**BUILDING BLOCKS OF KALAMAZOO** 

**2025 Grant Application- Catalyst Program**

Please review and complete the following application for consideration of the 2025 Building Blocks Spring or Summer Catalyst Program.

**VISION:** Building Blocks of Kalamazoo promotes vibrant neighborhoods where resident groups work together to complete projects, address issues, and collaborate with community stakeholders.

**MISSION:** Building Blocks of Kalamazoo empowers residents, one block at a time, to improve the quality of neighborhood life.

Building Blocks is a collaborative effort to involve local residents in the physical and social revitalization of their neighborhoods. Through this involvement, residents strengthen social bonds and take a greater part in the development of their own communities.

**CATALYST PROGRAM OVERVIEW**  
*A 12-week program that brings residents together to work on projects to build trust, pride and community!*

**Neighborhoods:** Building Blocks anticipates approving 8-10 sites in 2025, including: up to 1 or 2 sites per neighborhood in Northside, Eastside, Edison, Douglas, Vine, Oakwood and Stuart neighborhoods. Note: If we receive more than 10 site applications, selections will be prioritized based on neighborhood Alice Threshold data.

***Recruitment***

Weeks 1- 4

***Resident Meetings***

Weeks 5-8

***Work Days***

Weeks 9-12 1

***Final Celebration***

Week 12

**Budgets:** Building Blocks provides resources to purchase materials for groups to collectively complete exterior home-improvement projects that beautify their block and support community building between neighbors. Block-level budgets range from $2,500- $6,500 based on the number of homes from the block participating in the program. (This budget is for the entire block not individual homes)

**Resident Facilitators:** Building Blocks provides a stipend to two resident facilitators per block to recruit households and lead the successful completion of projects on the block. We recognize and appreciate the significant commitment of time and energy that are required of this role. Resident facilitators will be provided a stipend based on the number of homes participating in the program.

Building Blocks staff will conduct interviews of resident facilitator candidates prior to approval of the grant application.

**BUILDING BLOCKS OF KALAMAZOO** 

**2025 Grant Application- Catalyst Program**

**Application Deadline: January 1, 2025**

**Application Evaluation Criteria:**

* Strength of prospects for recruiting at least of 8-10 participating households
* Increased number of Resident Commitment Signatures on Application
* Completeness and accuracy of the application
* Identification of Resident Facilitators (after staff interview is conducted)
* Strength of strategic rationale for selecting this site
* Endorsement by Neighborhood Association Director

**PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION:**

1. Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Timeline Preference (circle one):

Spring (March-June) Summer (June-September) No Preference

1. Proposed street (include cross street site boundaries):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Housing Status Information: To the best of your ability, please provide estimated numbers to chart below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| # of Empty lots (e.g. no structure) |  |
| # of Non-residential buildings (churches, store, etc.) |  |
| # of Vacant houses |  |
| # of Owner-occupied houses |  |
| # of Rental houses |  |

*NOTE: We encourage proposed sites to have at least twelve current owner occupied homes and a total of 25 to 45 households. Sites containing a high proportion of rental properties may need to have more total homes to hit recruitment goals.*

**Strategic Rationale and Sustainability:**

1. Please explain your rationale for applying this site for a Building Blocks project. Include any relevant information related to broader neighborhood partners, resident interest or particular issues/problems/concerns associated with the site.

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1. Please list partners/agencies/programs that may be active in the area or directly involved in project activities.

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**BUILDING BLOCKS Resident Commitment: REQUIRED**

*At least three Households on site required*

**1). Household Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects, and volunteering with my neighbors on community work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households from my block to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature.

**2). Household Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects, and volunteering with my neighbors on community work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature.

**3). Household Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects and volunteering with my neighbors on community work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature

**Additional Household Commitment Signatures: OPTIONAL**

**4). Household Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects, and volunteering on work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households from my block to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature.

**5). Household Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects, and volunteering on work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households to participate.

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Name Signature.

**6). Household Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ I agree to participate in the Building Blocks program, including: attending resident meetings, planning projects, and volunteering on work days.

\_\_\_ I agree to assist in recruiting at least 8 -10 households to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name Signature

**Neighborhood Association Endorsement: RECOMMENDED**

**I support and endorse this Site Application and the residents to apply for a Building Blocks program on this site.**

Neighborhood:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



**Resident Facilitator Application:**

Building Blocks of Kalamazoo 2025

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Residing Neighborhood:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you live on a block applying to the 2025 Catalyst Program?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If not, which neighborhoods are you interested in working in?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If selected as a Resident Facilitator, I agree to abide by the following guidelines as stated below:

* Embrace the Building Blocks vision and mission.
* Recruit residents in accordance with Building Blocks’ non-discrimination policy.
* Conduct *at least* three collective planning sessions with participating residents.
* Conduct *at least* two or more collective work activities.
* Assist residents in planning a celebration of accomplishments at the end of the program.
* Provide sufficient support to administer each project.
* Participate in Building Blocks weekly sessions with BB staff.
* Provide an accurate and completed final report including a prescription of projects completed and number of volunteer hours conducted on site.

Selection Criteria:

1. **Interpersonal skills:** Ability to communicate and successfully build positive relationships with a diverse group of participating residents.
2. **Planning skills:** Ability to develop clear and detailed agendas and plans to conduct successful resident meetings and community workdays.
3. **Organizing skills:** Ability to maintain and organize participating paperwork and sign- in sheets at every resident meeting and community workday.
4. **Project Experience:** Experience successfully completing exterior home improvement and beautification projects as indicated in the Building Blocks Project Booklet.
5. **Flexibility Schedule:** Ability to work 3-10 hours on evenings and weekends during the 12-week program.

**By signing below, I indicate understanding of my responsibilities as a Resident Facilitator if I am selected to lead the 2025 Catalyst Program.**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Resident Facilitators are paid stipends ranging from $1,000 to $2,000 based on the number of participating households. Building Blocks pays facilitators ½ of their stipends once complete project proposals are submitted and finalized. Resident facilitators will receive the second ½ of their stipends once a completed Final Report has been submitted. Resident Facilitators living on the site may only receive project funds up to 10% of the total Block’s Budget.



**Resident Facilitator Application:**

Building Blocks of Kalamazoo 2025

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Residing Neighborhood:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you live on a block applying to the 2025 Catalyst Program?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If not, which neighborhoods are you interested in working in?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If selected as a Resident Facilitator, I agree to abide by the following guidelines as stated below:

* Embrace the Building Blocks vision and mission
* Recruit residents in accordance with Building Blocks’ non-discrimination policy.
* Conduct *at least* three collective planning sessions with participating residents.
* Conduct *at least* two or more collective work activities.
* Assist residents in planning a celebration of accomplishments at the end of the program.
* Provide sufficient support to administer each project.
* Participate in Building Blocks weekly sessions with BB staff.
* Provide an accurate and completed final report including a prescription of projects completed and number of volunteer hours conducted on site.

Selection Criteria:

1. **Interpersonal skills:** Ability to communicate and successfully build positive relationships with a diverse group of participating residents.
2. **Planning skills:** Ability to develop clear and detailed agendas and plans to conduct successful resident meetings and community workdays.
3. **Organizing skills:** Ability to maintain and organize participating paperwork and sign- in sheets at every resident meeting and community workday
4. **Project Experience:** Experience successfully completing exterior home improvement and beautification projects as indicated in the Building Blocks Project Booklet.
5. **Flexibility Schedule:** Ability to work 3-10 hours on evenings and weekends during the 12-week program.

**By signing below, I indicate understanding of my responsibilities as a Resident Facilitator if I am selected to lead the 2025 Catalyst Program.**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Resident Facilitators are paid stipends ranging from $1,000 to $2,000 based on the number of participating households. Building Blocks pays facilitators ½ of their stipends once complete project proposals are submitted and finalized. Resident facilitators will receive the second ½ of their stipends once a completed Final Report has been submitted. Resident Facilitators receiving leadership stipends may not receive project funds exceeding 10% of the total Block’s Budget.