

Exterior Clean Up

Goal To provide one-time assistance with the exterior cleanup of non-land bank owned properties, utilizing municipalities' coordination of both paid providers and volunteer efforts. Application process for funding/reimbursement.

When April – November, beginning April 2022.

Where Participating land bank communities, via approved application.

Notes & Ideas

Possibility of paid crew plus volunteers. Paid crew handles power equipment. Volunteers use hand tools.

Local efforts (painting, planting flowers) can also be coordinated

Primary residence only

Partner with code enforcement and local groups for coordination of ongoing maintenance

Summer help partnerships

Landscaper and/or public works flexibility

Put management on municipality – approve projects and reimbursement

Provide connections to volunteer groups

Application – include a spot for other needs (flowers, painting, mowing)

Systematic – scoring and ranking “Property eligibility checklist”

- Disability
- Low income under 20% AMI
- Moderate income under 80% AMI
- Senior
- Public health hazard
- Affecting neighboring properties
- Property taxes and homeowners insurance paid
- Not up for sale or foreclosure

Possibility of a mobile toolshed to be utilized for multiple properties at the same time, “Dumpster Days”, and/or neighborhood block party style cleanups.

Suggested Budget **\$100,000**

Potential Impact 50-200 sites cleaned up

Educational Seminars

Goal To provide home repair and maintenance instruction to homeowners throughout the county. Include opportunities to interact with municipal officials, county officials, code enforcement, and local service providers.

Background

When Monthly or quarterly, depending on demand or resources. Year-round, beginning 2022. Minimum quarterly.

Where Rotating throughout the county, suggested scheduling areas in participating municipalities zoned by participating school district

Notes & Ideas

- Event to include speakers, vendors, community members, code enforcement, informational booths and tables.
- Solution focused (what's the fix vs just the rules)
- Provide food, local catering source if possible
- Raffle Prizes – power tools – option of vendors to provide raffle prizes in lieu of paying a fee
- \$25 gift cards to all attendees
- Promote mobile toolshed/ tool lending library
- Promotional materials with seasonal maintenance information/calendar
- Combine with neighborhood watch groups, community groups
- Suggested Topics and resources
 - DCNR – erosion shoreline
 - Tom Ridge Center – converting to natural habitat
 - PennState Behrend
 - Tech Schools – HVAC, plumbing, construction
 - Retired subject matter experts
 - Lowe's/ Home Depot classes
 - County
 - Fire awareness
 - Interactive hands on seminars

Suggested Budget **\$30,000**

Potential Impact 6-12 educational seminars focused on blight prevention

Revolving Loan Fund

Goal	To provide a revolving loan funding source for blight-related repairs of non-land bank owned residential properties, which is not currently available in Erie County.
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Background

When	Process to be set up in 2022 with Erie County Redevelopment Authority (or similar) who will manage the fund for a fee.
Where	Participating land bank municipalities
Notes	<p>Establish a five member loan review board, based on the criteria and suggestions from the Erie County Redevelopment Authority, which will help craft a mission statement and parameters for the revolving loan fund. Extend a standing invitation to an Erie County Council Member as a liaison.</p> <p>Provide the initial investment, which, if high enough, the interest could cover the management of the fund. Consider a matching fund with certain interested communities</p> <p>The following are some suggested parameters for the loan review board to consider after formation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income cap (\$100,000) Primary residence only Referral from Code Enforcement Forgiveness after a number of on-time payments Approved list of vendors for repairs Eligible repairs list Census tracts – limit amounts to certain communities (CDBG) Dollar cap on structural/ major mechanical (\$25-50K) Matching funds from homeowner (5-10%) Stackable, allowing project total to be higher than the cap. Minimum credit scores Tax status
Suggested Budget	\$1,500,000.00 initial investment into fund
Potential Impact	30-60 residential properties repaired off the initial investment alone.