

Government of the District of Columbia



Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
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MEMORANDUM

TO: ANC 3C
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: 11/10/2025
RE: Hardy PTO Math 180 Grant Application

The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (“OANC”) has received a copy of a grant request from the Hardy PTO regarding a grant for their Math 360 program. The applicant states that the program is designed to assist students struggling with math and will serve approximately 100 Hardy students. Harday draws from ANC 3C specifically John Eaton Elementary as one of its feeder schools for its student body. The program will be open to all Hardy students who need it. Until the students in need are identified, it is unclear exactly how many 3C students will be served but likely in proportion to their ratio in the student body.

The applicant is requesting an oddly specific grant amount of \$ \$2,405.56. The OANC is assuming the “teacher license” in the costs refers to the software license for the teacher and not a license that allows them to teach in a DCPS school, which would not be permissible.

I have reviewed the application sent to OANC and have found that the request is a **permissible** expenditure of ANC monies, as outlined below.

Additionally, once a grant has been voted on by the ANC *the purpose of the grant cannot be changed without an additional vote by the ANC.*

Analysis

There are five prongs a grant must meet to be a permissible expense¹, and there is also a sixth requirement of the D.C. Official Code that limits the amount of a grant that can be spent on overhead². These are, respectively:

1. **Public Purpose:** ANC grants must be for “public purposes within the Commission area.”³ 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.”⁴ This is a purpose that serves the community at large in that it serves a segment of the population, the middle school students. It is open to all who are in need of math assistance.
2. **Local Benefit:** A grant must “benefit persons who work or reside in the Commission area.”⁵ This does not mean the grant may only benefit Commission residents; it simply means the grant’s benefits should be focused on those residents.⁶ Based upon the proportion of 3C students at Hardy it will benefit ANC residents thought it is likely residents of other ANCs will also benefit.
3. **Proposed Project:** A grant must be for a proposed project.⁷ This is a discrete single event, with a proposed beginning date and end date.
4. **Organization:** A grant must be to an “organization,” not an individual or a government entity,⁸ although the organization need not be incorporated⁹. The Hardy PTO is an organization as defined by the Code for ANC grants. It is also a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing according to a check of the IRS TEOS system.
5. **Non-Duplication:** A grant cannot duplicate any services offered by the District of Columbia government.¹⁰ This grant is not duplicative of any service or program provided by the District government.

¹ See *Letter to Schanette Grant on Seasoned Settlers and Grants Generally*, April 14, 2022, found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-and-Grants-Generally-.pdf>.

² D.C. Official Code 1-309.13(m)(2)(D) provides that “[n]o Commission shall provide a grant for which the grantee estimates that the overhead costs would exceed 15% of the entire grant amount.”

³ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(l)(1).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(1).

⁶ See *Letter to Deborah K. Nichols*, Nov. 9, 2006, at 2, n.2, found at [Letter-to-Deborah-Nichols-Re-Whether-an-ANC-may-approve-a-grant-to-commission-plans-and-drawings-.pdf](https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2006-11/Letter-to-Deborah-Nichols-Re-Whether-an-ANC-may-approve-a-grant-to-commission-plans-and-drawings-.pdf) (ANC 4C grant was permissible where the “[b]enefit to other ANCs would be incidental to the benefit conferred on ANC 4C residents,” because a grant’s benefits need not “be exclusive to the ANC that gives the grant funds”); see *Letter to Comm’r Fletcher*, Mar. 15, 2022, at 2, available at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/ANC-7E-Letter-to-Commissioner-Fletcher-RePublic-Purposes-Within-the-Commission-Area-.pdf> (making the same point with respect to the public-purpose requirement).

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(2)(A).

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(1); see also *Letter to Deborah K. Nichols*, Jan. 14, 2010, at 4, available at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2018-02/ANC-January-14-2010-Guidelines-for-Use-of-ANC-Funds.pdf>.

⁹ See *Letter to Deborah K. Nichols*, Aug. 4, 2000, at 3, available at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/201802/ANC-August-4-2000-Grants-by-ANCs-Public-Purpose-and-Corporate-Status-of-Recipients.pdf> (“The plain meaning of the term ‘organization’ includes unincorporated associations”).

¹⁰ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(1).

6. Overhead: Overhead cannot exceed 15% of the grant amount.¹¹ None of the grant monies would be used here for overhead costs.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, this grant is a **permissible** expenditure of ANC funds.

¹¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m)(1)(2)(D).