

The RVA ToolBOX Project addresses Richmond's urgent need for accessible and affordable home maintenance education. We seek \$100,000 to expand this program, empowering 2,500 low-middle income and BIPOC homeowners with the skills and confidence to tackle repairs, improve efficiency, and build wealth through property ownership. This is critical in Richmond, where even those who secure affordable housing often struggle with the costs and challenges of home maintenance.

Low-middle income and BIPOC communities face systemic barriers including:

- Lost generational knowledge around home repair.
- Lack of confidence in tackling DIY projects.
- Distrust of contractors due to past predatory practices.

These factors contribute to a cycle of deferred maintenance, increased housing costs, and potential displacement. The RVA ToolBOX Program breaks this cycle by providing:

- Empowering hands-on workshops led by experts, covering essential skills in a culturally relevant format.
- Tool access that eliminates the financial barrier of purchasing tools by providing access to the Richmond ToolBank's inventory.
- Targeted outreach through partnerships with community organizations to ensure the program reaches those who need it most.
- Experiential learning at the ToolBank facility, partner construction sites, and in common community spaces for realistic and engaging training.

A \$100,000 grant will allow us to:

- **Triple the number** of homeowners served.
- **Transform our facility** into a dedicated learning space.
- **Equip homeowners** with tools specifically for the program.
- **Reach underserved communities** through mobile workshops.

Ultimately, we aim to build community wealth by empowering homeowners to save money on repairs and build equity. Our success will be measured by the number of homeowners served, increased workshop capacity, improved knowledge and confidence, and reduced deferred maintenance. The RVA ToolBOX Program aligns with the City of Richmond's goals for sustainability, wealth building, and housing affordability. So, by investing in affordable home maintenance education, we're arguably protecting the most critical social determinants of health and community wealth.