



Information for Homeowners

The purpose of this sheet is to give some helpful information about the application process for homeowners who are interested in qualifying for free tuckpointing.

ABOUT HARAMBEE'S FREE HOME REPAIR SERVICES

"Harambee" is a Swahili word that means, "Let's come together and get this done!" Harambee provides job training for teens (ages 12-18), and part of their training involves volunteer community service projects where qualifying low-income homeowners can receive free tuckpointing for their brick homes. The youth are given extensive training in safety and proper tuckpointing techniques and are supervised by adults at all times.

What is tuckpointing?

Tuckpointing is a type of masonry repair where old, decayed mortar between bricks or foundation stones is replaced with fresh mortar. This repair is usually needed every 40-50 years, but can be very expensive.

If you qualify, Harambee can tuckpoint your home for FREE—we will just need the use of your water and electricity.

How do I know if I need tuckpointing?

A sure sign that you need tuckpointing is if water is coming through the bricks and damaging the inside of your home.

You also may notice cracks and/or loose bricks on the outside of your home that are causing structural damage.

Your basement may need tuckpointing if water is leaking into your basement through decayed mortar between your foundation stones.

What does it take to qualify for free tuckpointing?

There are five major criteria for eligibility:

1. **LOCATION** See the box on the right for a list of eligible St. Louis City neighborhoods.
2. **OWNERSHIP & OCCUPANCY** You must own and live in your home.
3. **TAXES & MORTGAGE** You must be current on real estate taxes and any mortgage payments.
4. **INCOME** You must meet certain HUD standards for household income levels.
5. **INSURANCE** You must have homeowners insurance.

ELIGIBLE ST. LOUIS CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Academy
Central West End
Covenant Blu-Grand Center
DeBaliviere Place
Fairground Neighborhood
Fountain Park
Greater Ville
Hamilton Heights
Jeff Vanderlou
Kingsway East
Kingsway West
Lewis Place
O'Fallon
Penrose
Skinker DeBaliviere
The Ville
Vandeventer
Visitation Park
Wells Goodfellow
West End

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ANNUAL PROJECT CYCLE

Applications may be submitted any time during the year, but we operate on an annual cycle. You may not hear from Harambee for several months.

FALL: PROCESS APPLICATIONS

Most applications are processed in the fall after our summer program is over and the after-school program is underway. Letters will be sent out letting you know if you are eligible for a site visit.

WINTER: EVALUATE PROJECT NEEDS ON SITE

If you qualify, we will conduct a site visit over the winter to evaluate the specific tuckpointing needs of your home.

SPRING: SCHEDULE PROJECTS

After all home visits are complete, Harambee's staff evaluate the projects and make decisions about which projects will be scheduled for the summer. If for some reason your home is not a good fit for our youth job training programs, a letter will be sent to you explaining why we are unable to work on your home. For projects that are a good fit, we will ask you for additional information to finalize your eligibility. Projects that are not scheduled for the upcoming summer will be postponed until the after-school program or even the following summer.

SUMMER

Harambee works on the most projects during the summer program while we have youth volunteers available full-time. Because of the high demands of running the summer program, any applications received during this time are held in a file until the fall.

HOW TO APPLY

1. **GET AN APPLICATION** from our office or our website.
Website: www.restorestlouis.org/harambee
2. **FILL OUT** the application completely.
3. **SUBMIT** the application by mail, fax, e-mail, or hand-delivery.
Address: 1142 Hodiamont Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63112
Fax: (314) 726-1264 *E-mail:* ajones@ncfstl.org
4. **WAIT PATIENTLY** for Harambee to contact you about the status of your application. See the **Annual Project Cycle** timeline at the



QUESTIONS?

Contact **Aaron Jones** at **(314) 680-9241**.

If Aaron is not available, leave a message with your name, address, and phone number, and he will return your call as soon as he is able.