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SE Uplift and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) both understand how important effective communication is to the success of neighborhood events, issues and involvement. That is why ONI provides the coalitions with funding that is specifically designated for neighborhood communications.

The communications funds can be used for a number of things that enhance and facilitate communication to increase involvement in neighborhood association events and activities. Be creative and try new strategies to reach and engage neighbors!

SE Uplift believes that neighborhood associations know the most useful outreach methods for their neighbors, therefore we will no longer be reimbursing neighborhoods throughout the year. Instead, we will send the entire communication fund to you at the beginning of the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year neighborhoods will be required to report back to SE Uplift how the communication money was spent, how effective you felt the funds were and what you would do if you had additional funding. See attached forms.

These reports will support SE Uplift's efforts during the budget process to advocate for retaining and possibly increasing neighborhood communication dollars.

SE Uplift is also required by ONI to retain a copy of neighborhood communications that have been developed with city funding (Standards for Neighborhood Associations, Section VII, b. vii). Please send us copies of your outreach efforts so we are in compliance with city regulations.

Some of you know and use the copier here at SE Uplift. Since we no longer hold the communication funds for each association, we are not able to deduct copier expenses. Moving forward, neighborhood leaders must check in with staff to use the copier and we will then send you an invoice quarterly for expenses accrued. Neighborhoods are encouraged to create their own accounts and relationships with vendors such as City Printers.

The staff at SE Uplift is also very interested in seeing how you are communicating with your neighbors, so even if you are spending from your general fund, please send us a copy of your newsletters, a photo of a neighbor wearing your association's t-shirt, your latest poster, whatever it is you are working on- we want to see it!

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you'd like help strategizing ways to more effectively communicate with your neighbors. We're here to help!