

CA/CD Committee Sidewalk Proposal FAQ's

December 2015

What is it? This proposal will allow all low income homeowners (City of Spokane) to access financial assistance to replace dangerous sidewalks. Homeowners will submit a single page application to the Community, Housing and Human Services Department for review and eligibility determination. The program has been designed to incorporate a cost share method in an effort to provide the maximum amount of assistance to qualified homeowners.

How will this proposal impact me? The proposed sidewalk program will allow low income homeowners throughout the City with financial assistance to repair dangerous sidewalks. Under this proposal, eligibility for assistance will no longer be determined by where a homeowner lives; rather it focuses on the income eligibility of a homeowner.

How will I access this program? Homeowners will be able to access a single page application made available on the Community, Housing and Human Services and Office of Neighborhood Services websites, or in person at Spokane City Hall. Applicants will be required to submit their most recent tax return (income eligibility determination) and photograph of the existing sidewalk condition. City staff will review the application and determine eligibility within 30 days of application submission. Homeowners will be notified once this determination has been made.

Homeowners should not be responsible for their sidewalks? City Code (Section 12.01.010) states the following... *"Sidewalk Maintenance – Owner's Responsibility: (A) Every owner and occupant of premises shall keep the sidewalk area adjacent to any portion of the real property (including corners) in good and safe condition and repair at all times."* Individuals are encouraged to discuss City Code recommendations with their elected officials. This proposal is a separate discussion.

Is there a cap on the \$150,000 Program allocation? No cap, Neighborhoods wishing to increase the allocation may choose to allocate more funds to the program. 150k is the starting point.

What other funding sources can assist with this proposal? No other funding sources have been identified. At this time we are focused on a CDBG funded program.

What happens if the homeowner does not want to fix their sidewalk? This will be discussed at the next CA/CD Committee meeting.

Why are Neighborhoods supporting this proposal with CDBG allocations? No other funding sources are available to address sidewalk repairs.

Is this proposal targeted at right-of-way violations? No, the CA/CD Committee made a recommendation to provide assistance to those individuals, but violations will not be the target of this proposal.

What financial impact will this have on individual neighborhood allocations? Neighborhoods will see a reduction.

How will residents know to access this program? City will develop informational materials (print, media and website) for residents to access.

Can we use a combination of the current program and proposed program? Not at this time, CA/CD Committee will consider at next meeting.

Who will have access to this program? All low/mod income homeowners throughout the City

What if one Neighborhood has more applications than the other? The City will evaluate applications as they come in to ensure there is not a disproportionate amount of assistance going to one Neighborhood.

Will the applicant be responsible for cost share on ADA ramps? No, ADA ramps meet a presumed benefit and will be covered with Neighborhood CDBG allocations.

What about installing new sidewalks? Neighborhoods will be encouraged to install new sidewalks that support the City's Pedestrian Improvement Plan. Locations will be provided on the project menu.

How can I get involved? This proposal is just that, a recommendation from a neighborhood/community based program. Interested parties are encouraged to attend their Neighborhood Council meetings to share their thoughts regarding this proposal. To identify the appropriate Neighborhood Council please visit the Neighborhood Services website (<https://my.spokanecity.org/neighborhoods/councils/>). Interested parties may also submit their thoughts to George Dahl (gdahl@spokanecity.org) in the Community, Housing and Human Services Department.

Who developed and endorsed this proposal? The Neighborhood Sidewalk Proposal has come from several meetings with representatives from various Neighborhood Councils that form the CA/CD Committee. Members of the CA/CD Committee finalized their recommendation at their November 3rd meeting. Of the 13 neighborhood Councils present, 12 voted in favor of the existing proposal.

When will it become available? Homeowners will be able to apply for assistance on July 1, 2016. Given this is a proposal, this date is tentative pending approval.

Contact information: Interested individuals are encouraged to contact George Dahl (gdahl@spokanecity.org or 625-6036) in the Community, Housing and Human Services Department.