

Community Transit Engagement Stipend Application

Sustain Charlotte is offering Community Transit Engagement Stipends of approximately \$1,000-\$3,000 to neighborhood-based organizations across Mecklenburg County. These awards will support creative, community-driven efforts that help residents learn about, provide input on, and participate in decisions made by the Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority (MPTA).

Before applying, all applicants are required to read the full program description to ensure alignment and understanding of goals: <https://sustaincharlotte.org/engagementstipends/>

Applications should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Organizations do not need to be registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits to apply, but must be non-profit in nature and have financial oversights in place.

Application deadline: Monday, August 17 at 11:59 PM Eastern

Questions: info@sustaincharlotte.org

* Indicates required question

1. Organization name *

2. Neighborhood or neighborhoods served *

3. Website or social media page

Leave blank if your organization does not have one.

4. Nondiscrimination certification: By checking this box, I confirm that our organization does not discriminate in providing programs, services, or participation opportunities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. *

Check the box to confirm.

Check all that apply.

☐ I confirm that our organization does not discriminate according to the definition above.

Organization Contacts

Please provide two contacts who can answer questions about the application and help administer the stipend if your organization is selected.

5. Primary contact name *

6. Primary contact title or role *

7. Primary contact email address *

8. Primary contact phone number *

9. Secondary contact name *

10. Secondary contact title or role *

11. Secondary contact email address *

12. Secondary contact phone number *

Financial Administration

13. Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3)? *

Mark only one oval.

☐

Yes

Skip to question 23

☐

No

Skip to question 14

☐

Application pending or in process

Skip to question 14

Financial oversight for organizations that are not registered 501(c)(3) nonprofits

Please describe the people and processes your organization uses to responsibly manage incoming funds.

14. How does your organization manage incoming funds? *

Examples include oversight by a treasurer, financial policies, board approval, a fiscal sponsor, separate bank-account controls, or another process.

15. Who is responsible for overseeing your organization's finances? *

Provide the person's name and role.

About Your Organization and Community

16. Tell us a little about your organization. *

What is your organization's mission, and how do you currently communicate with or engage residents? Please limit your response to approximately 150 words.

17. How would this stipend help your organization engage residents around transit planning and decisions? *

18. What transit issues are most important to residents in your neighborhood? You may select multiple answers. *

Examples may include bus service, rail projects, bus stops, traffic safety when reaching transit, affordability, displacement, accessibility, or another issue managed by CATS and the MPTA.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ bus service: frequency, reliability, travel time
- ☐ bus stops
- ☐ rail service (present and/or future)
- ☐ CATS microtransit
- ☐ traffic safety for transit riders
- ☐ affordability of riding transit
- ☐ concerns about displacement due to transit investments
- ☐ Other: _____

19. What barriers have residents faced in participating in transit planning or public decision-making? You may select multiple answers. *

Examples may include meeting times, childcare, transportation, language barriers, lack of information, distrust, internet access, or another barrier.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ inconvenient public meeting times
- ☐ lack of childcare (or expense) to attend meetings
- ☐ lack of transportation (or expense) to attend meetings
- ☐ language barriers
- ☐ lack of information about how to attend or participate in meetings
- ☐ distrust of government
- ☐ lack of internet access
- ☐ other needs in the neighborhood are seen as more important
- ☐ Other: _____

Your Proposed Activities

20. How would you use the stipend? *

Select all that apply. These are examples, not limits. We welcome creative ideas based on how your organization can best reach and engage its residents.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Hold a resident listening session and compile the results to share with decision-makers
- ☐ Provide childcare stipends so residents can attend public transit meetings
- ☐ Provide transportation or travel assistance so residents can attend public transit meetings
- ☐ Create or distribute printed newsletters, flyers, or educational materials
- ☐ Provide translation or interpretation for meetings or written materials
- ☐ Pay for food, refreshments, or venue rental for a community transit meeting
- ☐ Conduct digital outreach or social media engagement related to transit
- ☐ Other: _____

21. Briefly describe what you hope to do and provide a basic budget. *

Explain your proposed activities, how they will help residents engage with MPTA decisions, and your expected expenses. Please limit your response to approximately 200 words.

22. Approximately how many residents do you expect to engage? *

Funding Request

23. Amount requested *

Mark only one oval.☐ \$1,000☐ \$1,500☐ \$2,000☐ \$2,500☐ \$3,000

24. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Certification

25. Applicant certification *

Check all the boxes below to certify and submit your application.

Check all that apply.

☐ I understand that outreach should focus on transit, defined as local public bus, train, and special transportation services run by CATS and managed by the MPTA. Due to the nature of these awards, they cannot be spent to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure alone.

☐ If awarded, my organization will submit a brief follow-up report describing how the funds were used and what was accomplished by completing an online report form provided by January 15, 2027.

☐ Funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

☐ I confirm that the information in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

☐ I have read and understand the full program description at:
<https://sustaincharlotte.org/engagementstipends/>

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