

**Neighborhood Council Funding Program
APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)**



This form is to be completed by the applicant seeking the Neighborhood Purposes Grant and submitted to the Neighborhood Council from whom the grant is being sought. All applications for grants must be reviewed and approved in a public meeting. Upon approval of the application the Neighborhood Council (NC) shall submit the application along with all required documentation to the Office of the City Clerk, NC Funding Program.

Name of NC from which you are seeking this grant: Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

SECTION I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

1a) Project Breaking Barriers 39-2950512 California 06/27/2025
Organization Name *Federal I.D. # (EIN#)* *State of Incorporation* *Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)*

1b) 6535 Haskell Ave. Unit 211 Van Nuys CA 91406
Organization Mailing Address *City* *State* *Zip Code*

1c) _____
Business Address (if different) *City* *State* *Zip Code*

1d) **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Lisa Skinner 818-614-0091 lisa.skinner@projectbreakingbarriers.org
Name *Phone* *Email*

2) **Type of Organization- Please select one:**
 Public School (not to include private schools) **or** 501(c)(3) Non-Profit (other than religious institutions)
 Attach Signed letter on School Letterhead Attach IRS Determination Letter

3) _____
Name / Address of Affiliated Organization (if applicable) *City* *State* *Zip Code*

SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4) **Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**

Project Breaking Barriers works with community and business partners to provide immersive experiences in career exploration and leadership development for youth aged 13 - 20. This grant will support the delivery of the IGNITE program. This program is offered during the Los Angeles Unified School District spring and summer breaks free of charge to students who are from low to moderate income families and underserved communities.

The grant will be utilized to address the cost of providing meals and transportation for 30 - 35 participants per session as well as the cost of liability insurance for three - one week IGNITE programs in 2026.

5) **How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large. (Grants cannot be used as rewards or prizes for individuals)**

This grant will allow our organization to offer a career and leadership development program to low-income and underserved youth that is grounded in education, equity, and economic advancement. Our work advances educational outcomes by providing structured learning experiences that build career awareness, workforce readiness, and leadership skills—competencies that are often inaccessible to youth facing economic and systemic barriers. Through mentorship, skills training, and exposure to professional pathways, these programs prepare young people for postsecondary education, meaningful employment, and long-term success. The IGNITE Program accomplishes these outcomes by delivering a unique and highly motivating experience for youth.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

PROJECT BREAKING BARRIERS
C/O LISA SKINNER
6535 HASKELL AVENUE UNIT 211
VAN NUYS, CA 91406

Date:
08/22/2025
Employer ID number:
39-2950512
Person to contact:
Name: Dustee Fritz
ID number: 2082051
Telephone: 877-829-5500
Accounting period ending:
June 30
Public charity status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
June 27, 2025
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
[REDACTED]

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947 (Rev. 2-2020)
Catalog Number 35152P

Our Mission

Project Breaking Barriers seeks to disrupt cycles of poverty by providing youth with immersive multi-industry programming, mentorship, and strategic collaboration. We provide youth from single-parent households, under-represented, and under-resourced communities with early career exposure, soft skill development, and a supportive network to thrive and grow into confident, prepared and impactful leaders.



Our Vision

We envision a future where every young person, regardless of resources or family structure, can pursue high-value, high-impact careers and step into leadership roles that advance social and economic equity.



Project Breaking Barriers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Through strategic partnerships with schools, community organizations, and industry leaders, Project Breaking Barriers creates pathways into the careers of the future for youth. Your support helps us continue expanding access for youth across Los Angeles County and beyond.

Make an Impact



DONATE TODAY

Contact us

-  (818) 927- 2436
-  ProjectBreakingBarriers.org
-  info@ProjectBreakingBarriers.org
-  Los Angeles County

IGNITE

Spring & Summer Tracks Coming Soon!

Get career connected
Build community
& Lead with
confidence

NEW CAREER CATEGORIES

- Ocean Innovation & Sustainability
- Culinary Arts
- Radio Broadcasting
- Health Science
- Fashion-Tech & Merchandising



FREE FOR YOUTH
JOIN THE NEXT COHORT

ProjectBreakingBarriers.org/EVENTS

What Is IGNITE?

Developed by Project Breaking Barriers, IGNITE is a **FREE PROGRAM** centered on youth empowerment through multi-industry, experiential learning. At its core, IGNITE delivers access and behind-the-scenes exposure to the frameworks, decision-making, and collaborative problem solving that drive real-world impact across diverse career sectors.

Week-Long Seasonal Experience

For five consecutive days, youth participants explore a new career category each day, capped by a celebration on the sixth day to review, reflect, and recognize achievement.

Cohort - Based

Youth participants remain in the same group each season, developing cohesiveness, trust, and a supportive peer community as they learn together.

Thoughtful Rotation

Career fields are intentionally sequenced to avoid repetition, ensuring that every participant engages with all major categories and subfields.

Industry Immersion

Each experience takes place at a different location, aligned with the day's career focus and led by industry experts throughout Southern California.

Career Category Selection Process

Each season, IGNITE surveys youth participants to identify their desired career paths and interests. In addition, the program uses three factors to guide selection:

1 Growth & Opportunity

Careers that are trending upward, driven by emerging technologies and offering long-term potential for impact, innovation, and advancement.

2 Under-Representation

Careers in need of inclusive representation from all communities and economic backgrounds

3 Global Impact

Careers with international reach that expand possibilities for success and reshape perceptions of who can change the world.

IGNITE's process for career path selection is intentional, inclusive and focused on matching youth participants' interests with careers that are growing and sustainable in the future.

IGNITE

Don't Miss What's Next!



Scan Me
FREE

**JOIN
NOW**

The spark starts with you!



ProjectBreakingBarriers.org/IGNITE