

2010 Communities of Opportunity – Dooly County

Community Improvement Strategy: Education, Housing & Workforce Development

Community Improvement Strategy:

Dooly County seeks to improve educational attainment for all its citizens, particular the skills of its workforce, in order to strengthen their ability to attract industry to the county. The County also wants to provide affordable housing to its workforce and improve the local perception of the county school system.

Issues to be Addressed

With an average unemployment rate at 9.6% and approximately 22.5% of the citizens of Dooly County living below the poverty level, Dooly County sees the need to better educate its citizens to improve their quality of life. Dooly County also feels that there is a need to improve the perception of the county's school system. There is the perception that the negative image of the local school system is the reason that families with school age children are not purchasing homes or moving into the county. To that end, the county will form a Public Relations committee to address the misconceptions and promote successes to raise awareness and project a positive image of the school system.

In addition, a better-educated workforce could entice industry to locate in Dooly County, enhancing overall economic development. Dooly County wants to investigate the economic development benefits of becoming a Certified Work Ready Community. The county will also work towards providing affordable housing to the workforce by rehabilitating substandard housing in the area and working to promote and market affordable housing options within the area.

Strategy

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

1. Develop and implement plan in order to bring about a more positive perception of the Dooly County School System
2. Support school system's effort to increase high school graduation rate
3. Investigate Certified Work Ready process
4. Implement Vienna GICH Plan and implement county wide measures

Measures of Success

At the end of 2 year, success will be measured as follows

- Have Fred McConnell speak to community about the Work Ready Program
- Community considers applying to Work Ready Program
- Improve high school graduation rate from 61.3% to 64.8% by 2012
- GICH plan implemented
- Improve public opinion of the local school system (measured by comparing survey taken in 2009 and another taken in 2012).

Strategy	Action Item (or Implementation Step)	Responsible Local Partners	Responsible State Partners	Cost Estimate	Possible Funding Sources	Starting and ending dates for completion of action item
Improve public perception of the Dooly County School System	Create Public Relations Committee	Public Relations Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Dooly Co. Family Connections, Vienna GICH Team Ms. West, Ms. Jones	DCA	Negligible	N/A	March 2010
Improve public perception of the Dooly County School System	Inform Board of Education that Public Surveys about Education will be conducted	Public Relations Committee	DCA	Negligible	N/A	March 2010
Improve	Assess Public's	Dooly Co. Family	DCA	\$250	Family	March 2010 -

public perception of the Dooly County School System	Concerns with the Dooly County School System	Connections			Connections Grant	May 2010
Improve public perception of the Dooly County School System	Share Results of Assessments with School Board	Public Relations Committee	DCA	\$100	Family Connections Grant	June 2010
Improve public perception of the Dooly County School System	Create Public Relations Plan Based on Assessment Results	Public Relations Committee	DCA DEcD	\$650	Co-Op Grant	June 2010
Improve public perception of the Dooly County School System	Implement Public Relations Plan	Public Relations Committee. School Board	DCA DEcD	Unknown	Co-Op Grant	August 2010
Workforce Development	Invite Fred McConnel, Work Ready	Dooly County local governments,	DOL, Governor's Office of	n/a	n/a	April 2010

	Community Manager, to come speak to Dooly County	Dooly County Chamber of Commerce	Workforce Development			
Workforce Development	Determine whether or not the community wants to apply for Georgia's Certified Work Ready Community Initiative	Dooly County local governments, Dooly County Chamber of Commerce	DCA, Governor's Office of Workforce Development, River Valley Regional Commission	n/a	n/a	April – May 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Obtain a copy, review, and update a housing needs assessment done for the Vienna Housing Authority in 2001	GICH Committee, Perry Ivey, Vienna Housing Authority	DCA	n/a	n/a	March 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Investigate feasibility of county-wide housing assessment	GICH committee, Perry, Ivey, River Valley Regional Commission	DCA	n/a	n/a	April 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Work with the River Valley Regional Commission to complete a Housing	GICH Committee, River Valley Regional Commission	DCA, River Valley Regional Commission	\$5000	Housing Activity Grant from DCA and City of Vienna budget	April 2010- May 2010

	Inventory/Assessment for the City of Vienna					
Provide affordable housing options	Create countywide homebuyer/homeowner education program	GICH committee, Perry Ivey, SW GA United, River Valley Regional Commission	DCA	To be determined	To be determined	Sept 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Develop building sites inventory identifying locations for new subdivisions and infill projects	GIGH Committee, Perry Ivey	DCA	n/a	n/a	June 2010 – Sept 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Develop a Subdivision Ordinance	GICH Committee, County Zoning Officer Perry Ivey	DCA	n/a	n/a	January 2011 – March 2011
Provide affordable housing options	Promote 2 nd floor loft apartments downtown Vienna	GICH Committee, Vienna Historic Preservation Commission, Vienna Better Hometown	DCA	n/a	n/a	October 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Market Community to Retirees and Seniors	GICH Committee Perry Ivey Chamber	DCA	n/a	n/a	January 2011
Provide	Review current	GICH Committee	DCA	n/a	n/a	August 2010

affordable housing options	codes and update where needed (lot size requirement, etc)	Perry Ivey				
Provide affordable housing options	Pursue funding for housing rehabilitation (CHIP & CDBG)	GICH Committee Perry Ivey River Valley, Carol's Consulting	DCA	To be determined	CHIP, CDBG	April 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Investigate potential Opportunity Zone designations throughout the county	GICH Committee, Community Development Director, Perry Ivey, River Valley	DCA	n/a	n/a	March 2010
Provide affordable housing options	Rehabilitate 5 houses	GICH Committee Perry Ivey	DCA	To be determined	CDBG, CHIP	January – December 2011
Provide affordable housing options	Consider a Tri-County Land Bank Authority	GICH Committee SW GA United, Crisp County, Pulaski County	DCA, River Valley Regional Commission	To be determined	To be determined	June – September 2010