

# Community Improvement Strategy for Calhoun County

*Calhoun County will concentrate and collaborate efforts to promote business development, address housing issues, encourage community health and increase literacy awareness to strengthen the foundation of economic stability.*

## Issues to be addressed

Calhoun County' population is approximately 5,200 (not counting our guests in the Calhoun State Prison). The county is comprised of 4 independent cities, Arlington, Edison, Leary and the County Seat Morgan. According to the 2009 County Guide; we are ranked 156<sup>th</sup> in per capita personal income of only \$18,606, we are ranked 158<sup>th</sup> with 1,453 citizens living below poverty level, and we are ranked 141<sup>st</sup> with an unemployment rate of 6.3%. Due to the restricted funds, the county does not have a chamber of commerce and therefore the Economic Development Council is the "hub" of economic development at this time with an entirely voluntary collaborative. It is imperative that Calhoun County concentrate efforts on economic development, community health issues and literacy awareness to strengthen its place in the competition for business development and new residents.

## Strategy

As a Community of Opportunity, Calhoun County will strive to accomplish the following over the next two years:

- 1) Provide information to the community regarding the Ferst Books Program
- 2) Provide information on the benefits of walking for exercise
- 3) Provide information to the community on the importance of annual health screenings
- 4) Provide survey to each city and their residents on housing improvements and issues
- 5) Promote Calhoun County's assets and attractions

## Measures of Success

For each strategy listed above, success will be measured as follows:

- 1) Calhoun County will increase the number of qualified children enrolled in the Ferst Books Program from 151 to 196.
- 2) Calhoun County will increase the number of youth and adults who walk for exercise from 1 out of 10 to 5 out of 10. (Focus will begin with 4-H'ers, hospital employees, health dept. employees and clients)
- 3) Calhoun County will increase the number of women (between the ages of 20 and 40) who receive annual health screenings from the county Health Dept. from 256 to 285.
- 4) Calhoun County will initiate a survey to each city and their residents on housing improvement and other related issues. This has never been completed and therefore there is no previous measurement. However, we hope to have at least 25% of each city's population return the surveys.

## Implementation Plan

<i><b>Issue Addressed</b></i>	<i><b>Action Item</b></i>	<i><b>Responsible Local Partners</b></i>	<i><b>Responsible State Partners</b></i>	<i><b>Cost Estimate</b></i>	<i><b>Possible funding Sources</b></i>	<i><b>Start &amp; End dates for completion of action item</b></i>
Literacy Awareness	Increase the number of qualified children enrolled in Ferst Books Program by 45 children	Calhoun County Library		\$36.00 match per child for one year enrollment = \$1,625	Communities of Opportunities grant, Ferst Foundation	July 2009 – June 2011
Literacy Awareness	During monthly WIC appointments, staff will encourage enrollment of children in Ferst Books Program to increase the number of qualified children enrolled in Ferst Books Program by 27 children	Calhoun County Health Department		\$0		July 2009 – June 2011

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Literacy Awareness	Include Ferst Books Program awareness information in monthly newsletter (along with church bulletins, local newspaper, PTA publication, etc) to increase the number of qualified children enrolled in Ferst Books Program by 27 children	Calhoun County Family Connection		\$50 per month	Calhoun County Family Connection	July 2009 – June 2011
Promote Community Health	Increase the number of youth and adults who walk for exercise by giving out pedometers and recording walking efforts, along with information on the health benefits of walking	Calhoun Co. Extension Service, Calhoun Co. Health Dept., and Calhoun Memorial Hospital, State Farm		\$0 – pedometers provided by State Farm	n/a	July 2009 – June 2011
Promote Community Health	Increase the number of women (between the ages of 20 and 40) who receive annual health screenings by paying for 29 women's screenings.	Calhoun Co. Health Dept., Calhoun Extension Service, Calhoun Memorial Hospital		\$875	Communities of Opportunities grant, Calhoun Co. Health Dept.	July 2009 – June 2011
Promote Community Health	Assure Calhoun County 4-H'ers assistance in attending camp to promote their one year commitment to community health.	Calhoun County Extension Service		\$500	Communities of Opportunities Grant, Calhoun County Extension Service	July 2009 – June 2011

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Economic Development	Housing Survey for each of the 4 cities and their residents	City of Arlington City of Edison City of Leary City of Morgan Calhoun County EDC	SWGAs RDC, DCA	\$100 per city = \$400	Communities of Opportunities Grant, EDC, individual cities, and the county	July 2009 – June 2011
Economic Dev.	Asset and Festival promotion through printed materials, travel to meetings, etc.	Calhoun County EDC and each city	Dept. of Economic Dev. , Plantation Trace Tourism	\$1,600	Communities of Opportunities, EDC, individual cities and the county	July 2009 – June 2011

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto Agree to adopt the Calhoun County Community Improvement Strategy.

FOR THE RECIPIENT

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair, County

Program Coordinator

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor, City