

Columbus Next Generation (“NextGen”) has been working with The City of Columbus, Office of the City Attorney, and the Franklin County Environmental Courts to assist homeowners throughout the city that are elderly and/or disabled to repair code violations on their homes that are in the court systems (and have been) since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Repairs range from roof repair to new roofs, gutters, painting, sewer line work, porch/foundation work, cutting down dead trees, overgrown high weeds, branches and grass. The homeowners do not have the financial means or physical ability to do such repairs. Their incomes are very limited. In July 2021, City Attorney Zack Klein’s office received grant money in the amount of \$100,000 to start the Home Repair Program. NextGen works with local contractors and encourages minority participation as much as possible. All contractors are licensed, bonded, have Workers Compensation insurance and are registered with the City of Columbus as a contractor.

This legislation authorizes an extension of the original agreement through December 31, 2024, and increases the available funding by \$500,000.00 from the general fund.

## **How do I qualify for assistance to repair code violations at my home?**

Assistance under the owner-occupied initiative is available to elderly and disabled homeowners who have ongoing environmental court cases with the Franklin County Environmental Court that were initiated prior to the COVID 19 epidemic.

## **What types of repairs are eligible for assistance?**

Assistance can be used to correct exterior code violations such as roof repairs or replacement, gutter repairs or replacement, exterior painting, sewer line repairs, porch repairs, cutting down dead trees, mowing high grass and/or weeds, or trimming overgrown landscaping.

## **Do the code violations have to have been documented in court prior to COVID-19?**

Yes. The homeowner must have an open environmental court case with the Franklin County Environmental Court that began prior to the COVID-19 epidemic.

## **Are the contractors paid directly by the City/NextGen?**

The City is contracting with Columbus NextGen to manage contractors for the program. All contractors are licensed, bonded, insured, and registered with the City of Columbus. Contractors will pull permits directly from the City when needed. Contractors will be paid by Columbus Nextgen.

## **How will I know who is coming to provide the repair service? Will I get to choose?**

Columbus Nextgen will determine the contractor assigned to each project. Questions or concerns about scheduling or contractor selection can be directed to the Franklin County Environmental Court at (614)-645-8742.

## **How do I know my repairs will be up to code?**

Once repairs are complete, Columbus NextGen will contact the City to confirm that the work is up to code and to close the outstanding code violation cases.



Please contact Legal Aid if you need assistance. Visit [ColumbusLegalAid.org](https://ColumbusLegalAid.org) or call [614.241.2001](tel:614.241.2001)

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