Neighborhoods Rising Fund Overview:

The Neighborhoods Rising Fund (NRF) is a unique funding collaborative that annually provides grants up to $3,000 for community-driven and neighborhood-led revitalization projects and initiatives in low- to moderate-income areas throughout the Greater Kansas City region. The NRF, formerly the Neighborhood Self Help Fund, was created with the simple goal of seeding dreams and aspirations and building capacity in Kansas City neighborhoods. By supporting small, neighborhood-led initiatives that demonstrate the ability to have a lasting impact, the NRF has brought together hundreds of residents and helped to build their collective capacity to live more productive, healthy, and interconnected lives.

Since 2015, NRF has awarded 164 grants to neighborhood organizations in both Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS, totaling $406,298.00. These projects have leveraged 43,773 combined volunteer hours, and have engaged 105,826 participants (residents, other stakeholders) during this time. The continued local impact of the NRF in 2020 is made possible by the following funders: Hall Family Foundation, Hallmark Corporate Foundation, AltCap, LISC Greater Kansas City, The Sosland Foundation, Commerce Bancshares Foundation, William T. Kemper Foundation, Google Fiber Kansas City, and The H & R Block Foundation. The NRF is managed by the Community Capital Fund and LISC Greater Kansas City, two community development nonprofits that build the capacity of neighborhoods in distressed areas throughout Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas.

Past NRF Funders reports can be viewed here:

- 2019 NRF Funders Report
- 2018 NRF Funders Report
- 2017 NRF Funders Report
- 2016 NRF Funders Report
- 2015 NRF Funders Report

2020 Funding:

The 2020 Neighborhoods Rising Fund grant cycle received 55 proposals from organizations seeking to support community development projects. Total funding request for these projects was $158,284.00. After careful review, the 2020 Neighborhoods Rising Fund is awarding $90,825.00 in grants to 42 neighborhood and community organizations.
2020 NRF Projects

Missouri Projects

1. **Organization**: The Asylum Orchard  
   **Project Name**: Improvements for Asylum Orchard and Gardens  
   **Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: In partnership with Blue Hills neighborhood residents, volunteers will build six new raised garden beds at the Asylum Orchard, bringing the total to 25. Seeds and plants for the space will be based on neighbors’ recommendations. The Asylum Orchard provides neighborhood residents with access to basic resources (healthy food), while developing youth that help maintain the space.

2. **Organization**: Blue Valley Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
   **Award Amount**: $2,512.50  
   **Project Summary**: The Blue Valley Neighborhood Association will pilot a block captain program that encourages Blue Valley neighbors, especially youth, with solving problems in their neighborhood. Youth will help with neighborhood cleanup, support to elderly neighbors, food and more – while keeping a log of four blocks to track how they can help their neighbors. The Blue Valley Neighborhood Association will also purchase trash cans to place in areas where dumping and litter are prevalent, with block captains managing on a regular basis.

3. **Organization**: Center City Neighborhood Council  
   **Project Name**: Cob Pizza Oven Construction, Center City Neighborhood Garden and Orchard  
   **Award Amount**: $2,222.54  
   **Project Summary**: Center City Neighborhood Council will build a Cob Oven on property owned by the neighborhood. The cob oven, a facility common in some parts of the world, will also serve as food prep and cooking area for feeding neighborhood residents. The space will also serve as an educational tool for residents, especially youth.

4. **Organization**: Chaumiere Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Neighborhood Cleanup and COVID-19 Care Packages  
   **Award Amount**: $2,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: Chaumiere Neighborhood Association will host at least one neighborhood cleanup this year, practicing social distancing by using volunteers to help unload vehicles. COVID-19 care packages will be distributed to seniors throughout the neighborhood: include hand sanitizer, masks, Lysol wipes, and cards/letters to remind them that their neighbors are looking out for them.
5. **Organization**: Chestnut Avenue Resource Center  
**Project Name**: Youth and Community in Motion  
**Award Amount**: $2,442.00  
**Project Summary**: Chestnut will partner with Green Works KC and the Heartland Conservation Alliance to organize monthly learning opportunities related to environment and the ecology of the neighborhood, followed by cleanups that will cycle through 20-block segments within this perimeter.

6. **Organization**: Citadel Center HOA  
**Project Name**: Renew Culture and Community  
**Award Amount**: $2,102.02  
**Project Summary**: Citadel Center’s 2020 project will update their block contact program by increasing the number to block contacts and having co-block contacts to share the outreach responsibilities. The second component will create a Jr. Block Contacts Program and other community service opportunities for youth within the neighborhood. A board member has also volunteered to update and administer the neighborhood’s website and Facebook page, finally bringing Citadel Center into the digital age.

7. **Organization**: Cooley Highlands Neighborhood Association  
**Project Name**: Neighborhood Connection Day  
**Award Amount**: $700.00  
**Project Summary**: The Cooley Highlands Neighborhood will continue efforts to beautify its neighborhood park, in partnership with Kansas City Parks & Recreation. NRF funds will help Cooley Highlands purchase landscaping materials used to develop a bee and butterfly garden at the park.

8. **Organization**: East 23rd St. PAC  
**Project Name**: The 17th Family Day Against Violence  
**Award Amount**: $2,000.00  
**Project Summary**: East 23rd PAC will transition their annual event at the park to continue their efforts in advocating for a safe and healthy neighborhood.

9. **Organization**: East Meyer Cluster Organization  
**Project Name**: Project Clean Sweep  
**Award Amount**: $510.00  
**Project Summary**: Project Clean Sweep is seeking funding for dumpsters three times during the year. The projects will emphasize to residents the urgency and importance of keeping the neighborhood free of debris. East Meyer Cluster Organization hopes to connect the relationship between trash, crime, and security.
10. **Organization**: Foxtown East Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Foxtown Strong  
   **Award Amount**: $690.00  
   **Project Summary**: NRF funds will assist the Foxtown East Neighborhood Association with neighborhood cleanups that support beautification efforts, leading to a safer and healthier community.

11. **Organization**: Foxtown West Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Clean-up and Garden  
   **Award Amount**: $610.00  
   **Project Summary**: The Foxtown West Neighborhood Association will use NRF funds to support neighborhood cleanups for the remainder of the year. Neighborhood residents will also use funds to maintain a community garden that supplies healthy food to neighbors.

12. **Organization**: Global One Urban Farming  
   **Project Name**: The Global One 2020 Year of Major Growth  
   **Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: Global One Urban Farming will seek to increase its production of free organic vegetables and fruit to our neighbors located within food deserts. Global One will teach the greenhouse process of growing from seed, providing knowledge and experience of planting, cultivating, caring, and harvesting of organic vegetables to partner neighborhood associations (Vineyard and South Round Top).

13. **Organization**: Grateful Education Foundation  
   **Project Name**: Mental Health First Aid Workshop  
   **Amount Awarded**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: The project will provide a Mental Health First Aid Workshop with Foxtown West community members. Participants will receive a Mental Health First Aid workbook, participate in exercises that raise awareness to mental health issues, and learn ways to response in a productive way to people experiencing health issues or crisis.

14. **Organization**: Gregory Ridge Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Gregory Ridge Neighborhood 20-21 Projects  
   **Award Amount**: $2,860.00  
   **Project Summary**: The Gregory Ridge Neighborhood Association will manage several projects in 2020. Most notably is their “Building A Social Neighborhood” project, a Digital Inclusion initiative that will help connect neighbors to various online programs and services that promote health and wellness. Gregory Ridge will also host a neighborhood cleanup and produce a neighborhood mailing.
15. **Organization**: Heart of the City Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Make Music Day  
   **Award Amount**: $2,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: Celebrate Make Music Day is an international day of music on June 21, 2020. In partnership with UNESCO, KC Parks & Rec, local music organizations, the event will be viewable on various social media platforms and include videos of people performing music from their homes and other remote locations so that social distancing and other public protocols will be maintained. Musicians with ties to Kansas City will be asked to participate from their home or other remote location.

   **Award Amount**: Creating Connections  
   **Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: Because the neighborhood is particularly lacking in technology resources during this time of COVID-19, the Independence Plaza Neighborhood Council seeks to balance social interaction with social distancing. Independence Plaza will become more involved in helping residents understand technology – for work, school, and increased civic engagement. The neighborhoods will also continue efforts in identifying youth interested in developing leadership skills.

17. **Organization**: Indian Mound Neighborhood Association (IMNA)  
   **Project Name**: IMNA  
   **Award Amount**: $2,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: In response to current issues, the Indian Mound Neighborhood Association will seek innovative means to build the capacity of their neighborhood. This includes continued efforts to aim for 100% Census completion, and COVID-19 relief to immigrant residents (sewing masks). Neighborhood residents will also participate in racial equity training.

18. **Organization**: Linwood Area Ministry Place (LAMP)  
   **Project Name**: LAMP Campus Healthy Eating and Sustainability Project  
   **Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: In partnership with the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council programming in operating a seasonal farmers market, and their Community Shared Use Kitchen program, funds from NRF will allow for greater access to locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables. Funds would be used to support the production of additional raised beds and a native plant insectary garden.
19. **Organization**: Longfellow Community Association (LCA)
**Project Name**: Fix It Bike Stand and Engagement Outreach Mailing
**Award Amount**: $3,000.00
**Project Summary**: The LCA is seeking to partner with the 816 Bicycle collective to permanently install and secure a Dero bicycle repair fix-it stand outside of their building at 31st and Cherry. The LCA will use funds towards creating a paper newsletter to mail to all of neighborhood residents and businesses, highlighting all the great things happening in Longfellow, including the bike stand and workshop.

20. **Organization**: Marlborough Community Coalition
**Project Name**: Beautification of Mural Pocket Park in Marlborough
**Award Amount**: $2,921.24
**Project Summary**: The Marlborough Community Coalition will add native plants and a bench to an existing pocket park owned by the Coalition at 8255 Paseo. A mural created at the Coalition’s 1999 Youth Arts Festival is installed on it. The beautification of the Mural Pocket Pak supports the residents’ continued desire for attractive and productive green spaces throughout the community.

21. **Organization**: Metro Lutheran Ministry
**Project Name**: MLM Boston Heights & Mount Hope Community Market
**Award Amount**: $2,911.70
**Project Summary**: In partnership with the Boston Heights and Mount Hope neighborhoods, MLM will help deliver the next phase of its community garden and orchard project, started in 2013. Funds from NRF will be used to build more garden beds that neighborhood residents can adopt. The groups will also establish a bi-monthly Boston Heights & Mount Hope Neighborhood Association Community Market.

22. **Organization**: Neighborhoods United Together CDC
**Project Name**: Neighborhood Clean-up, Tire Cleanup
**Award Amount**: $850.00
**Project Summary**: Neighborhoods United Together CDC is seeking funding for neighborhood cleanups with 2 dumpsters each time, collecting trash and tires. The community will be involved in these cleanups.

23. **Organization**: North Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association
**Project Name**: North Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association Security Cameras
**Award Amount**: $2,883.00
**Project Summary**: The North Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association will partner with neighborhood property owners to install security cameras in high crime areas in North Blue Ridge. The placement of these cameras, an initiative receiving strong support from residents, includes highly trafficked areas of 24 Highway and Winner Park where a lot of criminal activity takes place.
24. Organization: Paseo West Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name:** CID Formation  
   **Award Amount:** $445.00  
   **Project Summary:** The Paseo West Neighborhood Association (PWNA) will take the next steps in developing a Community Improvement District (CID) in the area, working closely with local partners to finalize a needs assessment that will define the scope of the CID. Funds from NRF will support the cost of mailing CID petition to property owners in the proposed district.

25. Organization: Santa Fe Area Council  
   **Project Name:** Santa Fe: Taking It to the Streets  
   **Award Amount:** $2,970.00  
   **Project Summary:** NRF funds will support the continuation of Santa Fe Area Council’s show, "Welcome to the Neighborhood", a radio and Facebook Live program created by Santa Fe neighbor. The show gives Santa Fe Area Council an opportunity to discuss what is happening in the neighborhood, and to share information that would be beneficial to all listeners, like public and private services. Funds will also support new signage in the Santa Fe neighborhood, instilling pride among residents.

26. Organization: Squier Park Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name:** Eric Holden Memorial Naturescape  
   **Award Amount:** $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary:** This naturescape, designed by neighborhood youth, will be established to honor the memory of past SPNA resident, Eric Holden, who was killed in his home many years ago. The naturescape will honor his memory and his service to the community he loved. The space will serve as a place for civic engagement, education, and promotion of wellness and vitality.

27. Organization: Sunset Dixon Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name:** Spring and Fall Neighborhood Cleanups  
   **Award Amount:** $310.00  
   **Project Summary:** The Sunset Dixon Neighborhood Association will use grant funds for two neighborhood dumpster cleanups on Saturday mornings, helping to improve and maintain the neighborly feel of the Sunset Dixon Neighborhood. The cleanups also help neighbors put a “name to a face”, developing trust in one another and building a sense of community.

28. Organization: Swope Parkway-Elmwood Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name:** Neighborhood Cleanups  
   **Award Amount:** $640.00
Project Summary: The Swope Parkway-Elmwood Neighborhood Association will host two neighborhood cleanups, using the events to help build relationships among neighborhood residents, increasing social cohesion.

29. Organization: Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association  
Project Name: Neighborhood Quadrant Block Meetings  
Award Amount: $2,100.00  
Project Summary: NRF will support Town Fork Creek Neighborhood Association’s outreach and engagement by hosting several outdoor neighborhood meetings. The meetings will be held throughout Town Fork Creek and cover four quadrants. The block meetings will be used to provide residents with information about association initiatives, partnerships and recruit members.

30. Organization: Vineyard Neighborhood Association  
Project Name: Lighting and cameras for parking lot and back of building  
Award Amount: $1,000.00  
Project Summary: NRF funds will help the Vineyard Neighborhood Association add more lighting and cameras in the parking lot and around the building, helping members feel safer and more willing to participate in meetings and events.

31. Organization: Westside CAN Center  
Project Name: Westside CAN-Orchard Project  
Award Amount: $3,000.00  
Project Summary: Westside CAN Center manages a community orchard/garden established on Parks/Recreation property located behind Tony Aguirre Community Center (2150 W. Pennway). NRF funds will help support the cost of new tools needed for volunteers to help with annual maintenance of the orchard that provides a resource to Westside neighborhood residents.
Kansas Projects

1. **Organization**: Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA)  
   **Project Name**: Earth Day Celebration  
   **Award Amount**: $2,260.00  
   **Project Summary**: In partnership with all the Neighborhood Groups on the area of influence, CABA organize full size trash dumpsters, placing them in strategic locations for neighbors to bring their large items and dump them. In addition to cleaning the streets and forgotten places in each neighborhood, the project will energize the neighborhoods and build pride along and around the Central Avenue Commercial Corridor. *Due to COVID-19, project will take place in Fall 2020.*

2. **Organization**: Community Housing of Wyandotte County  
   **Project Name**: Salsa en la Calle - Prescott  
   **Amount Awarded**: $2,875.00  
   **Project Summary**: The "Salsa en la Calle" project will consist of outdoor music events hosted and produced by Grandview Park Presbyterian Church (GPPC), in partnership with the Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra (KCLJO) and Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC). The events' programming will feature Latin American music and community dance.

3. **Organization**: Douglass/Sumner Neighborhood Association  
   **Project Name**: Douglass/Sumner Neighborhood Association Camera Project  
   **Award Amount**: $2,970.00  
   **Project Summary**: This project seeks to install security cameras in areas of the neighborhood that are in need of surveillance in order to: 1) Improve the safety of residents passing through the areas; 2) Deter vandalism; 3) Help identify perpetrators of vandalism; 4) Increase cooperation and improve the relationship with local police department.

4. **Organization**: Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group (Groundwork NRG)  
   **Project Name**: Groundworking – Building a Tool Library for NE Kansas City, KS  
   **Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
   **Project Summary**: This project aims to develop a community Tool Library, run and maintained by Groundwork NRG, that will provide residents within Northeast KCK with access to the tools necessary to take a more active role in environmental beautification and stewardship. This Tool Library will also equip Groundwork NRG’s Green Team to provide lawn care and minor home maintenance services to residents who could not otherwise access these services on their own.
5. **Organization**: Historic Westheight Neighborhood Association  
**Project Name**: Painting of Murals  
**Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
**Project Summary**: The Historic Westheight Neighborhood Association will use NRF funds to paint murals in Westheight Park, where graffiti is rampant. Working with a local artist and neighborhood youth, the mural project will help the Historic Westheight neighborhood move one step forward in making the park a safe and beautiful place for families to play.

6. **Organization**: Quindaro Homes Neighborhood Watch  
**Project Name**: Orchards  
**Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
**Project Summary**: The Quindaro Homes Neighborhood watch will use funds to plant trees in targeted areas throughout the neighborhood. Residents will help with the planting and maintenance of the orchards.

7. **Organization**: Resurrection Catholic School at the Cathedral  
**Project Name**: Neighborhood Pocket Park  
**Award Amount**: $2,940.00  
**Project Summary**: Resurrection Catholic School at the Cathedral will partner with the Cathedral Neighborhood Association and UrbanWorks to create a pocket park at a vacant lot in the neighborhood. Youth from the Resurrection School and the Cathedral neighborhood will participate in the design of the park, with volunteers helping with the execution of the project.

8. **Organization**: Rosedale Development Association (RDA)  
**Project Name**: Finishing Touches  
**Award Amount**: $1,100.00  
**Project Summary**: With NRF funding, Rosedale Development Association (RDA) will complete the final phase of a community-driven mural highlighting Rosedale’s history. Located at 42nd and Mission Road, the mural will receive anti-graffiti coating, a volunteer activity led by the mural’s original artists and Hilltop residents.

9. **Organization**: Spring Valley Neighborhood Association  
**Project Name**: Spring Valley 2020 Improvement  
**Amount Requested**: $1,000.00  
**Project Summary**: The Spring Valley Neighborhood Association will purchase and distribute LED and solar powered lighting to neighborhood residents, providing safe lighting for all within the neighborhood.
10. **Organization**: Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association  
**Project Name**: Community Outreach  
**Award Amount**: $2,000.00  
**Project Summary**: Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association is seeking funding to facilitate outreach to residents in the neighborhood. Volunteers made up of neighbors will help with connecting Strawberry Hill residents to immediate and long-term services, including financial assistance and medical support—among other resources.

11. **Organization**: Turtle Hill Community Association, Inc.  
**Project Name**: Summer Youth Arts Camp, “Quindaro”  
**Award Amount**: $3,000.00  
**Project Summary**: In response to COVID-19, the Turtle Hill Community Association, Inc. in partnership with First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas will virtually conduct their 4th annual Summer Youth Arts Camp for Wyandotte County youth K-12. The camp will focus on the Historic Quindaro Township utilizing an Educational Curriculum that provides instruction in the Cultural Diversity of the founders, residents, businesses and institutions. NRF funds will support the acquisition of laptops and hotspots for families seeking to participate, but who lack access to technology. The virtual arts camp will end with a mural project in Quindaro, where all camp-goers will have creative input on.

For questions about the Neighborhoods Rising Fund, contact Michael Carmona, Program Manager at info@ccfkansascity.org or 816.502.95854.