

CITY OF MARYSVILLE AGENDA BILL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR ACTION

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 9/26/16

AGENDA ITEM:	
Community Beautification Grant	
PREPARED BY:	DIRECTOR APPROVAL:
Leah Tocco	
DEPARTMENT:	
Executive	
ATTACHMENTS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2016 Grant Review 2. Grant application form 	
BUDGET CODE:	AMOUNT:
00199524.548000	\$50,000
SUMMARY:	

In 2015 the City of Marysville offered a Community Beautification Grant (CBG) to neighborhoods and homeowner’s associations (HOA). The initial grant process received positive feedback from the community and staff, with all awardees completing their projects by the deadline of August 31, 2016. Prior year awardees and other neighborhoods have expressed interest in a future grant funding cycle.

The CBG program ties into the City of Marysville’s priorities by supporting neighborhood beautification and cleanup projects to improve the image and livability of neighborhoods. These were typically projects involving properties jointly owned by an HOA or neighborhood. Many of these HOA’s and commonly held property have little or no budget set aside for repairs or improvements and the areas can become blighted or unsafe without additional resources. Consequently, it can take many years to raise funds before improvements can be made. With long lead times for neighborhoods to secure funding on their own, these properties may slip into a state of disrepair. By offering this grant process, neighborhoods are able to complete projects that impact the aesthetics and address safety concerns in their community in a timelier manner. This grant process also fostered city-neighborhood, and neighbor-to-neighbor partnerships as community members and staff worked closely together to accomplish common goals.

Last year’s applicants could apply for a maximum grant of \$5,000, with Council awarding \$25,500 in grant funding based on committee approval. Following the initial grant projects, there were some observations by City staff to (1) continue the program; (2) raise the award limit for larger projects; and (3) require labor/funding match for projects to foster community partnership. If Council elects to continue the grant program, the application criteria could be modified to address the above recommendations and a committee would be designated to review applications and final award amounts would be determined by Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
 Approve funding in the amount of \$50,000 for a 2017 Community Beautification Grant application period to neighborhoods to apply for funding to be used in 2017. Allow maximum award of \$7,500 for larger neighborhood projects, or \$5000 if neighborhood has previously applied for the program.

Exhibit 1

2016 Community Beautification Grant Summary

Prepared Sept. 1, 2016

2016 Grant History



- Grants were awarded to 6 neighborhoods in 2015 for 2016 projects
- Out of \$30,000 in funding available, the committee recommended awarding \$25,500 which was approved by Council
- All grants awarded have been completed and reimbursement submitted to the City of Marysville

Tuscany Ridge \$5,000	Kellogg Village \$5,000	102 nd Pl. NE \$5,000
Rolling Green Estates \$5,000	Sunnyside Estates \$500	Otter Creek \$5,000

Tuscany Ridge HOA



Summary of Project Background

Replacement of 320 feet of fence line along the community park perimeter. The previous fence was 18 years old and was in need of replacement. The HOA had a licensed and bonded fencing contractor conduct the work. The HOA will be tasked with maintaining the new fencing.

Project Summary

The project was completed prior to the grand opening of the Tuscany Ridge Park Improvement in June of 2016. The total cost of the fence was more than the grant request by several thousand dollars. The additional cost was absorbed by the HOA. Parks, Culture and Recreation provided paint and members of the community painted all the new fencing along with contributing to painting the park perimeter fence system. Staff notes this was a great project and partnership between the community and the city.

Tuscany Ridge HOA



Feedback from HOA

The Marysville Beautification Grant was an excellent project. It provided communities and HOA's the financial resource to complete future projects within the coming year. Our Tuscany HOA found the financial assistance impactful. As the years progress and our neighborhood gets older, items such as bordering fence lines are forgotten. The cost associated with the fence replacement becomes acceptable with the shared cost the grant provided. Our fence line adjacent to the community park was replaced within 45 days of receiving the grant.

- Community pride, involvement, appearance and safety have increased since the fence replacement.
- Curbside appeal due to the fence replacement added value to our community. (Attracts prospective buyers to our community)
- Our community park has seen exponential usage since the upgrades at the Park.
- The City was open to the idea of swapping materials (paint and supplies) for resident's labor.
- General upkeep and maintenance (lawn care, repairs and graffiti) addressed timely.
- The support from Mike Robinson, Jim Ballew and those involved have opened communications and dialogue between Tuscany and Marysville Parks. This support has been outstanding.
- We look forward to participating in future grants of this nature.

Thank you

Art M., Tuscany HOA

Tuscany Ridge HOA



Kellogg Village HOA



Summary of Project Background

Replace the broken and vandalized vinyl fence, which protects their neighborhood parks at the entry to the community. The HOA shared that this is the first impression someone has of their community and is a matter of pride for their owners. They had contacted Town and County Fence for the bid and planned to remove the old fence and replace it if with a black chain link of 3' in height. This will be a maintenance and vandalism free solution to their parks.

The HOA stated that by replacing this fence it will not only protect their parks, but it will raise the bar, not allowing their community to slip into disrepair and increased crime. They work hard to raise this bar which in turn has promoted more individual ownership and accountability for owner lots, raising values and limiting vacant homes up for sale for long periods due to the condition of the neighborhood.

Project Summary

Approximately 450 feet of chain link fence was installed at a 4' height by a local fence company. The project is complete and has proven to be both effective and attractive for the community.

Kellogg Village HOA



Feedback from HOA

Kellogg Village HOA is thrilled for the \$5,000 grant for neighborhood beautification. Our annual assessment is very modest and just covers the landscaping that is throughout our community so replacing fencing and maintaining the community center can be financially challenging. Over the past 3 years we've worked hard to eradicate graffiti and that, together with aging wooden fences led us to fence replacement projects that would last for years while also eliminating place to tag with graffiti. We took on saving money to replace the white vinyl fencing at the entrance of Kellogg Village. The vinyl fence was easy to tag, hard to keep mildew free, brittle and prone to damage. The project total cost of almost \$10,000 to replace the old fence with black-coated chain link. The new fence would last for years with minimal upkeep...and the bonus is that it's hard to tag with graffiti! The grant halved our costs and allowed us to replace the fencing 2-3 years sooner than we could have otherwise. It's improved the entrance to Kellogg Village and contributed to a well-kept appearance. The HOA is grateful for the opportunity and has appreciated the City making neighborhood beautification a priority...thank you!

Regards,

Dara Salmon, Secretary

Kellogg Village HOA

Kellogg Village HOA



102nd Pl. NE



Summary of Project Background

The entrance to their neighborhood has two privately owned storm water ponds that service approximately 80 homeowners across several blocks. The HOA described the ponds as hazardous eyesores that require significant improvements to become safe, functional and welcoming amenities within their neighborhood. The HOA is approaching their improvements in 4 phases and requested funding for phase 2 of this project.

- Phase I, completed by HOA in summer of 2015, cleared invasive blackberry bushes, trash and hazardous waste from the entrance and exits of three storm pipes along with removing blackberry bushes from storm drain connections, gates and access to city storm water facilities to process fall, winter and spring rain events. They also removed hazardous tree limbs extending from the storm water ponds over public sidewalks and repaired broken planks in existing cedar fencing.
- Phase II was to remove hazardous trees (primarily cottonwood) and finish clearing blackberries, trash and hazardous waste from the two ponds. They requested funds for this phase as the work that volunteers could complete was done and Phase II will require contractor assistance.
- Future Phase III will involve seeding or planting of native ground coverings to prevent future infestations of blackberry bushes, improve storm water flow and discourage passerby from littering into the pond as the ponds would be visible from the road.
- Phase IV will be to replace existing wood fence with chain link and to post signage on both ponds that identifies the sites as well maintained storm water facilities that provide community benefit.

Project Summary

A tree service company performed tree removal services at the privately owned ponds at the entrance of the neighborhood at 51st Ave. NE and 102nd Pl. NE. The residents of this neighborhood have expressed their appreciation at having the work completed. The majority of the large trees have been removed, and the neighborhood has coordinated a work group to clean up the remaining smaller trees in ponds.

102nd Pl. NE



Feedback from neighborhood

In 2015 we received a \$5,000 City Beautification Grant to clean up and remove trees from two storm water retention ponds in an effort to improve public safety, increase property values, provide a safe and welcoming entrance to the neighborhood and bring neighbors together around a common goal.

The \$5,000 grant was used to hire contractors to remove nearly all of the cottonwood trees growing in the south pond. The city managed the contracting process and the trees were successfully removed in June 2015.

We would not have been able to remove these trees without receiving the grant which allowed us to hire contractors. The trees in both ponds are too large for us to safely remove ourselves. Removal of these trees is a critical first step in the pond clean up process. Removing trees allows us to access the ponds to remove the immense blackberry bushes that are taking over both sites. Once the blackberry bushes are removed we'll be able to remove all the trash that has been thrown into the ponds over the years. Removing the trees also significantly reduces public hazards presented by the two ponds. Cottonwood trees grow fast and are not strong nor long lived making them highly likely to come down in wind storms. Removing the trees reduces the chance of injury or damage by windfall and makes the interiors of the ponds more visible to passersby so they are less likely to play host to illicit activities.

We still have an immense amount of work to complete in these ponds to make them highly functional public assets. The trees need to be removed from the north pond. The blackberry bushes and trash need to be removed from both ponds. The fences around both ponds need repair and replacement and educational signs need to be posted at both sites.

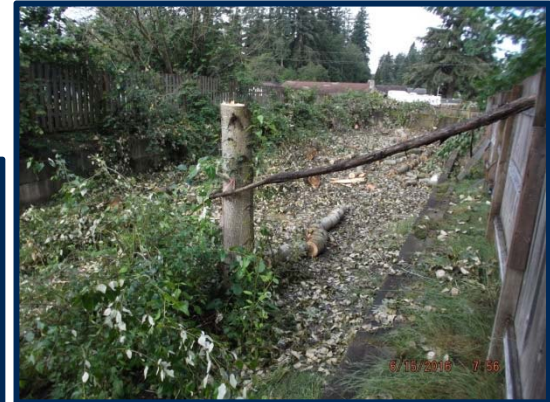
Thanks to the city we're off to a good start. We will remove blackberries and trash this summer and fall as best we can. Next spring we'll endeavor to work with contractors to remove the trees from the north pond. We hope the city will continue this fantastic program and that we'll be able to apply for additional funds so we can continue this work and ultimately create and maintain two highly functional storm water management ponds.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us at any time with questions.

Best,

Jodi and Antonio Galvan

102nd Pl. NE



Rolling Greens Estates



Project Background

Rolling Greens HOA requested \$5,000 to help fund the replacement of trees in their 7-acre community park. They have allocated over \$6,000 for the removal of 14 dead and diseased trees, and are seeking funds to cover the cost of purchasing and planting 25 new trees that will provide long term beauty and seasonal interest. There are walking trails, a baseball diamond and backstop, 2 playground areas, and a basketball court. On any given day, people can be seen walking the paths while children chase balls in the field. Unfortunately, over the past several years many of these amazing resources have become deteriorated and in need of repair.

Project Summary

Parks Staff met with the representatives and guided the HOA to remove trees that were both dangerous and those that were creating or challenging drainage issues the park exhibited. Staff also recommended that the HOA remove outdated, broken and unsafe play equipment that was over 30 years old.

The project was changed and supported by the city in an effort to reduce liability and also enhance drainage and turf recovery. Clean Cut Tree Service removed 14 large trees that were not healthy and also removed stumps. The play areas were cleaned and unsafe equipment removed. New play chips were added and play borers replaced. Staff also encouraged the HOA to apply again if possible to continue making much needed park improvements.

Rolling Greens Estate



Feedback from HOA

The Rolling Green Estates Board and Members would like to express our gratitude to the City of Marysville for approving our beautification grant last year. The City's support has helped bring about many positive changes for our community and helped set the stage for more improvements going forward. Our original request was for the removal and replacement of trees in our 7.5 acre common area park. We have gotten so much more than we expected.

Parks Director Jim Ballew arrived to perform the pre-inspection of the site and immediately recognized the potential of our common area. He also noted how many dying and diseased trees were in need of attention. He agreed that we should use the full grant amount for tree and stump removal. As a result, we were able to clear most of the trees on our list.

Director Ballew also agreed to come for a second visit where he and another city employee gave recommendations for future improvements to the common area as well as pointing out ways to improve safety and recreation moving forward. Our community took these recommendations and has been steadily working to make the upgrades.

The tree removal and other changes have captured the interest of our larger Rolling Green Estates membership. People have begun to pay more attention to the usability and appearance of the common area. There has begun to be conversation of how we can capture this momentum and keep it going. A result of that dialogue is in the formation of our new RGE Master Plan Committee. The first meeting is set for September.

Thank you for offering this grant. Your commitment to bettering the neighborhoods of Marysville through financial support, expert advice, and positive encouragement is having an amazing impact on our quality of life.

Sincerely,

Rolling Green Estates

Rolling Greens Estate



Sunnyside Estates



Project Background

The project will enhance appearance of Sunnyside Estates by replacing dead plants with drought resistant shrubs at the entrance monument and a bare common area. Also dead/damaged red maple trees along street need to be replaced. All labor and maintenance is done by homeowner volunteers and contracted landscape firm. Benefits for community include making for a more visually appealing area, plus adding plants to bare area improves environment and water runoff.

Project Summary

Project was completed entirely by members of the HOA. Plants were purchased locally and the project was completed for \$500.

Sunnyside Estates



Feedback from HOA

Sunnyside Estates is a small development of modest homes. Our Home Owners Association budget provides very little discretionary funds for improvements due to the need to fund the reserve for future and current mandatory needs such as retention pond and storm water bunker maintenance, liability insurance, landscape maintenance, etc. So the generous grant by the City had a very positive impact in our little neighborhood in two ways.

First, it provided us the means to restore the landscaping to our entrance monument at the corner of Sunnyside and 35th. We consider this the 'front door' to our neighborhood and we were able to transform it from the weedy, minimally planted eyesore into a lovely garden spot. We chose native plants to provide color and interest as well as providing food for pollinators and birds and that will require minimal maintenance. This project has brought us together as a neighborhood on what other projects we can pursue as a community.

Secondly, it allowed our Association to apply modest (non-grant) funding to address a weed issue in an environmentally conscious way by applying thick mulch to a problem common area to help prevent weed growth without the use of toxic herbicides (important to us because a resident adjacent to this area has sensitivities to chemicals commonly used in herbicides).

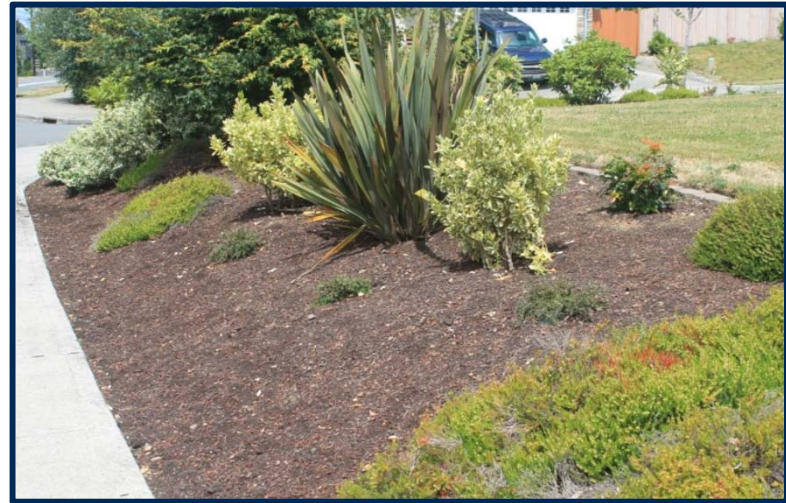
So all in we get a bunch of benefits. A project that has spurred interest in our neighborhood association and what we can jointly pursue for the betterment of our community, a landscape that provides visual interest as well as a bird and bee habitat, and the opportunity to take a proactive environmentally friendly way to mitigate a weed problem without risking potential health problems to our residents.

In closing, I must say on behalf of our neighborhood how grateful we are to live in a city that puts a priority on helping bring neighborhoods together through this grant program, and I am especially grateful to you, Jim for your assistance in implementing this project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Pete

Sunnyside Estates



Otter Creek



Project Background

The homeowners of Otter Creek had received letters from the City of Marysville that they were out of compliance for the North and South entrance to Otter Creek. Not all neighbors want to participate in HOA. They requested grant funding to bring north and south entrance up to code with the goal to remove trees, kill weeds, remove debris, cut trees, clear drains, post signs, repair fences, repair Otter Creek sign, set up quarterly maintenance, form neighborhood watch, get to know neighbors, get to know neighbors vehicles and watch for children in neighborhood.

Project Summary

Quotes for fencing material and installation were obtained for this project, with the lowest quote being \$6,273.25. Black vinyl fencing is required to be complaint with City of Marysville code. The City of Marysville paid for \$5,000 work of work and materials, and the neighborhood residents collected the remaining \$1,273.25 to pay for the remainder of the work. At a future date, the Otter Creek community would like to also fence the northern pond to finish the work on the entrance to their neighborhood.

Otter Creek



Feedback from HOA

The community of Otter Creek would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU for the Beautification Grant from the City of Marysville.

The neighbors in Otter Creek have come together to form a voluntary home owners association. We have participated in several work parties, (with Safety First – no one was hurt or injured, we made sure all loads were secured before traveling on streets with tarps and ropes). We cleared trees, bush, weeds. We made multiple loads to recyclers for wood and metal, we removed old rotting fence and broken down bricks. With much effort and teamwork we have cleared the south pond for Otter Creek, and thanks to the City of Marysville who donated \$5,000 toward new fence we raised the additional amount to have a black chain link fence installed. This brought our neighborhood together to work together towards a common goal.

In addition the City of Marysville has also installed two roundabouts – which has had a significant impact on the traffic coming into the area. We have had 1 or 2 incidents (in June and July) that cars coming home in the early morning hours (after the bars have closed) have run over and gone thru the roundabout. Without the roundabout the cars could have gone thru the new fence and into the pond. We are looking forward to follow up on the roundabouts to see if a speed bump before or after the roundabout could slow traffic down just a bit more creating a need for traffic on 56th St. to slow down.

The new chain link fence has provided much great visibility to traffic that intersects at 56th Dr. and 56th St. The fence has also provided visibility to unwanted guests in the neighborhood that have parked to buy and sell drugs, it has become a much safer neighborhood for the children that walk to Shoultes Elementary. Otter Creek has formed a crime watch page on Facebook and neighbors regularly report suspicious cars, break ins and communicate neighborhood news.

Without the City of Marysville's support and encouragement and a lot of work by Otter Creek neighbors our neighborhood would have continued to be in disrepair, dropping our house values, and making us susceptible to unwanted traffic and other crime that goes with run down neighborhoods. We also want to thank Marysville employees Dave and Leah for continued ongoing support during the project.

Otter Creek homeowners are GRATEFUL for the letters requesting we clean up and for the ongoing support from Marysville.

We still have the North pond as an ongoing goal to work on. We have cleared half the pond, made several trips to recycle wood and wood chip brush and removed old fencing. If possible I would like to apply for another grant for the North pond (could you send me another application).

The previous grant was used wisely with grant applied toward new fence, while homeowners have contributed much money, time and effort to keeping our neighborhood clean, updated and safe.

Thank you we look forward to working on future projects with the City of Marysville.

Debi Wark

Homeowner project coordinator

Otter Creek



Future Grants



Staff Feedback:

- Suggestions for future consideration on the implementation of this program would be to set a total “pot” of money aside each year for grant awards without putting a cap on how much each recipient could receive. Instead, grant funds could be allocated at the discretion of the Council or an appointed committee so that grant money for both large and small projects could be awarded to our citizens, and the maximum benefit of the money set aside would be achieved. This would enable those who have more substantial project to have all of the project completed in one grant cycle rather than having to wait until the next grant cycle to finish a project (such as the case with Otter Creek and 102nd). This would also allow for smaller, more aesthetic projects in other neighborhoods which would have a significant impact on the look and feel of a neighborhood (ex. block watch signs, neighborhood entrance sign repair, etc.).
- In closing, I find that the Beautification Grant Program implemented by the City of Marysville is a huge success and I would recommend continuing and expanding the program as funding allows. This program allows for neighborhoods who take pride in their city and their community to improve their sense of safety and quality of life by beautifying their own piece of the City of Marysville. I believe that as a collective whole, this program over time could cumulatively enhance the quality of life and sense of well-being of our citizens and make Marysville an even more attractive place to live, work and play.

Future Grants



Staff Feedback:

- Recommend allocated more money. Both of the communities I worked with were only able to complete about half of the work they wanted to get done. Both groups were very thankful for the assistance, but possibly raising the allowable award amount would make it more feasible for projects to reach full completion. I encouraged both group to re-apply next year if the program continues.
- Consider a “match” aspect. This may be difficult to administer, but in my opinion the communities that are working on improving the neighborhoods on their own should be able to receive more assistance than neighborhoods where there is not any community involvement. I think this separates those looking for “free” money and those who really care about their neighborhood and the community – and will also serve to protect the City’s investment through ongoing maintenance.
- Overall, I think this program was a great idea and I hope it continues.

Exhibit 2

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM (“CBP”):



The City of Marysville will be offering mini-grants to neighborhoods and community groups to improve their neighborhood. The program seeks to partner with homeowners and residents to beautify and provide improvements in the neighborhood environment and to promote community interactions by improving gathering places. Marysville’s CBP program is accepting applications for project proposals for 2015/16. This is a competitive grant offering. Applications will be reviewed by a grant review committee that will score the applications and make the award selection.

Example projects: Examples of some projects which might qualify include community landscaping projects or cleaning up trash in commons, or in areas that are visible to the public. Projects might involve installation of fencing or paths to improve or control access to common areas or parks. Improvements that promote community gathering spots through improved resting or active areas are also eligible. The grant is intended to provide community value through enhancing aesthetic appeal, any project designed with these goals at its core, and designed in a way that benefits the community at large rather than one homeowner in particular may qualify.

Award Amount: Up to \$5,000.00 of reimbursable funding may be awarded. To enhance accountability and ensure projects provide value to the community, projects which fail to deliver on their initial goals may be denied reimbursement.

Conditions:

Successful applicants must seek prior approval before changing any plans related to grant funds that will impact the delivery of the project’s stated goal, change the stated goal or change the cost of the project. Failure to do so will risk the loss of reimbursable funds. Applicants will be expected to coordinate with city staff to ensure the project improvements are performed consistent with application. In addition, any improvements that are proposed for installation on city property or street right of way will require approval and coordination with City personnel.

Application information

The deadline for application is 10/15/2015 at 5pm. Projects must be completed by 8/30/2016.

If applicants reside in a neighborhood with an active Homeowner’s Association (HOA), written concurrence from the HOA board is required to be submitted with the application. If applicants reside in a neighborhood without a Homeowner Association, the application must be signed by at least five households to display broad based neighborhood support for the project. It should also be demonstrated that the homeowners have made an effort to communicate the proposed improvement plans to the neighborhood.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. To maximize the competitiveness of their application, applicants are encouraged to follow these guidelines

- Competitive applications will display broad based community support, whether through large numbers of signatures, support from volunteers in their planned activities, or through diverse sources of funding.
- Competitive applications will provide pictures of the project area before improvements and will provide as much detail as possible in the project planning section. Do not feel limited to just the blank space provided on the page.
- Competitive applications will identify not only how projects will improve visual appeal in the community, but also how improvements in visual appeal will benefit nearby residents. Some examples might include getting to know neighbors better while working on the project, or providing a clean and safe space for outdoor activities.

- Competitive applications will provide realistic figures for costs and funding, providing professional quotes for expenses where necessary, and make realistic assumptions concerning the level of volunteer participation in the project.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Address questions about applications and completed applications to
1049 State Ave. Marysville, WA 98270
360-363-8000 Fax: (360) 651-5033
ghirashima@marysvillewa.gov

CBP Application form

Neighborhood (HOA or street location)

Applicant 1

Name	
Street Address	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Applicant 2

Name	
Street Address	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Other Applicants (please include at least 5 signatures for neighborhoods without HOA)

Funds Requested for project

\$ _____

Project area and plan for improvement: Demonstrate need for the project, identify objectives and expected results, and describe the activities to be funded and who will perform them. If physical improvements are made, identify who will maintain them.

Identify the benefits that your community will derive from this project

Project Budget

Line Item	Purpose of item	Amount

Total Cost \$ _____

Project Funding

Community Funding (from groups, HOA, ect)	\$
Volunteer Funding (from individuals)	\$
Other Resources (other financial support, budget relevant in kind contributions)	\$
Funds requested from Marysville CBP	\$

Total funding \$ _____

Signature of applicant 1: _____ Date _____

Signature of applicant 2: _____ Date _____