

**Berrien County - Community Improvement Strategy: Housing & Youth Development**

**Berrien County seeks to improve the condition of the local housing stock as well as increase the availability of affordable housing for the local workforce. The County also desires to provide more positive youth programming within the county in order to enhance the development of the county’s future leaders.**

**Issues to be Addressed**

Berrien County sees the need to provide a higher standard of housing and more affordable housing options to its citizens so that all citizens can enjoy a higher quality of life. In addition, with approximately 21.9% of the citizens of Berrien County living below the poverty level and 33.2% of those being children 0-17, Berrien County will work to provide constructive youth development experiences in order to effect positive change in the future leaders of Berrien County.

**Measures of Success**

The community will measure their success at the end of two years by

1. Conducting a housing needs assessment
2. Applying for GICH
3. Applying for grants to rehabilitate housing in the county
4. Forming the Berrien County Arts Council
5. Developing a Youth Leadership Council and implement youth leadership programming.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

<b>Issue Addressed</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Local Partners</b>	<b>Responsible State Partners</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	<b>Starting and ending dates for completion of action item</b>
Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Form team of interested citizens and community groups to work on housing in Berrien County (and who will eventually form the GICH Committee)	Local governments, Chamber of Commerce	DCA	n/a	n/a	May 2010 On going
Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Work with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission to submit proposal to DCA to fund a housing needs assessment and then Contract with them to produce the housing needs assessment	Berrien County Housing Committee	DCA	\$8,000	DCA Regional Commission Funding	April 2010

Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Submit GICH application to DCA	Berrien County Housing Committee	DCA	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Look into forming a partnership with Valdosta's Habitat for Humanity Chapter	Berrien County Housing Committee	n/a	To be determined	To be determined	May 2010 Jan. 2011
Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Research the possibility of USDA grants to do elderly housing rehabilitation	Berrien County Housing Committee	USDA	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Housing Revitalization/ Affordable Housing	Apply for CHIP or CDBG grant for housing revitalization or construction	Berrien County Housing Committee	DCA, Southern Georgia Regional Commission	TBD	TBD	CDBG 4/2011 Chip/ 2010
Create Arts Council in Berrien County	Form group of interested citizens to work on forming Arts Council in Berrien County	Berrien County Arts Council Committee	n/a	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Create Arts Council in Berrien County	Consult with Karen Paty, Community Arts Development Manager for the Georgia Council for the Arts. Have her come to community to speak.	Berrien County Arts Council Committee	Georgia Council for the Arts	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Create Arts Council in Berrien County	Read through the Georgia Council for the Arts "Arts Council Development Handbook" at <a href="http://gca.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/33/9/151697087Arts%20Council%20Handbook.pdf">http://gca.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/33/9/151697087Arts%20Council%20Handbook.pdf</a>	Berrien County Arts Council Committee	Georgia Council for the Arts	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Create Arts Council in Berrien County	Develop arts programming for youth, as well as families in the county	Berrien County Arts Council Committee	GA Council For the Arts	TBC	TBD	July 2010

Youth Leadership Programs	Develop a Youth Leadership Council for the county with involvement by city and county leaders	Local governments, Family Connection Collaborative, churches, Berrien County Board of Education, 4-H	Family Connection, DCA, 4-H	n/a	n/a	June 2010
Youth Leadership Program	Develop a plan for increasing youth leadership programs such as the CityYear youth civic leadership experience for Senior High Schoolers	Youth Leadership Council	Family Connection, DCA, 4-H	n/a	n/a	July 2010
Youth Leadership Program	Further develop the existing job shadowing program for high school students with area businesses and city governments	Youth Leadership Council, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and other Civic Groups		TBD	TBD	June 2010
Youth Leadership Program	Apply for a YAPI (Youth Adult Partnership Initiative) Grant to implement the job shadowing program ( <a href="http://www.georgia4h.org/yapi/grants/">www.georgia4h.org/yapi/grants/</a> )	Youth Leadership Council	Jeff Buckley - Extension 4-H Faculty Global & Citizenship Programs University of Georgia 320 Hoke Smith Annex Athens, GA 30602-4356 Office: (706)542-8735 Fax: (706) 542-4373 <a href="mailto:jbuckley@uga.edu">jbuckley@uga.edu</a>	TBD	TBD	TBD

Youth Leadership Program	Conduct Positive Information Campaign to promote literacy, family, civic involvement through the use of billboards, newspaper articles, church bulletins, etc.	Youth Leadership Council	Communities In Schools and Family Connection Partnership	TBD	TBD	July 2010
Youth Leadership Program	Develop successful communication system to get important information home to parents	Youth Leadership Council	Communities In Schools and Family Connection Partnership	TBD	TBD	July 2010