

# Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

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Legal Name of the Organization:	SOUTH MEMPHIS RENEWAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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EIN:	46-0468961
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Street Address of Organization	1109 MISSISSIPPI BLVD.
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Office Phone:	9016728420
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E-mail	<a href="mailto:jhiggs@loccdc.org">jhiggs@loccdc.org</a>
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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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First Name	JEFFREY
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Last Name	HIGGS
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### GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

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First Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Last Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Title:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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### DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

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Program/Project Area:	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Amount Requested	15,000
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Total Organizational budget (for current year):	191,000
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Total Project/Program Budget: 15,000

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Dates covered by this budget: 07/01/2016 -06/30/2017

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Project/Program Name: COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

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Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

South Memphis Renewal Community Development Corporation was founded in 2003 by LeMoyne-Owen College Community Development Corporation to be a 501c 3 that was dedicated to Community Development and land development in the SoulsvilleUSA and South Memphis Communities. Since that time it has been engaged in all of the development activities that has occurred in and around LeMoyne-Owen College and in SoulsvilleUSA. It has acquired vacant lots for future development, was involved in the development of the New Towne Center on McLemore, has worked with the SoulsvilleUSA Neighborhood Association and others, currently the Shelby County Environmental Court appointed SMRCDC receiver for the Aretha Franklin House Restoration Project. This request is made to assist on two fronts: 1. To assist Neighborhood Associations in South Memphis to perform small projects that will assist in addressing issues of blight and community development - community cleanups, supplies, community meetings, special community events, festivals that celebrate neighborhood events, milestones and achievements. 2. To assist with cost associated with the planning and restoration the Aretha Franklin House. Outcomes: 1) Cleaner Neighborhoods; 2) Engaged residents by encouraging participation; 3) increased neighborhood activities by neighbor associations; and 4) assist with small cost associated with the planning, cleanup and restoration of the Aretha Franklin House.

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## Narrative - Organization

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Current programs and accomplishments. Please SMRCDC has: 1.) completed acquisition of land for planned Walker Avenue Housing Development Project- the construction

emphasize the achievements of the recent past.

of 12 single family homes to be constructed on Walker Avenue between Bellevue and Elmwood Cemetery a major gateway into the SoulsvilleUSA Community. 2) Currently in the final stages of the development of the PRAXIS Aquaphonics Project and InCity Farms a jobs and grocery store project that will bring 160 jobs to the Memphis community. 3) Working on the restoration of the Aretha Franklin House in conjunction with a variety of community partners. 4) Actively engaged with the SoulsvilleUSA Neighborhood Association of our community plan for the neighborhood; 5) Working with the Timberlake Family Life Center in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (a previously funded County Commission program); 6) Partners with Man of the House Mentoring for Boys in the 38126 zip code; and 7) working with Women's Foundation of Greater Memphis on Teen Pregnancy Prevention n 38126 zip code

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Numbers of paid full-time staff: 1

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Number of paid part-time staff: 1

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Number of volunteers: 10

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### **Narrative - Funding Request**

Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

SMR CDC is requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000 in order to expand our ability to work with neighborhood associations and to assist in the salvation/restoration of the Aretha Franklin House. We are currently in direct partnership the SoulsvilleUSA Neighborhood Association working on our neighborhood plan, this plan is federally funded by the BNCP Partnership and Community LIFT and will direct the community revitalization activities over the next several years. Neighborhood associations like the SNA have a difficult time in finding innovative ways to fund small projects such as community cleanups, community meetings, supplies for special events. As a results we plan to use \$5,000 of these funds for distribution to various South Memphis Neighborhood Association for special projects such as these and others. The environmental Court awarded SMR CDC as the receiver of the Aretha Franklin House four years ago and in the past six months SMR CDC has made great momentum and strides in

board up the house, securing the house and cleaning up the general area, now that is secure we will move to the next phase and that is the restoration of the house. There are still needs at the location such a weed removal and some additional work to stabilize the house. The house at 406 Lucy Street, where Aretha Franklin was born, is considered by many to be one of the most treasured historical and cultural assets in Memphis. The team of Memphians working on saving the house from demolition wish for it to be held up as the national treasure that it is, and desire it to be preserved and celebrated permanently, highlighting the family, birthplace, and career of the Queen of Soul. SMRCDC will use the awarded for the above.

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### General Operating Support

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If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

N/A

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### Project Support

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Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

The project is assistance to neighborhood association to assist in the grassroots work at the community level five (5) neighborhoods associations in South Memphis will be award \$1,000 each to support the work of community engagement. The remaining \$10,000 will be use by SMRCDC to assist as needed to help In the restoration of the Aretha Franklin House to include labor, supplies for repairs, painting general clean-up and maintenance, facilitating community meeting and general use for the restoration of the home of Aretha Franklin.

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

The overall mission of SMRCDC is community development and as being in one of the poorest zip codes in our city the needs are many, but what we have found is that engaging residents In our work at the residential level is the best way to change behavior and make our neighborhoods better. By working with organized neighborhood associations we have seen progress made in almost all aspect of community development. This project will empower our residents by giving them some small assistance to carry our community projects, that otherwise would or could not get funded. Our work with The Aretha Franklin House Restoration is national level work and as a City and County we cannot afford to let this historic

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home be lost to demolition and it must be restored, this is in our opinion, community development at its best and contributes to our mission of urban community development. This award by the Shelby County Commissioners Grant, will definitely assist in accomplishing our goal of creating a better community and a better Shelby County.

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### **Narrative - Evaluation**

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Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

Evaluation findings have consistently shown that providing a safe and supportive living environment for young residents can have positive feelings for where people live, work and play and if we are to improve our neighborhoods it must start at the community level, block by block by residents. The success of our program will be measured by several tools: (1) pre and post service needs assessment of each association, (2) reports of expenditures by the neighborhood association, (3) more involved residents in activities, (4) acknowledgement that we have successfully saved Aretha Franklin House and it is something all Memphians can be proud of, and (4) final reports from each awarded association In addition to an internal evaluation, SMRCDC uses Dr. Femi Ajanakau , Professor of Sociology at LeMoyne-Owen College to evaluate all our program offerings and we will use her to measure the success of the projects. Goals 1. Increased activities by neighborhood associations awarded. 2. The restoration of the Aretha Franklin Birth home.

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Attachments:

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If your request is under \$25,000 please attach the following:

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1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations
  2. Most recent IRS Form 990 or Financial Statements (balance sheet and income statement) as of the most recent fiscal year end certified by Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the entity.
  3. Complete Budget for grant request
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If your request is \$25,000 or more please attach the following:

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1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4
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certificate for civic organizations

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2. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.

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3. Complete Budget for grant request

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File 1 *Field not completed.*

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File 2 *Field not completed.*

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File 3 *Field not completed.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

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The information provided has been submitted in good faith and as completely as our records and recollections permit.

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I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

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Signature: JEFFREY T. HIGGS

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Printed Name: JEFFREY T. HIGGS

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Date 9/4/2016

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