



## RENEW

### (Residents Elevating a Neighborhood's Environment and Welfare)

Keep Clark County Beautiful (KCCB) is launching a new initiative called RENEW aimed at improving the physical environment of a selected Clark County neighborhood.

KCCB wants to help a neighborhood with beautification and improvement projects for a period of two years. One Clark County neighborhood will be chosen in an open application process.

The neighborhood chosen will have engaged a significant number of residents in planning which needs will be addressed and how the residents will work with KCCB on this project.

KCCB is looking for projects that address a neighborhood's physical environment, including, but not limited to:

- Cleaning up vacant lots
- Creating community gardens or green space
- Removing graffiti
- Cleaning up illegal dump sites and creating methods to prevent dumping
- Installation of public art
- Purchasing recycled-content equipment, such as park benches or neighborhood signs
- Improvements should be in public spaces, or places where necessary permissions have been obtained
- Other projects that fit the mission of improving the physical environment

KCCB plans to commit up to \$2,000 to this project, but also has the capability to provide labor and equipment for some endeavors, such as cleanup of illegal dumping.

**To apply:** Complete the application form and return to Keep Clark County Beautiful, 1602 West Main St., Springfield, OH 45504 or by email to [sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov). The application deadline is September 16, 2016.

**For information:** Contact Steve Schlather at the email address above or at (937) 521-2022.

# RENEW Application

Neighborhood/Area Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the location or boundaries of your neighborhood and the site of your project:

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Contact Person's Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Using no more than three pages, write a narrative to answer the following questions:**

Describe the conditions in your neighborhood that you would like this program to address. You may include up to five photos to illustrate the conditions described. What specific actions would you want to see taken to improve your neighborhood?

How would you want your neighborhood to look after the program is completed? What will be different?

Describe how you have gathered input from your neighbors about what conditions need to be addressed (surveys, meetings, conversations). Demonstrate that a sizable majority of your neighbors agree with the action plan you have described above.

What assets does your neighborhood have that can be used to help this program succeed? (See FAQ page for examples of assets.)

Describe your plan for recruiting residents to participate in work projects connected with this program.

How will you maintain the neighborhood improvements after the two-year program is over?

Be sure to include a project budget and timeline.

Provide any other information that would be helpful in evaluating your application.

**If you have any questions or concerns** about the application, you can contact Steve Schlather at (937) 521-2022 or at [sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov).

## **RENEW**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Any neighborhood in Clark County. We have a flexible definition of “neighborhood,” which includes more than traditionally defined areas with well-known names. Any group of several households in close proximity can be considered a neighborhood, as well as larger areas in traditional neighborhood associations.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to call Steve Schlather, 521-2022, to discuss their project before submitting an application to get feedback on how well a project fits with our program.

#### **Who will decide which neighborhood is chosen?**

A committee of Keep Clark County Beautiful board members will review the applications and make a recommendation to the full board.

#### **What criteria will be used in judging applications?**

- A well-thought-out plan for a beautification project that will make a significant improvement in a neighborhood. The plan should include a specific project, a description of the work needed, a timetable for actions, and a budget.
- Evidence of strong participation by a cross-section of neighbors in deciding on that plan.
- A plan for enlisting volunteer workers from the neighborhood residents.
- Visibility of the improvements (i.e., something that will be seen by other people, in addition to the neighborhood).
- Evidence that the improvements can be maintained by neighborhood residents.

#### **What is Keep Clark County Beautiful?**

KCCB is the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. The Clark County Solid Waste District provides office space and staff for KCCB, which is governed by a board of community leaders. KCCB focuses on litter prevention, waste reduction, and community beautification. For more information about KCCB, see our Facebook page.

#### **How will the \$2,000 be disbursed?**

RENEW will not provide cash grants, but will reimburse for purchase of materials or services needed for the beautification project.

#### **Is a match required?**

No financial match is required. Residents can propose a project costing more than \$2,000, but they should have a plan for raising the additional money. KCCB may help with fundraising, but the residents will have primary responsibility for raising additional money.

#### **What is the program’s timeframe?**

Applications are due on September 16, 2016. The recipient should be determined within six weeks of the due date. The neighborhood would have two years from the date of the award to complete its project. An extension may be considered, especially if weather conditions cause delays.

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**What other aid might be available?**

As an arm of the Clark County Solid Waste District, KCCB has access to the District's equipment and staff. The District could make some resources, such as the PRIDE workers, available for some projects. The District also operates the Community Cleanup Trailer, which is available to any group of at least five adult volunteers. The trailer is stocked with landscaping tools, such as lawn mowers, shovels, wheelbarrows, clippers, etc.

**What are neighborhood assets?**

Every neighborhood has assets that can be used to help with an improvement project. Examples of assets could include the skills of some residents (carpentry, gardening, cooking, etc.), local institutions (houses of worship, businesses, a library, parks, etc.), or relationships among residents, both formal and informal. The RENEW project aims not just to complete one improvement project, but to help the neighborhood build capacity to address ongoing problems.

**What are the responsibilities of the residents?**

- To develop a plan for specific improvements to the neighborhood.
- To submit an application by the due date.
- To demonstrate that a sizable majority of the residents support this plan.
- To supply volunteers to help with the work involved in the plan.
- To report regularly on the progress of the plan.
- To maintain the improvements after the two-year period of KCCB's involvement ends.
- To submit a final report when the project is completed.

**Are improvements limited to public spaces?**

Projects in public spaces (parks, rights of way, etc.) will be strongly preferred, but some private land may be part of the project. Residents will need to submit written permission from landowners with their application.

**Do all the improvements need to be at one location?**

No, improvements can be centered on one neighborhood location or multiple locations within the neighborhood.

**If you have any questions or concerns** about the application, you can contact Steve Schlather at (937) 521-2022 or at [sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:sschlather@clarkcountyohio.gov).