



Program:

02/12/2026 3:11 PM

Application #: 360968

Application / Project Name:

Alcy Ball Family Dinners - 360968

Application Party ID:

266130

Organization ID#:

183698

Please complete the fields below for your organization. If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please complete the information for the sponsor organization.

Organization Legal Name:

Alcy Ball Development Corporation

LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org Profile URL:

<https://roundtable.livegivemidsouth.org/organizations/1150344>

Organization Address:

P.O. Box 140276, Memphis, TN 38114

Organization Phone Number:

(901) 591-6283

If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please list the name of your program.

Grant Contact Name:

Harkins, Seth

Grant Contact Title:

Grant Admin

Grant Contact Email:

sharkins@alcyball.org



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Grant Contact Phone:

9015916283

As stated in the application guidelines, an eligibility requirement for this application is a LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile in progress. To meet eligibility, the applying organization needs to submit a new LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile to be published OR submit updates to an existing profile for review by February 6, 2026.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

As stated in the application guidelines, a representative from each organization chosen as a grant finalist must participate in the presentation for the GiVE 365 Finals event in April.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

In order to keep GiVE 365 members informed of the grant's progress, grantees are required to provide brief updates that can be shared with members two times in the twelve-month grant period. If awarded this grant, you will be asked to provide updates that might be shared with GiVE 365 members through some or all of the following methods: social media, e-newsletters, photos/videos, site visits, and other donor education opportunities.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

How will GiVE 365 funds be used?

Expand or sustain an existing program

Grant Amount Requesting:

\$15,000.00



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Please provide a brief 2-3 sentence summary of your project or program for use in communications with GiVE 365 members and for The Finals event program, should your application be chosen. (The description may be edited by staff.)

Alcy Ball Development Corporation is partnering with Soil 2 Souls (a resident-led community organizing collective rooted in food, land, and storytelling currently hosted by the Center for Transforming Communities) to expand the Family Dinner program, a community meal that provides meal kits based on shared recipes to families. Family Dinners celebrate the tradition of breaking bread to honor culture and community while encouraging healthy food preparation, and reducing food spending costs.

Please explain the ways your organization helps build food access and community connection through homegrown solutions.

The Family Dinner program increases food access, reduces food spending, and encourages community connection by providing meal kits and a shared meal experience. The next iteration of Family Dinners is a joining of two South Memphis community-centered meal preparation initiatives: Alcy Ball Development Corporation's (ABDCs) recipe sharing and meal kit program and JoElle Thompson's Soil 2 Souls program. As the programs grow and combine, participants gather for an in-person community dinner and take home a free meal kit featuring fresh ingredients and a recipe card with a link to an instructional video hosted by one of their neighbors, allowing them to recreate the experience at home.

At ABDC, we believe thriving neighborhoods are built through strong relationships, not just houses and roads. We put this belief into action through our Connect program, which creates welcoming spaces for neighbors to fellowship. Each year, we organize dozens of Connect activities, including Coffee & Crafts workshops, senior computer classes, and neighborhood celebrations. These events advance our mission to connect and empower Alcy Ball residents to develop a healthy, vibrant community.

Improving food access is central to holistic community development. Many Memphis neighborhoods, including Alcy Ball, lack full-service grocery stores, leaving families with limited access to fresh, affordable food. As a result, households often rely on costly, unhealthy fast-food options. In a survey of Family Dinner participants, 48% reported eating out for more than half of their weekly meals, underscoring the need for practical alternatives for healthy, cost-effective meals.

We started the Family Dinner program in 2020 to meet this need. The program paired meal kit distribution with instructional YouTube videos demonstrating a neighbor's preparation of a family



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recipe using ingredients provided in the kit. Home cooks shared stories behind the recipes and the cultural importance of the meal. Through this program, more than 109 unique households were served. Videos generated strong engagement, with some receiving more than 2,500 views.

ABDC's Family Dinners continue to produce monthly cooking videos that demonstrate how to prepare nutritious family meals on a budget. These videos are currently hosted by our registered dietitian intern and receive hundreds of views and frequent shares.

Soil 2 Souls is an initiative led by JoElle Thompson, an Alcy Ball resident, public health professional and local restaurateur, in collaboration with the Center for Transforming Communities. These quarterly gatherings honor the legacy of shared foodways and create space for dialogue and fellowship. The program chronicles the preparation and meal sharing process through The Soul Table docuseries. Several ABDC staff members volunteer in Ms. Thompson's community garden and attend Soil 2 Soul dinners. This partnership grew from their enthusiasm for collaboration.

To implement the program as a partnership, ABDC will coordinate meal kit distribution, and Soil 2 Souls will collect and document residents' recipes and meal preparation. Whenever possible, produce will be sourced from Alcy Ball residents with home gardens. The organizations will cohost in-person community dinners every other month, paired with meal kit distribution. We anticipate 30 participants per meal, and to increase healthy food access for at least 150 unique households.

How will the grant funds be used?

Grant funds will be used to strengthen ABDC's Family Dinner program. Our first priority is to provide meal kit boxes for the Family Dinner recipe exchange and to purchase ingredients for each of the neighbor-shared recipes, including the purchase of produce from locally grown home gardens where possible. Meal kits are made available to participants at no cost and will directly increase access to healthy food options for upwards of 150 unique families, and 30 community meal and meal kit distribution per session.

Funds will also be used to replace a commercial-sized, glass-front refrigerator to ensure safe and reliable storage of meal kit supplies. We also use funds for supplies for the meal sharing and family dinner portion of the program.

Additional funding will support a stipend for a videographer to record and edit the preparation of each featured recipe to share as part of the Table to Soul docuseries.



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Explain how people from the communities you serve are involved in your organization's decision-making.

Alcy Ball residents are involved at every stage of organizing our programs and events. Much of our staff live in the neighborhood, which ensures our programming is informed by the interests and needs of Alcy Ball community members. Three of the four members of the Connect Team, which organizes Family Dinners are Alcy Ball residents. Sixty percent of our Board of Directors also live in the neighborhood. We also gather ongoing feedback through regular surveys and by maintaining an active, visible presence in the neighborhood.

Our neighbors asked for more low-cost, healthier, plant-forward meal options and additional opportunities to gather in person. The Family Dinner program was created as a direct result of our conversations, surveys, and lived experience as Alcy Ball residents. Our request for support to collaborate with Soil 2 Souls to expand Family Dinners further reflects our commitment to being attuned and responsive to our neighbors' needs. The collaboration between ABDC and Soil 2 Souls was inspired by the connection that ABDC staff made volunteering with Alcy Ball resident JoElle Thompson, and being involved in the Soil 2 Souls dinners. Further, in sharing recipes from our neighbors, Family Dinners is resident led, in the truest form. Neighbors contribute their own recipes, produce, and food stories, providing the most crucial elements of the program.

As a result of this funding, what will be achieved for both your organization and those you serve?

Beyond the health and financial benefits of preparing home-cooked, locally sourced meals, Family Dinners build relationships and encourage community pride through acknowledging the power of breaking bread together. The partnership will increase food access for residents of Alcy Ball and surrounding areas while creating space for fellowship and cultural celebration.

Our aims are to increase food security by providing meal kits and family dinners for at least 150 families and to have at least 30 participants at each communal meal. The program will also reduce household food spending by decreasing reliance on meals purchased outside the home and/or decrease fast-food consumption by at least one meal per week. In keeping with our overarching Connect program, a sense of belonging and connectedness will increase through providing an outlet for neighbors to share recipes and meals together.

Previous Family Dinner surveys primarily collected information about residents' recipe preferences and program interests. The next phase of the program will include pre- and post-surveys to determine whether the program increases the number of meals cooked at home and helps residents feel more confident about what to cook. These two outcomes were specifically identified as



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priorities by residents. We will also assess whether participants saved money on food spending as a result of using the meal kits and learning new, easy, affordable recipes.

Attendance records and recipe kit collection numbers will be tracked to monitor engagement and program quality. We will evaluate Soil 2 Souls community dinners through brief questionnaires to assess whether participation increases residents' sense of connection and belonging within the community.

Full Name of Executive Director or Authorized Signer:

Seth Harkins

Date:

2/12/2026

Alcy Ball Development Corporation



FY26 Give 365 Family Dinner	
PROPOSED BUDGET	
ORGANIZATION NAME: Alcy Ball Development Corporation	
PROJECT NAME: Family Dinners	
Proposal Budget	

REVENUE	AMOUNT		
Give365	\$ 15,000		
	\$ 15,000		
PROPOSAL EXPENDITURES (Uses)	AMOUNT	Cost	Total Cost
Meal kit items	\$40	180	\$7,200
Refrigerator	\$1,600	1	\$1,600
Videography	\$300	6	\$1,800
Chef Stipend	\$200	6	\$1,200
Print Material	\$100	1	\$100
Shared meals food (\$10 pp/ 30 ppl)	\$300	6	\$1,800
Paper Goods	\$50	6	\$300
Admin split CTC/ABDC	\$1,000	1	\$1,000
			\$15,000



Letter of Support for Alcy-Ball Development Corporation Re: GiVE 365 Grant Application – Family Dinner Program

To Whom It May Concern,

Soil 2 Souls is pleased to offer this letter of support for Alcy-Ball Development Corporation’s GiVE 365 grant application. This letter is also intended to clearly articulate the role, values, and scope of *Soil 2 Souls* within this partnership.

Soil 2 Souls is a **resident-led community organizing collective rooted in food, land, and storytelling** in South Memphis. Grounded in the Measuring Love framework, our work centers love, healing, and collective power as base-building strategies. Through communal foodways, land stewardship, and shared storytelling, we organize residents to deepen political education, strengthen relationships, grow leadership, and model place-based, resident-governed systems that advance food sovereignty, cultural preservation, and community economics.

One of our organizing practices is *The Soul Table* docuseries, a community-centered program that activates residents’ kitchens and homes as sites of storytelling, relationship-building, and meaning-making. Residents serve as hosts, lead cooks, storytellers, and co-curators of each gathering, while partner organizations support outreach, alignment, and continuity with broader resident-led initiatives. *Soil 2 Souls* facilitates each gathering, designs the narrative framework, and documents authentic resident voice through short documentary storytelling.

Our partnership with Alcy-Ball Development Corporation builds on shared values around resident leadership, food access, and community connection. Within the Family Dinner program, *The Soul Table* strengthens engagement by grounding food access efforts in trust, lived experience, and cultural context. These gatherings produce qualitative insights often missed by top-down approaches, while increasing resident confidence, connection, and long-term participation—outcomes that directly strengthen partner organizations’ bases.

We are proud to support ABDC’s application and look forward to continuing this partnership in service of resident-led, community-rooted solutions.

Sincerely,

JoElle Thompson, MPH
***Soil 2 Souls*, Project Founder and Director**

