



## **2024 City Catalyst Grants Program Winners**

**The Florida League of Mayors and Business Watch partner to offer grants that will be used to support projects or initiatives that help build community and/or help enhance the lives of citizens in our municipalities.**

**This year's recipients are:**

**City of Hampton  
Mayor Dale Wiseman  
Water Fountains for Parks  
\$2,464.18**

The City of Hampton has two small parks, City Park and Bobbie Sheppard Park. The bulk of our limited parks budget covers small repairs and maintenance (mostly mowing), utilities, equipment and supplies. There are no user fees collected at either park. Neither park currently has a water fountain (they were stolen, however, now we have security cameras). Our residents have requested we replace the water fountains, as the only water currently available is from the sinks in the restrooms. As we all know, the heat in Florida can be brutal and providing fresh drinking water is a necessity. We have a recently completed section of Rails to Trails that runs adjacent to Bobbie Sheppard Park (the designated area trail head for this area) that an increasing number of bikers, hikers and walkers use. Bradford ARC is in a nearby facility and their clients frequent the parks at lunchtime. Our local residents also utilize the park with their children and grandchildren, and a local church uses the ballpark for baseball and softball games and the County Pop Warner Football Association uses the outfield for practices. Having the ability to provide fresh drinking water is of great value to our small city, as well as for the quality of life and the health of our community. It would be a very publicly recognized project.

**City of Neptune Beach**  
**Mayor Elaine E. Brown**  
**Suicide Prevention Education**  
**\$2,500**



Following the death by suicide of a city employee in 2023, the City of Neptune Beach would honor his memory with a city catalyst grant. The grant would fund suicide prevention education of city staff, elected officials and residents. There is no better organization in Florida to provide that service than Here Tomorrow. Based along A1A in Neptune Beach, Here Tomorrow removes the most critical barriers to mental health support: accessibility and affordability. Since opening in 2021, Here Tomorrow's recovery peer specialists have served more than 1,900 individuals in crisis at no cost and with no wait. All Here Tomorrow services remain at no costs through an entire year for friends – those feeling hopeless or suicidal – and family – those concerned for a loved one. Among those services is QPR Gatekeeper Training, which stands for Question, Persuade, Refer, which are the most important responsibilities in saving a suicidal individual's life. Much like CPR, QPR works! With this grant, the City of Neptune Beach will cover the cost for 80 individuals to attend QPR Gatekeeper Training during National Suicide Prevention Month in September. One class per week in September will be offered, at either city hall or Here Tomorrow, including a class on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10). With outreach conducted across city and Here Tomorrow platforms, attendees will include city staff, elected officials and residents. At the training sessions, Neptune Beach community members will learn how to help and communicate with someone in crisis, as the common causes and warning signs of suicidal behavior. The grant would also fund Here Tomorrow's sponsorship of the North Beaches Art Walk on September 19. Suicide is the most preventable cause of death, and with this grant, the City of Neptune Beach will be prepared to do its part.

**City of Sanibel**  
**Mayor Richard Johnson**  
**Mobile Communications Kit**  
**\$1,650**

In September 2022, the City of Sanibel, a barrier island community, faced the aftermath of a devastating Category 4 hurricane that left city hall uninhabitable for over three months. During this time, various mainland locations, including a hotel, realtor office and library, served as temporary city government sites until the island facilities were restored. Amid and after the crisis, consistent and reliable communication from the city was vital to keep residents, business owners and visitors informed about public safety updates, service restoration progress and community events. Acknowledging this need, the city plans to create a mobile communications kit that is reliable, portable and adaptable for various settings. This kit will include a laptop, 4K camera, camera tripod, microphone, retractable green screen and equipment carrying case. These tools will be used for live streaming messages from city leaders, recording public service announcements and conducting virtual interviews with media outlets to effectively communicate with the community post-disaster. Furthermore, the kit will also be utilized for regular communication purposes. City officials will use the equipment for interviews, announcements and informational content creation to engage with the public and media outlets. The City of Sanibel is committed to fostering a connected and informed community, not only in times of crisis but in everyday life as well. The lessons learned from the hurricane's aftermath have underscored the importance of robust communication infrastructure, and the city is dedicated to continuously improving its systems to serve its residents effectively.