

# Black Family Development, Inc.

## Receives Two Skillman Foundation Grants

Respected and recognized for its consistent delivery of quality programs and services that support family preservation, [Detroit-based Black Family Development, Inc. \(BFDI\)](#) recently received two grant awards from The Skillman Foundation. The grants will fund two major community development initiatives on Detroit's eastside.

“Created in 1960, [The Skillman Foundation](#) is a private philanthropy whose chief aim is to help develop good schools and good neighborhoods for children. Though grants are made throughout metropolitan Detroit, most grants are directed at six Detroit neighborhoods - Southwest Detroit (Vernor and Chadsey/Condon), Brightmoor, Osborn, and Cody/Rouge and the Northend – and toward innovative and successful schools throughout the city of Detroit.”

Over the past five years, BFDI has been actively engaged in [The Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods Initiative](#). The 10 year, \$100 million dollar initiative launched by Skillman in 2006 [encourages the creation of safe, healthy, vibrant neighborhoods where children – with the support of caring adults, programs, and experiences – may develop to their full potential.](#)

Funding awarded to BFDI will support two efforts in the geographic area surrounding [Osborn University High School](#). Located on Detroit's eastside, Osborn is one of the six designated communities in the Good Neighborhoods Initiative.

The first funded project, “[Osborn Networking for Change](#)” supports the development of positive social infrastructures to stabilize and enhance the quality of life for children and their families in the [Osborn University High School area](#). The project goals include, identifying new block clubs; engaging those block

clubs in leadership training; supporting the long term sustainability of existing block clubs; involving residents in block club activities as well as leadership training, and collaborating to offer successful community policing throughout the neighborhood.

With the expressed intent of envisioning comprehensive development in the future, [BFDI received a grant to support planning, program development and implementation that will prepare the Osborn neighborhood to compete for a federal Promise Neighborhoods grant.](#)

**The project goals**

- **Include identifying new block clubs;**
- **engaging those block clubs in leadership training;**
- **supporting the long term sustainability of existing block clubs**
- **involving residents in block club activities as well as leadership training, and**
- **collaborating to offer successful community policing throughout the neighborhood.**

This preparation and planning process will include, [increasing the number of stakeholders participating in community engagement planning strategies by 30%; engaging the community in determining the specific geographic boundaries that will be defined as the Osborn Promise Neighborhood Zone and developing a business plan for achieving the overarching results of the Promise Neighborhood that includes community, educational and child welfare outcomes.](#)

Both projects will be funded by The Skillman Foundation for 12 months. Program outcomes and results will be shared with the community to monitor progress and will be essential to on-going planning and decision making.

Founded 32 years ago, Black Family Development, Inc. is a well recognized human service agency in the metro Detroit area. BFDI provides services to all individuals regardless of age, religion, race, culture or national origin.

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