

REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, INC.

Grant Guidelines

Rebuilding Our Community is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of the Louisiana House District 98.

Who Is Eligible for a Rebuilding Our Community Grant

Any non profit organization that provides services to the residents of Louisiana House District 98 is eligible for funding. The organization does not need to be located in District 98 to qualify for funding.

Criteria for Funding

The Grant Advisory Board will give preference to those programs that focus on the areas of Youth Enrichment and Homeowner Assistancess.

Applications of less than 20,000 will be given preference over larger dollar amount request.

Grant funds are **not** available for the following:

- ❖ To pay off creditors of applicants from previous projects.
- ❖ To start up an enterprise.
- ❖ To provide funds for speculation in any kind of property.
- ❖ A newspaper, magazine, radio, or television broadcasting company or similar enterprise through which editorial opinions are expressed.
- ❖ To finance vehicles, unless related to the purpose of the grant.
- ❖ Activities that would prohibit support due to law ordinance or regulation including the regulations of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and the Gaming Division of the Louisiana State Police.

Grant Review Process:

The Rebuilding Our Community office will acknowledge receipt of applications in writing after the close of the funding cycle.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Grant Advisory Board based upon all relevant criteria, Applications recommended for funding will undergo legal review. If legal approval is granted, recommended applications will be transmitted to the Board of Directors for the Organization for their review and consideration. The Board will then make a final determination as to whether the grant shall be awarded.

The Rebuilding Our Community office will notify applicants in writing of decisions on grant request. Successful applicants will be required to sign a contract stipulating grant requirements and must be able to attend a supporting workshop.

The Board of Rebuilding Our Community will review grants on a regular basis and make funding decisions within a reasonable amount of time.

Application Format & Content Requirements:

All Proposals are to be typed with font size no less than 12 and single spaced. All applicable questions are to be answered with the necessary detail in the order listed with headings and subheadings and numbered as provided for in the grant proposal format. **The original grant proposal application and 4 copies are required.** Those needing technical assistance in preparing their applications or determining if your organization serves district 98 may contact the Rebuilding Our Community office for assistance.

Applications will be accepted on or after May 1, 2007 through June 1, 2007. Funding awards will be made on a first-come-first-served, highest-ranked basis.

**Please Remit Application To:
Rebuilding Our Community, Inc.
Attn: Jamesalina Mitchell
P.O. Box 3287
Harvey, La 70058-3287
Or call
504-208-8566**

REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, INC - PROJECT APPLICATION

Name of Organization: THE THETA BETA SIGMA PROGRAMS AND HOUSING FOUNDATION

Street Address: P.O. Box 50984

City, State, Zip: New Orleans, Louisiana 70150-0984

Area Code and Telephone Number: 985 785 3471

CONTACT PERSON:

Name: Will Harris

Title: President – Theta Beta Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity INC.

Address: 4001 S. Post Oak - New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

Area Code and Telephone Number: 985 785 3471

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (250 words): Mobilization of a local and nationwide volunteer effort of collegiates from Phi Beta Sigma to gut 5 to 10 homes in New Orleans, Louisiana. Collegiates will be recruited from around the country and provided with shelter along with transportation as needed. The focus of the clean-up zone would be House District 98 although other areas of the city will also be considered.

Total Agency Budget: \$22,000 Total Project Budget: \$19,900

Amount Requested from ROC. Inc: \$19,900

Please include the following attachments. If not enclosed please explain.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501 c.3 letter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Budget |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most recent audit | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Brochure and/or relevant literature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Agreement from the referral sources or collaborators as appropriate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors List | |

Please answer the following questions (in order) using no more than 5 typed pages (not including attachments).

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – You may use the spaces provided or type your answers on additional pages. If you do not use the pages provided, please re-type each question, including appropriate heading and number.

A. Background – Describe the work of your organization, addressing each of the following topics.

1. A brief description of its history and mission. Indicate date organized, legal structure, and location.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., **January 9, 1914**, by three young African-American male students. The founders, Honorable A. Langston Taylor, Honorable Leonard F. Morse, and Honorable Charles I. Brown, wanted to organize a Greek letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of **brotherhood, scholarship, and service.**

From its inception, the Founders also conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. Rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, the founders of Phi Beta Sigma held a deep conviction that they should return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come. This deep conviction was mirrored in the Fraternity's motto, "**Culture For Service and Service For Humanity**". The fraternity's national offices are in Washington D.C. The fraternity is divided into regions with the Gulf Coast Region housing the Theta Beta Sigma Chapter. The Theta Beta Sigma chapter (located in New Orleans) has a 501c.3 registered as THE THETA BETA SIGMA PROGRAMS AND HOUSING FOUNDATION that will be the legal entity entrusted to administer this grant.

2. The issue(s) that your organization works to address.

On a national (and local) level the fraternity has four (4) main program thrusts.

1) Bigger & Better Business – Concerned with homeownership & entrepreneurship.

2) Education – Includes programs such as scholarships, college fairs, mentoring, lectures, and tutoring.

3) Social Action – The focus is on programs devoted to improving conditions in the African-American Community

4) The Sigma Beta Club – Our youth auxiliary club, the Sigma Beta Club offers our membership a unique opportunity to develop values, leadership skills and social/cultural awareness in our youth during their developmental years

3. Current Programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize achievements of the past 12 months.

Post-Katrina the chapter has been engaged in any number of volunteer efforts to help rebuild and improve the quality of life in the city of New Orleans. In the past 12 months our projects have included the sponsoring of a bus ride of university students (and other interested parties) to Jena, LA, the clean-up and securing of blighted properties, a job mentoring program at the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), Supplies for Covenant House hurricane preparations, Project Vote (voter registration) and school supplies give-away (in conjunction with Zeta Phi Beta), and most recently one of the many sponsors of the UNCF Fund Run.

4. The populations that your organization reaches including geographic location, socio-economic, race, ethnicity, gender, age and physical or mental abilities. Indicate how they will be involved, and how they will benefit from your service.

As a chapter our organization has its greatest impact in the New Orleans metropolitan area. Our interface includes churches, nursing homes (prior to Katrina), collegiates, and through the efforts of Our Sigma Beta Club schools of the public (and private) system. The organization works with all groups but its primary focus is in bettering the conditions of the African-American community. Our organization largely consists of college educated professionally employed African-American men who often have a particular interest in working with the youth of the Community. In working with youth, the goal is to provide a model for behavior and to stress the importance of service, scholarship, and brotherhood.

5. Overview of organizational structure, including board, staff, business or volunteer involvement.

Phi Beta Sigma, INC is a national organization headquartered in Washington D.C. that is divided into seven (7) regions within the United States. The Theta Beta Chapter is part of the Gulf Coast Region. The chapter has created a foundation entitled "THE THETA BETA SIGMA PROGRAMS AND HOUSING FOUNDATION". The foundation is a tax-exempt 501.3c legal entity of which every active member of our chapter belongs. The directors of the foundation come from the current and past officers of the chapter. The intent of the foundation is consistent with the goals and programs of the fraternity as a whole. This separate entity allows for organizations and individuals to receive tax credit for contributions to a charitable institution. Volunteer involvement of the foundation is reflected in the focus of the chapter and the fraternity as a whole. All of our activities are supported by the fraternal Brothers from the graduate chapter as well as Brothers from our collegiate chapters which are housed on each college campus in New Orleans area as well as surrounding colleges (SUNO, UNO, Dillard, Xavier University, Tulane, South-Eastern, & Nichols State).

6. Your organizations relationships – both formal and informal – with other organizations working to meet the same needs or providing similar services. Please explain the differences and similarities to these other organizations.

As a national organization Phi Beta Sigma is constitutionally bound to our sister organization, Zeta Phi Beta. The Zeta Phi Beta sorority has goals and programs very similar to Phi Beta Sigma except They will often focus on issues of more concern to women. The fraternity more often is concerned with the development of young men. That being said there is far more overlap than difference in program thrusts. Again, on a national level we have partnered with any number of charitable organizations, ranging from the National Cancer Society to Junior Achievement. On the local level we have developed relationships that have allowed us to provide workshops, seminars, and donations to and with: the Youth Empowerment Project, (an intensive aftercare and case management program for Orleans Parish youth who are exiting Louisiana's juvenile prisons and rejoining their families and communities - YEP links these youth with existing social services and community resources which address their personal and developmental needs). Covenant House (providing shelter and other services to homeless, runaway and throwaway youth), Mind Body & Soul (Drug Rehabilitation), Edna Karr School, Warren Easton High School, Raubouin High School, and Priestley High School. The service we strive to provide with any of these associated organizations is to provide either funding, labor, or expertise to help them accomplish the stated mission of their respective organizations.

B. Funding Request – Please describe the project/program for which you seek funding.

1. Briefly describe/answer the following items:
 - ❖ How will funds be specifically used?
 - ❖ Strategies that you will use to implement your project/program.
 - ❖ The names and qualifications of the individuals who will direct the project/program, if known.
 - ❖ Anticipated length of the program funding support.
 - ❖ How will it benefit the community and the residents of District 98?
 - ❖ How Rebuilding Our Community funds be publicly acknowledged.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity is seeking to bring collegiate members to the city to engage in a campaign of clean-up and gutting of properties. The focus of the project is intended to be District 98. Churches in District 98 will be canvassed for properties that we can legally enter and perform this service. While District 98 will be the main focus, all areas of the city are eligible for consideration. Youth from other agencies that we have a relationship will also be asked to contribute to this specific rebuilding effort. Funds that we receive from Rebuilding our Community will be used to help finance the effort. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Debris Removal, Transportation (between dorms and property), Incidental Construction Eq., Supplies, materials needed for securing of the properties, and food are the expected cost items. **A tabulation of expected costs is provided below.** On a national basis our Fraternity will advertise the clean-up campaign for the houses already identified. We will mobilize around the 2008 spring break for a volunteer clean-up effort in New Orleans. The effort will work hand in hand with our fraternities announcement to have it's national convention here in 2009. The national convention will be another opportunity to follow-up with additional rebuild efforts. For the young men (and some women) housing will be provided at the facilities of Pastor Frank Davis Jr. of Bible Way Missionary Church. Pastor Davis is a member of our fraternity and has provided lodging for similar efforts from Campus Crusade for Christ and other faith-based groups volunteering service to the New Orleans rebuilding effort. ROC will be acknowledged in a couple of ways: during the call for volunteers ROC will be identified as the organization sponsoring the effort. Secondly, after the campaign the effort will be communicated throughout the fraternity and at public acknowledgement at the 2009 National Convention in New Orleans. Efforts will also be made to have ROC representatives at the Convention & featured in our national magazine "The Crescent".

Item	Unit Estimate	5 Homes	10 Homes
PPE	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Debris Removal	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Transportation	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,700.00
Incidental Construction Eq.	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 200.00
Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Boarding Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,250.00
Food	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total	\$ 2,820.00	\$ 11,320.00	\$ 19,850.00

C. **Evaluation** – Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities.

1. Describe your criteria for a successful project.

Effectiveness will be measured in three ways: 1) the number of homes and families that receive the remediation service, 2) the numbers of young men locally and from around the nation that respond to the call to assist with the recovery efforts in New Orleans and more importantly in District 98, and 3) the amount of interface between local agencies, (e.g. YEP, Covenant House, Zeta Phi Beta, Broadmore Neighborhood Association, & Mind Body & Soul) in providing volunteers for community service and follow-up training.

2. What are the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period?

The expectation is that at the end of the campaign all the houses earmarked for clean-up & gutting will be addressed. The goal is to address between 5 and 10 houses primarily in District 98. A larger goal is to position the local chapter of our fraternity as a source of African-American professionals ready to provide service to the community. In addition we need to provide support for those families trying to return to N.O. and dealing with LRA's Road Home. The overall goal is to build commonality with organizations throughout the greater New Orleans areas and across the country to assist with rebuilding efforts.

3. What are your plans for future funding?

Our fraternity will continue to present proposals to community groups in need or a service consistent with our mission of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service. As an organization we will continue to sponsor fundraising activities and maintain our current practice of assessing membership dues. In addition we will work to solicit opportunities to partner with other organizations that lend themselves to sharing our mission.

4. Explain how evaluation results will be used and/or disseminated and if applicable, how project/program can be replicated.

The evaluation results will be reviewed by our board and presented to other Greek letter organizations to replicate the program in their respective organizations. It is planned as part of our National Convention in New Orleans that our organization will work to partner with Habitat for Humanity in the actual construction of a home. This effort of gutting and clean-up would be the natural prelude to rebuilding.

Submitted by:

Will Harris

Applicant's Name

President - Theta Beta Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, INC.

Title

The Theta Beta Sigma Programs and Housing Foundation

Organization

November 15, 2007

Date