registration with TerraCycle is required for this benefit.

- Proposals must clearly describe the need for the project.
- Applicant must demonstrate the ability to conclude the project and required reporting within the grant period.
- Applicants will be required to provide a budget and an accompanying rationale in their applications.
- As you plan your grant program activities, please keep in mind that grantees will receive 70% of their cash grant upon executing a grant agreement and submitting an invoice. The remaining 30% of the award will be disbursed after submitting a final invoice and having their final reports approved by Keep America Beautiful.
- Grantees are asked not to solicit national sponsors for additional funding or in-kind support.

### **Grant Review Process & Considerations**

Applications will be reviewed & decided by a grant review and selection committee and evaluated for:

- Clear articulation for program need.
- Expected impact and outcomes in terms of cigarette litter reduced, materials recycled, and population served.
- Willingness and commitment to recycling cigarette butts.
- Ability to successfully implement the program within implementation period.
- Completeness, clarity, and respect for word limits.

Evaluation criteria above are not all required but highly encouraged to ensure strong and successful applications.

Please note that 2024 and 2025 grant recipients who did not submit final reports to KAB will not be eligible for a grant in 2026.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Grantees will be expected to detail the following items in their final report:

- Date receptacles were received and placed into service.
- Photos and stories showcasing project impact.
- Verification and/or updates of materials in grant application.
- Documented status of cigarette litter (less/same/more) where the program is implemented.
- Weight of cigarette butts collected and recycled.
- Media outreach and/or coverage.
- Locations where receptacles are placed.
- Copies of educational and/or marketing materials.

### **Funding Tracks**

In 2026, KAB will be offering the following funding tracks:

#### **Track 1: New Communities**

##### *Eligibility*

This funding track is available to affiliate or partner organizations/communities that have never received a CLPR grant in the past and are looking to implement the proven 4-step approach for the first time.

### *Funding Available*

- Cash grants ranging between \$5,000 - \$20,000

### *Budget Guidelines*

We expect a substantial portion of the requested budget to go towards the purchase of cigarette litter receptacle infrastructure (eg. standing or mounted cigarette collection bins), as this is critical to the program's success. The amount can range depending on need, but KAB recommends allocating 20% to 40% of the total budget to infrastructure. **Grants will not be issued to new communities** that:

- **Fail to include a budget** for purchasing infrastructure OR
- **If not planning to purchase infrastructure** with the grant funds, fail to justify the source of infrastructure to meet their program's needs.
- Up to 20% of the project budget can be allocated to administrative, project management, and maintenance costs.

### **Other Considerations**

Applicants must commit to implementing the field-tested 4-step Cigarette Litter Prevention & Recycling Program.

- Applicants are highly encouraged to learn more about the 4-step CLPR process and scope the feasibility of executing it within the grant's implementation period before applying.
  - Keep America Beautiful affiliates can access additional resources by joining the '[CLPR Implementation Group](#)' in the KAB Affiliate Hub.
  - KAB will publish a pre-implementation webinar in February 2026.

## **Track 2: Existing CLPR communities**

### *Eligibility*

This funding track is available to affiliate or partner organizations/communities that have received a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program in the past and want to:

- Scale their program footprint, either through new partnerships or scaling into new areas within their geographies OR
- Maintain existing efforts, revitalize past efforts or adjust their programming to implement learning from past program evaluations.

### *Guidelines*

- Grants ranging between \$500 and \$15,000
- No infrastructure will be provided by KAB. Applicants should factor the cost of cigarette butt collection infrastructure into their budget request.

### *Budget Guidelines*

- For applicants looking to scale efforts, KAB recommends that at least 20-30% of the requested budget is allocated to the purchase of cigarette litter receptacle and infrastructure.
- Up to 20% of the project budget can be allocated to administrative, project management and maintenance costs.