

# Community Needs Assessment Highlights

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Field Policy and Management

2016

# Region 1: Springfield, MA

Following success and promise, the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) city suffered an F3 tornado ripping a half mile wide, 6.2 mile long swath of destruction through the heart of downtown Springfield on June 1, 2011. The City was awarded \$21.8 million in Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) funds.

On the fourth anniversary in 2015, Acting Regional Administrator Kristine Foye and Community Planning & Development (CPD) Director Robert Shumeyko joined Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno, U.S. Congressman Richard Neal and other local officials in touring areas of the City that were impacted by the tornado to see how the City's tornado recovery efforts were progressing.



**Milestone:** The City has used CDBG-R funds to make tremendous effort in redeveloping a neighborhood devastated by the tornado and has ended up with an area that has a mix of affordable and market rate housing just south of downtown. HUD continues to use the CNA framework to support the City's recovery efforts.

# Region 2: Utica, NY

Nine community stakeholder groups, representing more than 50 agencies and organizations, convened in roundtable discussions over a two-month period to gather information. Utilizing input from roundtable discussions and 2,478 student and resident surveys, the City of Utica identified priority needs, solutions, and action steps relating to three main topics: Economic Development; Community Development; Health, Education, and Changing Demographics.

**Milestone 1:** *In collaboration with HUD, Utica developed an Anti-Poverty Strategy and a 2-year Action Plan that is being used to collectively impact residents, businesses and neighborhoods.*

**Milestone 2:** *Following the CNA, the City of Utica applied for \$4,586,573 in local, state, and federal grant funding and received \$4,336,573 to support several community and economic development projects.*



# Region 3: Reading, PA

On December 5th, 2014, the Philadelphia HUD Regional Office and Reading Office of Community Development held an All-Stakeholders meeting hosted by Mayor Vaughn Spencer and Council President Francis Acosta. Six federal agencies (HUD, HHS, SBA, SSA, EPA, and GSA), city officials, and several stakeholder groups (including the Chamber of Commerce, Greater Reading Economic Partnership, and Berks Community Health Center) met in Reading for a roundtable discussion.

The stakeholder groups and the City discussed the challenges faced and obstacles that affect ongoing initiatives. Federal partners in attendance were able to provide direct feedback to many of the concerns raised by the group.

**Milestone:** *The early successes in Reading truly highlight the importance and power of a well-executed CNA Stakeholder meeting.*

*Since the meeting, a City that once felt, “disconnected from federal agencies that fund City projects,” now has a direct line of communication to six federal agencies. More impressively, the GSA Region III Administrator is working to certify the City for approval to obtain state and federal excess property; make available surplus vehicles for the City to purchase at discounted costs; and provide excess computers to Reading School District!*





# Region 4: Knoxville, TN

***Milestone: Revitalization of Kingsport's Midtown Neighborhood continues with rededication of Lee Apartments Family Learning Center in July, 2015, and new Community Garden Project.***

The Knoxville HUD Office has been working with Kingsport, Tennessee as one of our Community Needs Assessment areas. Kingsport had been the recipient of one of 17 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant awards in 2012.

The Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority held a grand reopening of the Lee Family Learning Center, followed by a backpack and school supplies distribution event. Located at Lee Apartments (center of Kingsport's transformation plan, approved by HUD), the Lee Family Learning Center originally opened in 1992 to provide literacy programs, individual tutoring and after-school programs for school-age children. The center includes a small library space, meeting room, multimedia room, kitchen area and computer lab upstairs.



# Region 5: Indianapolis, IN

The Indianapolis HUD office—Field Policy & Management (FPM), CPD, Multifamily (MF) and Office of General Counsel (OGC) — worked diligently to preserve more than 300 1 and 2 bedroom units of affordable housing at Keystone North (located within a mile of the proposed Red Rapid Transit Line). Although the property has recently been sold, the closing won't occur until the HAP contract for 300 Section 8 vouchers has been transferred. Renovations will be capitalized via a Section 108 loan through the City of Indianapolis. During Q1 of FY2015, the Section 108 loan documents were finalized and the appropriate contracts for the sale, including the HAP contract, were readied for completion.



***Milestone: The preservation of 300 affordable rental units in Indianapolis is a true success for this CNA location born of targeted cross-program collaboration and key partnerships with the local officials.***

# Region 6: Baton Rouge, LA

The City of Baton Rouge is an excellent partner and has been very open throughout the assessment process.

The momentum garnered in the initial stages carried over into this fiscal year's target goal of convening three (3) cluster meetings. Two of the meetings were held to further discuss the resources and strategies to address the community's top four prioritized areas of concern: Education, Healthcare, Housing & Workforce Development. The third cluster meeting focused on detailed reports from each working group identifying plans of action and strategies to seek resources in support of plan implementation.

Each working group did an excellent job of pulling together partnering agencies to establish collaborative networks strategically focused on achieving various outcomes.

**Milestone: Baton Rouge solicited full participation from its stakeholders from the early stages of community profiling to the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> community roundtables designed to initiate dialogue on the community's prioritized needs.**



Mayor Holden addressing the  
Community Stakeholders



# Region 7: Des Moines, IA

***Milestone: This is the first regional housing plan in Central Iowa!***



The Des Moines, Iowa Field Office Director (FOD) served on the steering committee to design one of the first implementation steps of the Tomorrow Plan - The Regional Affordable Housing Plan slated for Waterloo, IA. The final product was provided to the Policy Committee in April of 2015.



# Region 8: Bakken, ND



***Milestone: As a result of Region 8's work, a referral system was established and is being used to provide services to new households that are experiencing homelessness.***

To assist in increasing affordable housing, the local field office did research on available affordable housing equity resources and provided Vision West Consortium an overview of HUD's housing resources. The field office coordinated a TA discussion with the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency and the State HFA, resulting in a new "Housing Incentive Fund" (HIF) to support the development of affordable housing within the oil patch.

The ND FOD participated on a number of Federal Partnership calls addressing issues (including violence against woman, human trafficking, and domestic abuse) within the oil patch. These calls established coordinated discussions to identify homeless needs/resources for communities throughout the oil patch.

# Region 9: Los Angeles, CA

The City team worked on aligning and targeting city departments and resources for the LA Promise Zone efforts. Year 2 program activities include: developing a comprehensive management plan, creating the measurement system and accountability framework, establishing the communication infrastructure for social media campaign and outreach, and community and partner engagement. Year 2 coordinating activities include conducting a federal grant searching and writing workshop and engaging elected officials, philanthropic partners, city departments and Mayor's Office Directors, and other institutional partners (public sector officials) in the LA Promise Zone activities and goals. Los Angeles is both a CNA Community as well as a First Round Promise Zone designee.



**Milestone:** To date, the LA Promise Zone has been awarded 20 federal grants and 1 technical assistance award for activities for the LA Promise Zone from the 13 federal partners collaborative.

# Region 10: Bremerton, WA

Over the past 2 years, FPM has worked with City of Bremerton and our partners to assist the City in moving forward with some of its priorities. Through FPM's work and collaboration, the city was granted 7 additional single family revitalization areas in FY2015, providing the opportunity for teachers, police, firefighters and EMTs to purchase HUD real estate owned (REO) homes at a discount, thus providing more opportunity for affordable housing in Bremerton.

To help Bremerton refocus its efforts on economic development in its downtown core, CPD helped the City develop a new approach to managing its CDBG formula funds. CDBG funds will now be targeted to the blighted downtown area (a designated slum and blight area since 1978). The City also received TA that helped establish a master plan of action for revitalizing its downtown core that will preserve its character, attract business to its downtown core and people to its waterfront while providing housing within the down core for those who might otherwise live in Seattle.



***Milestone: As a result of FPM convening meetings with EPA, Bremerton was 1 of 50 communities nationwide selected by EPA for its “Making a Visible Difference in Communities” initiative.***