

# PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PIAC)



## What is the Public Improvements Advisory Committee?

PIAC's primary function is to solicit citizen input and make recommendations regarding both the citywide and neighborhood portions of the capital budget. PIAC holds a series of **public hearings** beginning in early summer. These hearings provide citizens with an opportunity to express their opinions, concerns and project requests regarding the forthcoming capital budget. PIAC makes recommendations concerning funds that comprise 15-20% of Kansas City, Missouri's annual \$1B budget (last year, PIAC allocated \$220M).

## What are examples of PIAC-eligible projects and expenses?

Storm water drainage; flooding concerns; bridges; streets; roadways; public property improvements; street improvements; municipal buildings improvements; community centers; street lighting; traffic lights; curbs; predevelopment expenses; park facility improvements; monuments; fountains; ball fields; and swimming pools.

## Will these projects automatically happen in my community this year if I don't apply?

NO! While city departments do apply for funds to complete these types of projects, there is no guarantee that they will be focused on your block during any given year or that they will even be funded. If you want to increase your chances of receiving these basic services, you should consider applying.

## Who can apply for PIAC funds?

Any Kansas City, Missouri resident or any organization working on an eligible project in Kansas City, Missouri can apply.

## Does applying guarantee that my project will be funded?

NO! There is absolutely no guarantee. PIAC is comprised of thirteen people. Each district only has two votes. But there are ways you can help us help you.

## What can I do to increase the likelihood of my request being funded?

### *Collaborate on Projects.*

Instead of submitting many small projects separately, collaborate with your neighborhood or community partners to create more comprehensive projects.

### *Leverage Resources.*

PIAC assigns higher priority to projects that only partially rely on PIAC funding. Find ways to bring other sources.

### *Demonstrate Viability.*

PIAC prefers to fund projects that have a high chance of being completed. Be prepared to demonstrate how you will follow through with the project so that PIAC funds are not contributing to slow or delayed projects.

### *Prioritize Projects.*

Decide in advance which projects are the most crucial and concentrate on those. If you are submitting many projects, know which ones you prefer to get funded.

### *Dream Big.*

Once you have prioritized a collaborative, leveraged, viable project, ask for everything that you want in that project realizing that you won't get it all. But if you start by asking for more it will make it easier for me to advocate for more.

### *Apply, Apply, Apply.*

PIAC funds can be applied to many projects. If we do not submit requests for the services we need, our PIAC representatives will be unable to campaign for our community's needs.

## Where can I find more information about PIAC, the process and the application?

<http://www.kcmo.org/cip.nsf/web/PIAC>