

Spring 2015 Catalytic Program Guidelines

Neighborhood Allies' mission is to support the people, organizations and partnerships committed to creating and maintaining thriving neighborhoods.

The goal of the Catalytic Program is to support innovative, collaborative and inspiring ideas that make our neighborhoods healthier, safer and stronger. This grant round has two priorities:

- 1) **Neighborhood-based** – Seed community development ideas that help transform vulnerable neighborhoods and identify scalable ways to create positive social impact. The spring 2015 funding round has six priority neighborhoods: 1) Hilltop, 2) Hill District 3) Homewood, 4) Larimer, 5) Millvale, and 6) Wilkinsburg. Only projects or programs serving those six neighborhoods will be considered for place-based grants this round. *Future funding rounds may prioritize different geographies.*
- 2) **System-based** – Support comprehensive community development strategies and partnerships that will improve neighborhoods and enable residents to enjoy a better quality of life. We invite proposals from organization serving or representing any communities in or near Pittsburgh that impact the larger community development system. And, we invite proposals that are modeled to be replicated in multiple geographies.

Grant awards will range between \$25,000-75,000 and can be used to support costs related to achieving measurable results, moving concepts forward and assisting in the implementation of innovative programs or projects. These costs can include staffing and operating, program and project delivery, research and evaluation, and loans or other financing.

Successful proposals for the Catalytic Projects Program will:

1. **Align with Neighborhood Allies Investment Framework**
 - Addresses the challenges that limit opportunities for residents in areas of concentrated poverty, such as blight, substandard education, unemployment, health disparities, crime and hopelessness
2. **Build a platform for ongoing collaboration**
 - All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions
3. **Meet some or all of the following criteria:**
 - Presents a promising, innovative intervention with high potential for generating strong impact if brought to scale
 - Funding fills a gap in the timing, criteria, or appetite for risk of other funding sources; and/or Neighborhood Allies' funds are critical to leverage other funding
 - Shows evidence in writing of full support of neighborhood residents (a letter of support from neighborhood stakeholders or local partners)
 - There will be sufficient board, staff, and organizational structures (or formal partnerships/collaborations) in place to successfully carry out the project as proposed

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

STEP # 1: LET'S BE ALLIES. ALL* interested applicants will submit an idea paper by **Friday, February 20** to grants@neighborhoodallies.org with "Catalytic Idea" in the subject line, outlining the following:

1. What is your idea, project, or program?
2. What is the change/impact you want to see as a result of your idea?
3. What's the approximate financial scope of the idea?
4. Who are the partners who will help make your idea a reality?

**If you've already submitted an idea paper in the past, you can re-submit as is, or an updated version based on the evolution of your idea.*

STEP #2: IMPROVE+CONNECT+COLLABORATE. Based on idea paper review, selected applicants and their partners will be invited to present ideas in-person to Neighborhood Allies program staff. In-person idea presentations for **NEW APPLICANTS** will be scheduled during **February 25 – March 6, 2015**, so please plan your schedule accordingly. During this step, staff will work with applicants to build upon, lift-up and strengthen original ideas by asking important questions, making connections and creating/building powerful partnerships that foster innovation, creativity and collective impact.

STEP #3: LET'S GET STARTED. Applicants who are selected to move forward in this funding round will be notified by **Monday, March 9**. Invited applicants will be asked to complete the full application form by close of business (5pm) **Tuesday, March 31**. Recommendations for funding awards will be presented at the May Board of Directors meeting and applicants informed of their decision within seven days following Board action.

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