

Community Improvement Strategy:

Schley County seeks to improve educational attainment for all its citizens, by focusing on increasing the number of GED recipients. The County also seeks to lower the number of teenage pregnancies.

Issues to be Addressed

With unemployment at 13.8% and with 18% of the 4,255 citizens of Schley County living below the poverty level, Schley County sees the need to better educate its citizens. Although the high school graduation rate is 82.2%, according to the 2000 census data, 30% of the population of the county (ages 25+) does not have a high school diploma or equivalent. Schley County believes that if its population is better educated, it will be able to offer a more attractive workforce to entice industry to locate in Schley County, enhancing overall economic development. In addition, Schley County would like to reduce its teenage pregnancy rate. According to data from the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, the 2005 county rate for teenage girls ages 15-19 was 92.7 per 1000 and in 2007 was 64.3 per 1000. (On average Georgia's rate is 67 per 1000 and the nation's rate is 40.5 per 1000.) { According to the Kids Count Data, the number of teenage pregnancies in 2005 in teenage girls from age 15-19 was 14 and in 2007, it was 9. }

Strategy

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

Measures of Success

For each strategy listed above, success will be measured at the end of 2 years as follows:

1. Schley County will increase the percentage of adults in Schley County who have their high school diploma or GED from 68.1% to 72% by 2011
2. Schley County will reduce the rate of pregnancies to girls, ages 15-19, in Schley County from a 3-year average (2003-2005) of 74 per 1000 to a three-year average (2009-2011) of 68 per 1000 by 2011.

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
Decrease teenage pregnancy rate	Bring all the resource providers and youth programs together at Family Connections meetings to determine how they can work together	Heather Philips, Schley County Family Connection	DCA, State Department of Community Health, Georgia Division of Public Health	n/a	n/a	Begin attending monthly Family Connection meetings in December 2009
Decrease teenage pregnancy rate	Community wake up call – Youth Rally	Jetendra Lloyd, Schley County Family Connection, Schley County Board of Education, local churches, and other community organizations	State Department of Community Health, Georgia Division of Public Health, Georgia 4-H, Boys and Girls Club, UGA College of Family and Consumer Sciences,	Needs to be determined	Needs to be determined	Begin planning in November 2009 Youth Rally will occur in May 2010

			Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (G-CAPP)			
Decrease teenage pregnancy rate	Determine the root cause of why children are getting pregnant by conducting one-on-one interviews with teens and doing a community survey	Jetendra Lloyd/Girls Gone Wise	Girls Gone Wise, churches, school	n/a	n/a	January 2010 too December 2010
Decrease teenage pregnancy rate	Investigate existing parental training and mentoring programs and see which would work in Schley County	Jetendra Lloyd, churches Community organizations	DCH	Needs to be determined	Needs to be determined	January 2010
Decrease teenage pregnancy rate	Begin Abstinence in the schools -- Target audience is 6 th to 8 th grade Need to	Heather Phillips will do the training in the schools. Katrisha	DCH	n/a	DCH in-kind	January 2010-December 2011

	determine if we can target the youth that have been in the court system	Williams will train the trainers.				
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Schley County Communities of Opportunity
Goal: Adult Literacy

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
Increase Adult Literacy	Create and Publish Adult Literacy Assistance Pamphlet and posters. Develop plan to disseminate the publication.	Linda Adams	Local GED facilities, Turner Job Corps, Workforce Investment Board, Paxen Center	Will determine printing costs	Will seek funding to cover printing costs	January – March 2010
Increase Adult Literacy	Determine how to identify the people who need help (consider the	Carline Beckwith, Senior Center	Georgia Department of Labor	n/a	N/A	January 2010

	elderly, people who have been laid off, others who need retraining)					
Increase Adult Literacy	Support effort to become a Certified Work Ready Community	Schley County Chamber of Commerce, Mickey Holloway	Governor's Office of Workforce Development, South GA Tech	N/A	N/A	March 2010
Increase Adult Literacy	Create scholarship fund to pay for 5 GED tests per year	Nancy Young will spearhead fundraising efforts; Schley County Community Foundation will manage the funds.	Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education	\$95 per student to take the whole test x 5 students = \$495	Local fundraising	January 2010 – May 2010
Increase Adult Literacy	Advertising and success stories in the newspaper to increase awareness of adult literacy	Linda Adams	N/A	N/A	N/A	Articles to appear starting in January 2010 to coincide with beginning of fundraising efforts and to continue

						through 2011
Increase Adult Literacy	Work through logistics of providing transportation for GED testers to South GA Technical College; create volunteer network	Erin Wright, Don Ten Bensel, Schley County Community Foundation	River Valley Regional Commission, DOT	Needs to be determined	Needs to be determined	February – March 2010
Increase Adult Literacy	Work with the court system to require that GED is a mandatory component of probation	Erin Wright, Probation Regional Director Jody Dillard, Judge Rucker Smith	Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice	n/a	n/a	December 2009 – March 2010