

Government of the District of Columbia



Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
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MEMORANDUM

TO: ANC 3/4G
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: 11/13/2025
RE: Widow's Pantry Grant Applications

The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions ("OANC") has received a copy of a grant request from the Widow's Pantry regarding a grant for a Refresh and Restore Event for unhoused persons. This is a great event but the application is problematic for several reasons and does not meet the criteria for an ANC grant. The amount of the request is small and perhaps the Ward Councilmember and at large Councilmember's constituent services funds.

Two issues were the most problematic, proximity to 3/4G. This event would be across Rock Creek Park and 5 SMDs in two different ANCs from 3/4G. In such a case I would normally refer the Applicant to the closest ANC(s) so that it could meet the criteria that it must "benefit persons who work or reside in the Commission area."¹

However, the population of persons served is so small, 20 people or less potentially across 2 ANCs that it does not meet the requirement that a grant be for "public purposes within the Commission area."² A public purpose is one "that includes a significant benefit for the community and is not done for the primary purpose of benefitting a private entity."³

Finally, the services offered also take it out of the realm of public purpose in that it is for personal grooming.

ANCs have successfully given grants where similar things have taken place in the context of a larger event. One event was a back-to-school event with resource booths and bubbles but also had a hair grooming station for children and a backpack giveaway. The ANC supported the non-giveaway and grooming parts of the event. The event was also open to all in the ANC. The OANC would be happy to work with Widow's Pantry on a future event if asked.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(1).

² D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(l)(1).

³ *Id.*