



Neighborhoods NOW...building partner capacity 2015

Program Overview

HAND invites residents from neighborhoods throughout Hamilton County to participate in Neighborhoods NOW 2015. The goal is to foster collaboration and build capacity in communities where volunteers are motivated and engaged in efforts to improve your community. The application is simple, but it takes some time to prepare, so you should get started immediately.

As an initial incentive, HAND is committed to raising and distributing grant funds directly to volunteer groups looking to build a stronger neighborhood. In 2015, this will mean grants are available for up to \$1,500 to support one community-based project in each neighborhood. In addition to these funds, HAND is willing to pledge professional support in the following ways:

1. **Capacity Building** to help communities conduct Outreach and Recruitment
2. **Project Support** to help communities Plan and Coordinate Activities
3. **Seed Funding** to help communities Implement Projects and Celebrate
4. **Program Resources** to help communities begin to address Housing Needs

Through Neighborhoods NOW, you will get an opportunity to develop and/or advance your neighborhood's vision by nurturing new community partnerships, design implementation projects, and access seed funding to complete those projects in 2015.

HAND invites all types of neighborhood or community based groups to consider applying, from formal neighborhood associations with elected boards to informal groups of neighbors interested in bettering their block. There are few limitations on what you can do in this partnership, and the application is intended to help you start the group decision-making process. To get started, you could consider projects such as neighborhood clean-ups, public safety campaigns, walkability improvements or historic preservation. Projects at all phases of development are welcome.

Following the announcement of Neighborhood NOW partners in March 2015, HAND will finalize a partnership agreement with your group that will be shaped by the feedback received as part of the application process. At a minimum, HAND commits to selecting between 2-3 partner communities.

HAND is a non-profit organization with a mission to "invest in neighborhoods, provide housing solutions and build partnerships to improve lives and build communities in Hamilton County." HAND's offices are located in a building it renovated in Noblesville, and its nine volunteer board members come from several Hamilton County communities. HAND's strategic plan for 2014-16 cites numerous partnership opportunities, and HAND looks forward to working with a diverse group of individuals and organizations interested in supporting low-income families and communities. Interested persons should call (317)674-8108 or visit our web-site at www.handincorporated.org.

HAND's Mission: HAND invests in neighborhoods, provides housing solutions and builds partnerships to improve lives and build community in Hamilton County.



**Neighborhoods NOW...building partner capacity
2015 Application**

Group Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Email: _____

Basic Eligibility:

1. Do you have geographically defined boundaries? ___Yes ___No
2. Can you identify ways you can involve neighbors in beautifying or improving your community?
___Yes ___No (It's not required to have a specific project defined at the time of application)
3. Do you want to have a volunteer workday in your community? ___Yes ___No

HAND may be able to recruit volunteer groups to help with your project. Are you interested in exploring these partnerships? ___Yes ___No

In what month do you anticipate your workday might occur? _____

4. In 2014, approximately how many volunteers were engaged in neighborhood activities? _____
Share your group's mission statement (if applicable): _____

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5. Please list any reservations your group may have about forming a partnership with HAND:

Applications are due on Valentine's Day (Monday, February 16, 2015). For your application to be complete, please submit this cover sheet along with the following attachments:

- Exercise 1: Neighborhood Map
- Exercise 2: List of Project Ideas
- Exercise 3: Evaluation of a Recent Community Event
- Exercise 4: Petitions with 20 signatures of neighborhood residents
- Exercise 5: Leadership Commitment

Activities:

The following activities require some level of group participation to show that this is a genuine community-based project. Let HAND know if you would like someone to help coordinate or support your group’s completion of these activities. You are welcome to write on these sheets directly (as long as it is legible), but typed summaries are also acceptable.

Exercise 1. Describe your neighborhood.

Work together as a group to draw a map of your community. Using one sheet of paper, give everyone an opportunity to draw things that are important to him or her. Don’t worry about scale and accuracy. Be sure to identify your community name, boundaries, and list the people participating on the drawing itself.

(Needed Supplies: Butcher paper, markers, crayons and/or pencils)

Potential things to include in your map:

- Favorite/Least Favorite Places
- Where do/don’t you walk?
- What areas are well cared for? What areas need some TLC?
- Are there schools, parks or other things that you feel improve the quality of life in your community?
- What special businesses or organizations are located in your neighborhood or provide valuable service to your community?
- Are there boundaries / roads that define your area?

→ Turn in your drawing to HAND.

Optional: Record your observations and feedback received about this exercise in the space provided below.

Notes: _____

Exercise 2: What's your project?

How do you plan to spend the grant funds HAND will contribute for your volunteer project? In a group, brainstorm potential projects. Are there projects you are working on that these funds will make a difference, or will this go to start a new project?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

→ List your project ideas (Return a copy of this list to HAND):

Optional Exercises:

Which of these projects do you feel are the highest priority and most achievable in 2015?
(List up to 3 priority projects and identify an estimated cost for each activity)

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Record your observations and feedback received about this exercise in the space provided below.

Notes: _____

Exercise 3: Neighborhood Celebration.

At the end of our partnership, HAND will sponsor an event to bring your neighbors together and celebrate the good work you're doing in your community. For this exercise, evaluate a recent event that you hosted or attended that is representative of the type of celebration you would like to have. Discuss what things you liked about the event (strengths), and ways you think you could improve on that event (weaknesses).

Event Description: _____

Event Strengths (Things to duplicate): _____

Event Weaknesses (Things you'd like to improve): _____

→ Turn in your evaluation of a recent community event

Optional Exercises:

If your group has coordinated community events in the past, how much money have you typically needed to pay for the event? \$ _____

What expenses does this cover? _____

Record your observations and feedback received about this exercise in the space provided below.

Notes: _____

Exercise 4: Neighborhood Support.

In neighborhoods, small towns and larger communities - it is vital for neighbors to know each other. Unfortunately, participation is usually the biggest challenge faced by neighborhood organizations. In an effort to document broad support, and practice the fundamentals of an organizing campaign, this exercise challenges you to circulate a petition and collect 20 signatures from neighborhood residents. A sample petition is provided.

→ Turn in the signatures of 20 or more residents you reached out to in preparing this application.

Optional Exercise:

Record your observations and feedback received about this exercise in the space provided below.

Notes: _____

Exercise 5: Leadership Commitment.

Planning and carrying out a project and celebratory event could consume a lot of an individual's time, so it is important to recruit neighbors early on in the process. Therefore, HAND asks for a commitment from at least 5 residents who are willing to commit to implementing this partnership in 2015. In recognition of this commitment, these leaders will be the first ones invited to trainings and/or networking events held by HAND or its partners.

Leaders: The following five individuals live in the neighborhood, contributed to the application's exercises, and pledge their support for the 2015 Neighborhoods NOW application. This is a pledge between individuals and the neighborhood, not a commitment to serving HAND. HAND will not obligate someone to fulfill their duties or attend HAND functions. However, a lack of local commitment could compromise the opportunity and lead to a less than satisfactory project and celebration.

1.	_____	_____	_____
	Signature	Printed Name	
	_____	_____	_____
	Address	Phone	Email
2.	_____	_____	_____
	Signature	Printed Name	
	_____	_____	_____
	Address	Phone	Email
3.	_____	_____	_____
	Signature	Printed Name	
	_____	_____	_____
	Address	Phone	Email
4.	_____	_____	_____
	Signature	Printed Name	
	_____	_____	_____
	Address	Phone	Email
5.	_____	_____	_____
	Signature	Printed Name	
	_____	_____	_____
	Address	Phone	Email

Sample Petition

Greetings, I am with _____ (group name), and we are interested in planning a volunteer project and neighborhood celebration for our community. We would like to ask for your support so we can apply for a program that will help us plan and pay for these activities. If we are successful, Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development (HAND) will work with us in 2015 to implement a project and help sponsor our activities. The best thing is that we get to decide what kind of project we'd like to do. If we participate in the program, we will be planning a volunteer workday in 2015 to implement our project, along with a party for neighbors to get together. Thank you for your time.

As a resident of _____, **do you support our application to HAND for their Neighborhood's NOW program?**

Name	Address	Yes, I support this proposal	No, I do not support the proposal	Check here if you'd like to get involved in the process
				<input type="checkbox"/>

***HAND** is a nonprofit community development corporation with a mission to invest in neighborhoods, provide housing solutions, and build partnerships to improve lives and build community in Hamilton County.*

***Neighborhoods NOW** is a partnership program designed to support grassroots efforts in Hamilton County.*

In this program, HAND provides technical support and funding, while the neighborhood brings ideas, passion and volunteers.

If you have any questions, or would like to help us plan the project and/or community celebration, please join us on _____ at _____ for our next meeting. It's best to reach us by calling or emailing us at: _____.