



Issue #3

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Virginia LISC E News

LISC Launching UP Neighborhoods Initiative

As part of a recent assessment and re-structuring process, LISC has renewed its focus in the Central Virginia region, including Greater Richmond and the City of Petersburg, and returns to the communities that it has invested in over the last nineteen years.



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As we move forward, Virginia LISC is now embracing a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to building vibrant neighborhoods. Our *UP Neighborhoods Initiative* hopes to integrate economic, community and social development strategies in targeted areas around the region.

While participating neighborhood selections have not yet been finalized, three areas of the city are consistently being recommended for this type of revitalization effort: North Richmond, Church Hill and Southside. After initiating intense community engagement in Petersburg for the last two years, two areas are being recommended: Battersea and Halifax. Battersea will be the first target neighborhood for our *UP Neighborhoods Initiative*.

In general, Virginia LISC will complete an analysis process, with input from key regional stakeholders and baseline data using our in-house Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capabilities, to help finalize the participating UP Neighborhood Initiative areas. We will then implement a Request for Proposal process that will lead to the selection of five seasoned nonprofit organizations that are rooted in the selected neighborhoods and are willing to play a Convening Agency (CA) role in this initiative. While these partners will utilize one or more of their organizational strengths to launch respective community building efforts, their more important role will be to orchestrate a collaborative of partners who will agree to work towards the implementation of goals set forth by residents. The CA will also play a critical role in leading community outreach and meaningful civic engagement at the grassroots neighborhood level to ensure trust-building and two-way understanding. These attributes will be the building blocks of sustaining a Quality of Life planning process that will result in prioritized, resident shaped neighborhood strategies that we will work to implement over the next two years.



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Virginia LISC
Strategic Plan Goals
July 2009 - June 2011

Goal I

Build the next generation of community development work for Central Virginia that utilizes

Working together, residents, the CA's, participating partner organizations and Virginia LISC will integrate and implement a variety of economic, community and social development strategies to advance the quality of life in the targeted UP Neighborhood Initiative areas.

To start off the Initiative, Virginia LISC has issued a RFP for the Battersea neighborhood of Petersburg. The RFP and details may be obtained from Veronica Jemmott at 804.358.7602 ext 11 or vjemmott@lisc.org or they may be obtained from Barbara DuVal at 804.358.7602 ext 12 or bduval@lisc.org.

LISC AmeriCorp Coming



In 1994, LISC began its sponsorship of an AmeriCorps program as an additional strategy to help community development corporations build organizational capacity and address unmet local needs. With an award from the Corporation for National and Community Service, LISC will be sponsoring AmeriCorps

members in conjunction with 16 local LISC offices across the country. LISC will be hosting 248 members in the Bay Area (San Francisco/Oakland), Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Duluth, Cincinnati, Houston, Jacksonville, Michigan (Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Flint, Pontiac), Milwaukee, Phoenix, Rhode Island, San Diego, Toledo, Twin Cities and Virginia.

AmeriCorps members will be engaged in developing programs and community service projects related to developing affordable housing, homeownership/ foreclosure prevention counseling, community organizing, after-school activities for under-achieving students, and aiding low-income individuals gain access to resources. Members help promote volunteerism and civic engagement by encouraging neighbors to take active roles in helping to transform their communities.

Virginia LISC will sponsor 12 AmeriCorp members. Our AmeriCorp Partners include Pathways (hosting 4 full-time members and 2 part-time members), ElderHomes (hosting 1 full-time member and 1 part-time member), Virginia Supportive Housing (hosting 2 full-time members) and Southside Community Development and Housing (hosting 1 full-time member and 1 part-time member). Check back to learn about the projects these AmeriCorp members will be engaged with.

GRACRE Donation to Virginia LISC

Virginia LISC (Local Initiative Support Corporation) received a \$10,000 donation from the Greater Richmond Association for Commercial Real Estate (GRACRE) that will bolster LISC efforts in transforming distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities.

The donation funds were raised during the 18th annual GRACRE Charity Golf Tournament held May



a comprehensive approach to achieve vibrant neighborhoods

Goal II

Strengthen LISC's capacity building and financial services to core community development partners working in Central Virginia

Goal III

Reposition Virginia LISC and our partners to advance public policies and related resources that benefit neighborhoods and the overall community development industry.

Goal IV

Increase Virginia LISC's internal capacity to support a bold and comprehensive neighborhood building strategy and reinforce its status as a financially strong community leader.



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6th at Independence Golf Club. Bob Murphy, GRACRE member and Vice President of Business Development at the Greater Richmond Partnership helped coordinate and participated in the event.

GRACRE President David Auman presented Virginia LISC Interim Executive Director Greta Harris with the donation during its breakfast event at the Country Club of Virginia. "During previous years two organizations received proceeds from the event," Mr. Auman said to an audience of GRACRE members. "This year, however, we decided to give support to one deserving organization and Virginia LISC was a logical recipient."

The importance of the nexus between the nonprofit and business communities was exemplified through this generous donation as organizations partner to make the Richmond region a vibrant place to live and work. Virginia LISC says THANK YOU!



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Dwala Ferrell is a 2009 Housing Award Winner

Congratulations to Dwala Ferrell for receiving a Virginia Housing Coalition's (VHC) Housing Leadership Award. Dwala, who is executive director of the nonprofit Pathways in Petersburg, was honored during the Virginia Housing Coalition's Annual Awards Dinner on June 25th at the Omni Richmond Hotel.



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