



The Beautiful Blocks program gives Scranton residents an opportunity to improve their homes and their neighborhoods with the help of a matching grant for exterior improvements. The program provides an incentive for neighbors to work together to make exterior improvements to their homes, which will make neighborhoods more attractive places to live and increase property values. Through Beautiful Blocks, **each property can receive a matching grant of up to \$1,000 for exterior home improvements.**

### Program Benefits:

- Matching grant for exterior home improvements (**dollar-for-dollar match, no more than half of the total project cost, up to \$1,000**).
- Assistance from NeighborWorks staff in planning and completing your project.
- Additional funding for a community project or block party.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- All homes must be **located in the City of Scranton**. Both owner-occupied and rental properties are eligible.
- Grants must be used for **exterior home improvements**. Work may be completed by the resident or a contractor. Grant funds may **not** be used to purchase tools or equipment.
- Homes must be located near one another, preferably on the same block or street.
- If you have received a Beautiful Blocks grant in the past, you are welcome to apply again. However, at least half of the neighbors on your application must be new to the program.
- Participating homeowners **may not have delinquent taxes or garbage fees**.

### What are some examples of eligible improvements?

- Sidewalk repairs and replacement
- Porch repairs
- Front doors and screen doors
- Exterior lights
- Exterior painting
- Front yard landscaping
- Awnings
- And many more!

## How are the projects selected?

The Beautiful Blocks program is a competitive matching grant program. Applications will be judged against one another based on several criteria:

**Number of neighbors:** All applications must include at least 5 neighbors. Applications with more neighbors are preferred and are more likely to be selected.

**Details:** The more detail you provide about your project and how your group will work together, the higher your application will score.

**Organization:** All applicants must designate a Block Captain to be the point of contact for the group. Groups that show good overall organization will be given preference.

**Momentum:** A goal of the program is to build a lasting bond between neighbors. Groups that provide a plan for continuing to work together for the benefit of the neighborhood are more likely to be selected.

## How do I apply?

- 1. Recruit your neighbors for the program.** At least half of the residents on your application must not have participated in the past.
- 2. Complete and submit the Pre-Application to NeighborWorks.** Designate a Block Captain to act as your point of contact and choose a “team name” for your block (ex: East Mountain Marvels). Feel free to be creative!
- 3. Fill out and turn in the Full Application.** After NeighborWorks staff review your pre-application, your Block Captain will be sent the full application. In this secondary application, your group will detail the scope of work for each home, how each neighbor plans to complete the work, other resources neighbors can provide to the group, and how you plan to continue working with your neighbors to improve your block after the projects are completed. Project estimates will need to be submitted along with a photo of the project site prior to work beginning.

### Important Dates

Pre-Application Due: **March 16, 2020**

Full Application Due: **April 15, 2020**

Awards Announced: **Mid-May 2020**

Project Completion Deadline **September 30, 2020**

### Contact Information

**Contact:** Gerard Hetman

**Email:** ghetman@wnepa.org

**Address:** 1510 N. Main Avenue, Scranton, PA 18508

**Phone:** (570) 558-2490

**Fax:** (570) 558-2496

## Beautiful Blocks Pre-Application 2020

Please complete this form with your group and submit it to NeighborWorks by mail (1510 N. Main Avenue, Scranton, PA 18508), fax (570-558-2496), or email (Gerard Hetman at ghetman@nwnepa.org. After reviewing your pre-application, NeighborWorks staff will contact your Block Captain. If you have more than ten group members, feel free to use multiple pages.

<u>Name of Resident</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Project Idea</u>	<u>Estimated Total Cost</u>	<u>Homeowner?</u>	<u>Participated Before?</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
2. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
3. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
4. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
5. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
6. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
7. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
8. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
9. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N
10. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N	Y / N

**Community Project or Celebration:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Block Captain's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Block Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_