

FY 2025 | Community Grant Application
Deadline April 30, 2026
3:30 P.M.



Organization Name: Community Forklift
Executive Director/Officer: Trey Davis
Fiscal Sponsor Name: N/A
Mailing Address: 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston, MD 20781
Phone Number: (301) 985-5180 Email: trey@communityforklift.org
Federal ID#: 52-1975012
Incorporation Date: March 22, 1996 501 (c) (3) Registration Date: October 1997
Project Title: Lifting Communities through Reuse
Project Location: DC/MD/VA Region

CERTIFICATION

"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that, to the best of my knowledge, all statements and figures contained herein are true, accurate, and complete. If your organization does not have a Board of Directors, please indicate "NA" on the signature line and have the Organization's Director sign.


Signature of Chief Executive Officer

4/29/2026
Date

Print Name: Trey Davis Title: Executive Director
Address: 4671 Tanglewood Drive Edmonston, MD 20781
Phone: (301) 985-5180 Email: trey@communityforklift.org

Provide the following information about your clients based on your most recent data. Information current as of (date) April 29, 2026

RESIDENCE OF CLIENTS SERVED (Preference will be given to agencies serving Bladensburg residents)

Town of Bladensburg
Prince Georges County
Port Towns (Edmonston, Cottage City, Colmar Manor)

3,150

43,795

no data reported.

- 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Provide a brief summary of your project and organization. Please include the following: the project purpose, the number of people in the Town of Bladensburg to be served, and how the Town grant funds will be used.**

Community Forklift is a leading nonprofit reuse center for building materials and home goods in the town of Edmonston in Prince George's County, Maryland. The organization runs two community giving programs, the Home Essentials program (HELP) and Community Building Blocks program (CBB), which provide free home and building materials to individuals and community organizations in need. If awarded, this grant will be used to support at least 500 Bladensburg residents with donations of home and building materials to support home repairs and community projects. Funds will support the programs' staff, which includes the community giving manager and truck teams who pick up and deliver donated materials and prepare them for reuse.

- 2. PROGRAM INFORMATION: Describe the overall or general purpose of your agency and how it serves the residents of Bladensburg.**

Community Forklift operates an extensive array of programs, services, and activities to fulfill the mission and goals of the organization while generating most of its own financial support:

- **Reuse Center:** Community Forklift operates a 40,000-square-foot reuse center open to the public six days a week; employs 35 staff; sells building materials and home goods at below-market prices; diverts millions of dollars of materials from overcrowded landfills; productively occupies a brownfield site (contaminated land); supports hundreds of local businesses through the availability of low-cost materials; and acts as a resource center and gathering place for the local community. More than 75,000 individuals visit the Reuse Center each year.
- **Home Essentials Program (HELP):** Community Forklift provides home repair supplies and household essentials free of cost to families and individuals who qualify for need-based assistance. The program has donated over \$650,000 worth of materials to over 7,000 individuals in need. Community Forklift also partners with dozens of other charitable organizations and agencies to facilitate greater access to its services.
- **Community Building Blocks Program (CBB):** Community Forklift gives grants to organizations in need of building materials for projects that serve the greater community. The program has supported over 500 organizations with over \$650,000 worth of lumber, doors, windows, and so much more. Examples of partners include community-based theater groups; groups addressing housing, homelessness, and poverty; shelters; educational and arts groups; and community gardens.





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- **Waste Diversion:** Community Forklift has three full-time truck crews providing free, convenient pickups of materials for residents and businesses throughout the DC region. In 2024, Community Forklift provided over 1,600 pickups. The truck teams also deliver large appliances and furniture for free to neighbors in need and community groups.
- **Professional and Workforce Development:** Community Forklift offers paid professional growth opportunities to recent graduates with the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option and to students with the Port Towns Youth Council. Community Forklift also works with the DC Project Empowerment program and others that place returning citizens and those with employment barriers into local jobs. Community Forklift provides ongoing training, mentorship, and support. A significant portion of the current workforce is comprised of individuals with barriers to traditional employment, with several moving into management positions.
- **Education and Outreach:** Community Forklift hosts free workshops, family friendly events, educational activities, fairs, and hands-on activities throughout the year.
- **Deconstruction/Workforce Training:** Community Forklift launched a skills training program in 2021 to train individuals in deconstruction, which is the careful dismantling of a building so that materials can be salvaged for reuse rather than dumped in a landfill. Through this program, Community Forklift has provided hands-on training opportunities for staff to learn about deconstruction, disassembly, and material reuse.

To further highlight Community Forklift's commitment and history of supporting Bladensburg residents, the organization recently supported a resident with some gently used appliances, as their old ones had broken down. The organization was also able to provide a free delivery, emphasizing the ease of access that characterizes the community giving programs.

Additionally, Community Forklift has sustained a multiyear partnership with Rogers Heights Elementary School, where the school was able to upgrade their teachers' break room, and create a dedicated space for parents to engage with staff. Community Forklift also has a long-term partnership with Eco City Farm and Anacostia Watershed Society, both of which have regularly received materials to support their community projects. Eco City Farms is currently partnering with Community Forklift to further build out their farms, which educate the community on gardening, cooking, and intentional environmental support. Anacostia Watershed Society has both received and donated materials to Community Forklift, emphasizing a two-way collaboration and commitment to serving the community.

3. N/A



4. COMMUNITY NEED/POPULATION BEING SERVED: Describe the issue or community that needs to be addressed. Provided the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem or the need not being addressed.

The state of Maryland is amidst a housing crisis. The shortage of 100,000 housing units limits affordability and disproportionately affects low-to-moderate income residents. Moreover, according to the Port Towns Sector Plan, over half of households are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing. The area has also seen minimal housing development since the adoption of the 2009 Port Towns Sector Plan, which limits families' opportunities for moving to lower their burden.

However, the Port Towns have a wealth of older housing stock, which can be preserved to increase affordability, as they serve as naturally occurring affordable housing. Community Forklift is one of the only organizations in the region positioned to ease the sectoral housing burden through supporting home repair and preservation for community groups, and for individuals.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Please provide a detailed description of the program you are proposing. Please include the group of people you plan to serve, the expected number of participants, the activities or services you will provide, and the location of the program/project.

This program serves low-income residents and community organizations with free home and material donations. The expected outcomes through the project period include:

- 500 individuals in Bladensburg directly served with the provision of free home and building materials to support home repairs and community projects serving the greater good.

6. METHODOLOGY: Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program.

The methodology for the community giving programs is fully developed and sustainable. Interested individuals will complete the brief application, followed by a screening with the community giving manager, and lastly be brought in to discuss how Community Forklift can meet their needs.

7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT: Please provide activities and events that your organization has held within the Town of Bladensburg and the Port Towns. Tell us about the impact of your community activities.





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Most of Community Forklift's activities and events occur within the Town of Edmonston where the organization is headquartered. Community Forklift's primary event series is its annual First Friday series, which aims to celebrate the economic, social, and environmental support the organization provides. The goal is to provide a fun, sustainable environment to educate the public on reuse while affirming those already in practice. The program offers ample opportunity to engage neighbors on their waste reduction efforts, which will further support organizations making our communities safe and sustainable places to live, work, and play. These events have brought about 1,000 individuals out per series, making a clear display of the community's commitment to reuse.

Community Forklift hosted its first gala last year, where the organization raised over \$50,000 to support sustainable community initiatives. As a result, Community Forklift now aims to host additional yearly benefits to share reuse with its community in a new and unique way.

8. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES: Describe the organization's ability to implement the program/project.

Community Forklift is confident in the sustainability of these programs as they have been operational for 15 years. Since 2011, Community Forklift's community giving programs have impacted over 770,000 individuals with \$1.3 million worth of donations. With a dedicated staff of nine and strong track record, the organization is well-equipped to continue implementing the community giving programs.

