



"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life."

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC)
FROM: Roxy Schmidt, Community Development Specialist
DATE: March 23, 2015
RE: Rock the Block Collaboration Grant

Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity has requested that the City of Appleton be a collaborative partner in their grant application to the Community Foundation's Basic Needs fund in support of their Rock the Block Program.

As a program of Habitat for Humanity, Rock the Block events will be held in targeted neighborhoods for a concentrated period of time. The events will focus on home repair and preservation projects for low income homeowners and community projects to improve and beautify the neighborhood surrounding the homes. Homeowners will pay for the home improvements through no-interest, deferred loans.

Habitat will take a collaborative approach to revitalizing these neighborhoods by inviting the residents, municipalities, local businesses, schools, churches and other non-profits to become partners in the revitalization efforts.

The most important outcomes of Rock the Block are to maintain home ownership rates and improve the housing stock. Other important but less tangible outcomes include resident and community engagement, neighborhood pride, and overall improvement of the quality of life in the targeted neighborhoods.

The City will work with Habitat to select target neighborhoods and help identify broader community needs/projects that can be addressed during each event. The City of Appleton Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan Program may provide assistance to additional qualified families. The City will consider Neighborhood Grants (CDBG) funding requests from registered neighborhoods to tackle community projects.

The City of Appleton will not provide any financial support to the Rock the Block Program. However, per the City's Grant Administration Policy, "*no matter the amount, all new grants awarded to the City of Appleton must be presented to the applicant department's Committee of Jurisdiction for approval before a grant agreement is executed.*" Staff asks that CEDC approve Habitat for Humanity's request for the City's support as a collaborative partner on their grant request for the Rock the Block Program.