



Beautiful Blocks

The Beautiful Blocks program gives Scranton homeowners an opportunity to improve their homes and their neighborhoods with the help of a matching grant for exterior improvements. The goal of the program is to provide 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 over time. Through the Beautiful Blocks program, each property owner 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, **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 owner-occupied primary residences located in the City of Scranton.
- Grants must be used for **exterior home improvements**. Work may be completed by the homeowner or a contractor. If completed by the homeowner, the grant may only be used for materials. The grant does not cover labor, tools, or equipment.
- Neighboring homes must be located on the same street or block.
- If you have received a Beautiful Blocks grant in the past, you are welcome to apply again. However, at least half of the homeowners on your application must not have participated in the past.
- Participating homeowners may not have delinquent taxes or garbage fees.

What are some examples of eligible improvements?

- Sidewalk Replacement and Repairs
- Porch Repairs
- Front Doors and Screen Doors
- Exterior Lights
- Exterior painting
- Front Yard Landscaping
- And Many More!

How are the projects selected?

The Beautiful Blocks program is a competitive matching grant program, which means that we will be judging applications against each other based on several criteria:

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

Target areas: If homes are located in a designated “target area,” they will be given preference. This does not exclude homes located outside the target areas, however.

Details: The more detail you provide about your project and how your group will work together, the higher the 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 homeowners on an 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.
- 3. Fill out and turn in the Full Application.** After NeighborWorks staff reviews your Pre-Application, your Block Captain will be sent the Full Application. In this 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.

Important Dates

Pre-Application Due: **May 1, 2019**

Full Application Due: **June 1, 2019**

Awards Announced: **Mid-June 2019**

Project Completion Deadline **September 30, 2019**

Contact Information

Contact: Ellen Holden

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

Phone: (570) 558-2490

Fax: (570) 558-2496

Beautiful Blocks Pre-Application

Please complete this form with your group and submit it to NeighborWorks in-person at our office (1510 N. Main Avenue, Scranton, PA 18508), by fax (570-558-2496), or by email to Ellen Holden at eholden@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 Homeowner</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Project Idea</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Participated Before?</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
2. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
3. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
4. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
5. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
6. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
7. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
8. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
9. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N
10. _____	_____	_____	\$ _____	Y / N

Other Community Project or Celebration: _____

Block Captain's Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

