



# Vacant Property Coalition: Stretching Dollars for Neighborhood Improvement Activities 2014

## MINI-GRANT PROGRAMS

### Michigan Community Resources- Security Alternative Funding Empowerment (SAFE)

**Description:** The supplemental SAFE mini grant program is designed to empower residents of Detroit to organize, plan for, and create a better quality of life in their neighborhoods. Focused on crime and safety activities, SAFE provides supplemental financial assistance to community-based organizations for resident-initiated vacant property maintenance and neighborhood security efforts. Grant awards typically range from \$1,000 - \$5,000. Grant applications are due July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Activities Funded:** Neighborhood beautification and safety initiatives

**For More Information:** Contact Dalton Roberson, Michigan Community Resources, Education and Outreach Program Manager at 313-969-7197 or [droberson@mi-community.org](mailto:droberson@mi-community.org)  
Visit [www.mi-community.org](http://www.mi-community.org) for more details.

### Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency- Seeding Detroit Mini-Grant Program

**Description:** To support Detroit-based organizations in the implementation of service projects that meet the needs of low-income city residents. To provide this support utilizing members of the agency advisory committee who have direct knowledge of and involvement in city neighborhoods, available services, and resident needs. Grants typically range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The Fall mini-grant cycle is scheduled to begin in October 2014.

**Activities Funded:** Service projects that meet the needs of low-income city residents

**For More Information:** Contact Jerome Drain, Detroit Division Director, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Detroit Division at 313-463-7036 or [jdrain@waynemetro.org](mailto:jdrain@waynemetro.org)  
Visit [www.waynemetro.org](http://www.waynemetro.org) for more details.

### Prevention Network- Community Connections Grant Program

**Description:** Community Connections is a resident-driven grant program funded through the Skillman Good Neighborhood Program that believes local groups and leaders are essential if neighborhoods are to create safe environments where children and youth grow up successfully. The program awards grants of \$500 to \$5000 to local groups to provide support for innovative, youth-focused, grassroots projects to impact community change in the Brightmoor, Chadsey-Condon, Cody-Rouge, North End/Central, Osborn and Vernor/Southwest neighborhoods.

**Activities Funded:** Projects with a focus on youth involvement and development, community organizing and/or forging strategic collaborations to improve the community.

**For More Information:** Contact Lisa Leverette, Prevention Network, Community Connections Grant Program Manager, at [lisa@preventionnetwork.org](mailto:lisa@preventionnetwork.org) or 313-782-4042  
Visit [www.preventionnetwork.org](http://www.preventionnetwork.org) for more details.

### Healthy Environments Partnership/ Detroit Food & Fitness Collaborative -Active Living Detroit Mini-Grant Program

**Description:** The Active Living Detroit Mini-Grant Program awards mini-grants of up to \$1000 to Detroiters developing sustainable projects and activities aimed at promoting physical activity and environments that support active living. Any neighborhood groups or organization located in the city of Detroit are eligible to apply. This

includes, but is not limited to, block clubs, art groups, service organizations, parks and recreational organizations, churches, professional associations, school-based groups, and individuals. Limit to one application per organization.

**Activities Funded:** Priority is given to projects that 1) Engage community residents, particularly youth; 2) Support complete streets concepts and implementation; and 3) Incorporate Detroit Greenways.

**For More Information:** Contact Cindy Gamboa, Community Outreach Coordinator, at [cegamboa@umich.edu](mailto:cegamboa@umich.edu) or 313-593-0924

## Lowe's Small Grants Program

**Description:** The small grants program is an outlet for organizations seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation guidelines, available for review at <http://responsibility.lowes.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Giving-Guidelines.pdf>. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates.

According to Lowe's Community Relations, Lowe's does not have a regional quota that determines where and how grants are awarded; they focus on what the goal of the project is and if it fits within Lowe's giving guidelines. Lowe's Small Grants Committee approved a request earlier this year in the Detroit area for a neighborhood beautification project, where the goal was to clean up the neighborhood and keep it safe for the residents.

**Activities Funded:** Projects focused on community improvement

**For More Information:** To apply, e-mail a project description and budget outline to [community@lowes.com](mailto:community@lowes.com) with a "Small Grant Request" subject line. Due to the large volume of requests, we are unable to respond to all requests and will only notify you if you receive funding, approximately three weeks after submission.

## Lowe's Community Partners Grants

**Description:** Lowe's Community Partners grant program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to non-profit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements.

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000, with most projects falling between \$10,000 and \$25,000. Lowe's Heroes employee volunteer program is another opportunity for support, which Lowe's can provide to some grant recipients to help supplement the labor of projects. We encourage applicants to speak to their local store manager to see if this is a possibility before applying. The spring application cycle will run March 31 — May 30, 2014; the summer application cycle will run June 30 — Aug. 29, 2014.

**Activities Funded:** Building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements

Visit [www.lowes.com/community](http://www.lowes.com/community) to apply or for more information.

## Home Depot's Community Impact Grants Program

**Description:** Community Impact Grants, up to \$5,000, are available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. The application for the Community Impact Grants program will be available from February 1st, 2014 through August 15th, 2014

Priority is placed on volunteer projects that a) serve veterans and their families, whether that's repairing homes or improving facilities and/or b) involve veterans volunteering to help other veterans in the communities where they serve.

**Activities Funded:** Projects that use the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities

**For More Information:** Email the Home Depot Foundation at [small\\_grants@homedepot.com](mailto:small_grants@homedepot.com).

Visit [www.homedepotfoundation.org](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org) for more details and to access the application

## IN- KIND DONATIONS

### Lowe's

**Description:** Lowe's provides a limited number of gift cards to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations for community improvement projects. Gift cards are valued up to \$200<sup>1</sup>

**For More Information:** Contact your local Lowe's store manager

### Home Depot

**Description:** Home Depot provides a limited number of gift cards to support local community projects in the form of \$25-off coupons

**For More Information:** Contact your local Home Depot store manager

## MICRO-GRANTING

### Detroit SOUP

**Description:** Detroit SOUP is a micro-granting dinner celebrating and supporting creative projects in Detroit. For a donation \$5 attendees receive soup, salad, bread and a vote and hear from four presentations ranging from art, urban agriculture, social justice, social entrepreneurs, education, technology and more. Each presenter has four minutes to share their idea and answer four questions from the audience. At the event, attendees eat, talk, share resources, enjoy art and vote on the project they think benefits the city the most.

In addition to city-wide dinners, SOUP has ongoing neighborhood-based soups in the following neighborhoods and communities: Brightmoor, Central Communities, North End, Downtown, Grandmont Rosedale, Livernois Corridor, Highland Park and Hamtramck.

Visit [detroitsoup.com](http://detroitsoup.com) for more information about upcoming SOUP dinners and SOUP Proposal Workshops for residents who want to propose a project for funding.

## REDUCED PRICE SUPPLIES

### Habitat for Humanity Metro ReStores of Detroit and Oakland County

**Description:** Donated building materials and a variety of home improvement merchandise and tools are sold at 30-75% below retail prices. Inventory changes often.

**For More Information:** Contact Habitat ReStore at [restoredonations@habitatdetroit.org](mailto:restoredonations@habitatdetroit.org) or call your local outlet for information regarding inventory. Locations include "Detroit West" (12630 Greenfield Rd, 48227; 313-653-4890), "Detroit East" (17181 Mack Avenue, 48224; 313-332-0248), and "Oakland" (150 Osmun Street, 48342; 248-338-8392)

Visit [www.metrorestores.org](http://www.metrorestores.org) for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> This information was provided by the store manager at one Detroit area Lowe's.