



Invitation to Apply for Champion Neighborhoods Funding in 2012 Hilltop Champion Neighborhoods

**Proposals are due by 4pm on October 25, 2011.
Applicants may apply for one or both Levels 1 & 2 at this time.
Please be thorough yet brief!**

2012 APPLICATIONS WILL SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA THE PPND GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

About Champion Neighborhoods

The centerpiece of PPND's investment strategy is the provision of funding for multi-neighborhood, comprehensive community development through Champion Neighborhoods. Each Champion Neighborhoods geography encompasses groups of adjacent neighborhoods along major development corridors that connect neighborhoods and share common market characteristics. The four Champion Neighborhoods were selected based on several factors. These include:

- PPND's historical relationship with the grantees
- Geographic proximity and affinity
- Shared needs and priorities that can form the basis for a common agenda
- Logical platform for addressing issues and delivering services
- Shared market characteristics
- Need for more collaboration due to staff limitations

Success is identified by achieving and sustaining a healthy neighborhood environment. This is defined by the following attributes: variety of housing options, neighborhoods as economic contributors, presence of strong local institutions, new and nurtured leadership, attractive physical amenities, safety, high quality government services, caring communities (presence of childcare, youth development, health wellness and social services), quality education, technologically connected, upwardly mobile jobs, arts and culture, quality shopping and varied transportation options.

PPND investment is guided by five program principles. They are:

- Collaboration around a comprehensive approach;
- Broad engagement of community stakeholders;
- Agreement on common Champion Neighborhood vision and agenda;
- Collaborative capacity among neighborhood partner organizations;
- Access to (including ability to raise) flexible program dollars; and
- Identification of early investment opportunities to move key projects forward while broader target area plans are finalized.

Funding will be awarded through Level 1 and Level 2. Level 1 is for the foundational activities of planning, engagement, and organizing based on individual neighborhoods in service to a multi-neighborhood vision; and Level 2 is for shared, multi-neighborhood projects and programs. It is PPND's intent to shift investment over time so that Level 1 awards lead to additional Level 2 activities and that sizable Level 3 awards are available for catalytic projects and programs.

Minimum Threshold Information

In order for your 2012 proposal to be reviewed and considered for funding, the following minimum threshold criteria must be met. If you have any questions about your eligibility to apply, please contact Maureen Hogan prior to preparing an application.

Financial Health

Applicants should attach the following financial documentation (unless already on file at PPND):

- Copy of current, un-audited financial statements from 2011 (Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities and Budget vs. Actual Report through September 30, 2011)
- 2012 Budget
- Evidence that all taxes (including property and payroll) are current (contact PPND with questions)
- Copy of IRS Form 990 from 2010
- 2011 PA Charitable Organization Registration Statement – [form BCO-10](#)
- IRS 501(c)(3) Determination

Under separate cover, PPND will send an Organizational Self-Assessment to be submitted at the time of submission. The intent of this assessment is to understand your needs to be successful and to determine our ability to provide additional resources.

Serving Low- to Moderate-Income Communities

Applicants should identify the census tract(s) in which they are conducting activities. To meet this requirement, the applicant should conduct activities in at least one low/moderate-income census tract. Staff will confirm the census tract(s) are currently designated low/moderate income by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

Compliance with PPND Contracts and with Contracts held by PPND Partners

At time of application, applicants should provide a statement that they are in compliance with PPND partners' contracts, programs, and projects. Our formal partners through the Community Development Collaborative include URA, Mayor's Office, Department of City Planning, PCRG, CTAC, CDCP, GTECH, and NeighborWorks. In addition, those currently funded by PPND should be in compliance with their PPND contract at the time of application.

Community Representation

As part of your application for 2012 funding, please describe how your organization is representative of the neighborhood or geographic area you serve.

Champion Neighborhoods Past Performance & Accomplishments

Please provide specific examples of outputs and outcomes observed in your neighborhoods, programs, and organizations since the launching of the new PPND investment strategy for multi-neighborhood comprehensive community development. Discuss what has changed in your neighborhoods, what has worked, what has not worked and lessons learned from 2010/2011. For example:

- In your neighborhoods, a summary of outputs: businesses gained, real estate developed, jobs created, etc.
- In your organizations and programs: collaborations created, innovative programs or processes, and new resources raised.
- A description of neighborhood outcomes based on your vision of change: what is different in the community because of your efforts.

PPND will determine whether the applicant has met expectations for former PPND investments. Monitoring by the assigned Program Officer as well as timely third-quarter (2011) verifications will inform this analysis.

Description of Vision for Neighborhood Change

1. Please describe the shared vision for long-term neighborhood change for the multi-neighborhood geography. What is the view of an anticipated future shared by stakeholders and upheld in collaborative efforts or plans?
2. Please describe how your neighborhood change efforts contribute to the multi-neighborhood vision. What is the unique role of your organization?

Level 1: Program Support for CDC/CBO Activities

PPND will accept one L1 application from the Hilltop Alliance for their work focused in the Hilltop for program support in the areas of community-based planning, engagement, convening, facilitation and organizing. Proposals should answer the following:

1. What is your current status and what are your targets for improvement in any of the following Benchmarks of a CBO:
 - Representation of the diverse nature of its neighborhood, and resident (and other stakeholder) decision-making at committee and board levels;
 - Broad (in terms of number and type) participation in voluntary community change activities;
 - Effective, frequent, timely communication in appropriate media from CBO to community regarding issues, events, developments that concern community;
 - Effective mechanism for regular, intentional communication from community to CBO regarding concerns, ideas, priorities, etc., regarding both planning and implementation;
 - Existence of relevant, recent community plan developed from broad engagement process and that directs the priorities of CBO/CDC;
 - Governance policies and practices that provide accountability to community (i.e. board membership, officer election);
 - Strong collaborative capacity among community partner organizations; and
 - Access to flexible program resources.
2. What are the primary community-based planning and organizing activities you will undertake in 2012?
3. What are the expected outcomes and how will continued success, over time, contribute to the Vision for Neighborhood Change described above?
4. If this is a joint application, what is the role of each of your organizations in community planning, organizing, engagement, convening and priority-setting? Are there other CBOs in your community? What are your shared roles?
5. What is the staffing structure for these CBO activities? Include job descriptions.
6. Provide an estimated budget for 2012, including the amount requested from PPND and leveraged funds.

Level 2: Program-Specific Support for Collaborative Work

PPND will accept an application from the Hilltop Alliance to offer programs and services in the Hilltop communities. PPND's highest priority in 2012 is the completion of a quality of life plan for the Hilltop communities. Please include a description/strategy including specifics on **how** and **when** a quality of life plan will be completed .

L2 programs or services in the Hilltop communities will have the following characteristics:

- Clear connection with the L1 CBO agency;
- Consistency with top community priorities (as demonstrated by written plans, support letters, etc.);
- Leverage from other sources;
- Existing or ongoing successful programming;
- Coverage of or benefit to the full Champion Neighborhood geography.

Proposals should address the following:

1. Describe the development or delivery and the expected impacts of multi-neighborhood collaborative programming in the Hilltop in 2012.
 - a. Describe how this programming fulfills community visions and priorities for multi-neighborhood, long-term change.
 - b. Describe targets for 2012, both tangible outputs and resulting outcomes expected. (Outputs are counts of things produced and outcomes are descriptions of actual changes in the community.)
 - c. Describe practical collaborations between organizations and even between disciplines.
 - d. Outline the milestones and timeline for program development and/or delivery in 2012.
2. Describe the scope and funding needed for a Hilltop Quality of Life Plan/Community Agreement.
3. Who (staff members, volunteers, from which organizations) will be involved in this program development or delivery?
4. Provide an estimated budget for 2012, including the amount requested from PPND and leveraged funds.

Level 3: Catalytic Project Investments

There will not be a formal invitation to apply for Level 3 investments at this time. Fundraising for Neighborhood Investment Funds will occur in 2012. Issuance of an RFP will be contingent on the success of this effort.

Predevelopment funding and real estate financing is currently available for all of the Champion Neighborhoods. All project ideas may be discussed with Maureen Hogan at any time.