



# ★ Topeka DREAMS Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives Program (NIIP)

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Topeka DREAMS Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives Program (NIIP) is a collaborative effort between the City of Topeka and Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIAs) aimed at enhancing neighborhoods through infrastructure, housing improvements, and community development. The program operates through three initiative levels:

### DREAMS 1 – INTENSIVE INVESTMENT EVERY TWO YEARS

- ❖ **Target:** One active NIA per cycle. (Intensive Care or At-risk with block group of 2.0 health score)
- ❖ **Funding:**
  - Up to \$1.4 million for infrastructure improvements.
  - Up to \$150,000 for utilities infrastructure.
  - Up to \$330,000 for housing rehabilitation and affordable housing investments.
- ❖ **Process:** Development of a Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan in partnership with the City.

### DREAMS 2 – MAJOR PROJECTS EVERY TWO YEARS

- ❖ **Funding:** Up to \$1.4 million per neighborhood for infrastructure improvements. Up to \$150,000 for utilities infrastructure.
- ❖ **Housing Funds:** Up to \$330,000 in HUD housing funds for eligible low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. (Up to four neighborhood areas)
- ❖ **Eligibility:** Projects must align with neighborhood goals and address current conditions.

### DREAMS 3 – MINI-GRANT PROJECTS ANNUALLY

- ❖ **Funding:** Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000, totaling \$200,000 annually.
- ❖ **Purpose:** Small infrastructure improvements, neighborhood beautification, and community building.
- ❖ **Eligibility:** Projects must be located within predominantly low/moderate-income neighborhoods.

### 2026 APPLICATION YEAR – FOCUS ON DREAMS 3

- ❖ **Consult Meetings:** April – May 2025
- ❖ **Housing Rehab Program Discussion:** June 4, 2025
- ❖ **Application Workshop:** June 11, 2025
- ❖ **Preliminary Applications Due:** July 1, 2025
- ❖ **Final Applications Due:** August 22, 2025

**For more information, contact:**

Bianca Burnett – Community Programs Administrator

**Phone:** 785-368-3663

**Email:** [lburnett@topeka.org](mailto:lburnett@topeka.org)

**DREAMS Program Information:** <https://www.topeka.org/citymanager/neighborhood-association-information/topekadreamsniip/#gsc.tab=0>



# ★ Topeka DREAMS Neighborhood Improvement Initiatives Program (NIIP)

## DREAMS 3 – ELIGIBLE PROJECTS LIST

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Sidewalks & ADA Ramps (no brick)\*
- Curb repair/replacement (no brick or stone resetting)
- Alley approaches
- Pedestrian signals and Crosswalks\*
- Traffic Calming/Safety Measures
- Tree Planting
- Lighting/Solar Lighting (Right-of-Way only / no midblock lighting in residential areas)

\***Accessibility**

### PUBLIC UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Paint Storm Structure Lids, Hydrants (painting/cleaning)
- Install Driveway Culverts & Drainage Ditch Maintenance
- Small Stormwater Development Control Plan (DCP) or Best Management Practice (BMP) Initiatives for controlling flooding, reducing erosion
- Replace Fire Hydrants

### NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION & QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS

- Public Park Amenities /Playgrounds\*
- Public Community/Recreation/School structures/grounds improvements\*
- Public Bus Shelters/Benches\*
- Murals/Banners/Place making monuments OR signs

\***Accessibility** .

### COMMUNITY BUILDING & ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

- Public Programs - Community Education classes/programs (various topics)
- Public Events – ex. - Neighborhood Block Parties/Festivals/Holiday Happenings, Neighborhood Resource or Health Fair, Community or Family Event Partnerships (Schools, Churches, other local entity)
- Sports Tournaments/Training Events
- Talent Shows/Concerts
- Game Nights/Tournaments
- Neighborhood Clean-up
- Financial Literacy / Homeownership / Repair classes

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS:

- Projects must be located within the officially recognized boundaries of the applying NIA, as approved by the City of Topeka.
- The project scope and budget must include all costs related to required permits, design, construction, installation, and any applicable local, state, or federal fees.
- For projects not located on City-owned property or within the public right-of-way, written approvals and/or signed petitions are required from the appropriate property owners or authorities (e.g., City, County, State, Federal). Please refer to the **Staff Consult Recommendations** for project-specific approval requirements.