



...supporting and enhancing successful families and sustaining communities in Wichita!

OUR VISION

The City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas have joined together to launch the New Communities Initiative. The initiative is focused first on Central Northeast Wichita and is designed to:

- Provide quality housing for all incomes
- Provide employment opportunities for those needing and seeking jobs
- Enhance the learning environment across all age groups
- Reduce the conditions of blight/ Revitalize the neighborhood
- Address and positively impact quality of life issues
- Develop nurturing opportunities for children and youth

All for the purpose of supporting and enhancing successful families and sustaining communities.

POLICY GROUP MEMBERS

The New Communities Initiative is fortunate to have a group of local and state leaders who have made a commitment to provide leadership in support of the goals and objectives of the Initiative. Following are the names of those who currently make up the Policy Group.*

- Carl Brewer, Wichita Mayor
- LaVonta Williams, Councilperson City of Wichita
- Susan Addington, Community Relations Manager, Koch Industries
- Rob Allison, President, Bank of America Kansas
- James Barber, President, Via Christi Foundation
- Donald Beggs, President, Wichita State University
- Roderick Bremby, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- Winston Brooks, Superintendent, Wichita Public Schools (USD 259)
- Bill Buchanan, Sedgwick County Manager
- Anne Corrison, Program Director, Knight Foundation
- S. Edwards Dismuke, Dean, KU School of Medicine
- Jim Garner, Secretary, Kansas Department of Labor
- Kathy Greenlee, Secretary, Kansas Department of Aging
- J. Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority
- Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
- David Kerr, Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce
- H.E. Flentje, Wichita Interim City Manager
- Keith Lawing, Executive Director, Workforce Alliance
- John Moore, Retired Kansas Attorney General
- Larry Schumacher, President and CEO, Via Christi Wichita*
- Hugh Tappan, Chief Executive Officer, Wesley Medical Center
- Lyndon Wells, Executive Vice-President, INTRUST Bank
- Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

*(Due to employment changes and a desire to broaden the Policy Group even further, new members will be identified within the coming months).



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2007 SUMMARY OF PILLAR GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The New Communities Initiative is organized to provide maximum input and direction from community service providers and residents. Five Pillar Groups were developed out of priorities that emerged from neighborhood data and surveys. These Pillar Groups consist of representatives from the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas, and institutional partners that bring the needed expertise to address each priority area. Here is a summary of just some of their accomplishments from the past year:

1. Adult Education and Economic Development

- Created a call number for individuals seeking employment and business services. Has received 227 calls since July 12, 2007.
- Developed a strategy to assess callers who are then referred to the appropriate service partner.
- Established partnerships with critical service providers around job training and placement.

2. Housing for All

- Provided assistance to City Council Policy Group members, which led to the City Council voting to allocate \$250,000 to support a Master Planning effort.
- Identified the number of vacant (878), unsound/poor (311), and tax delinquent properties (1,439), with the associated loss in tax revenue (\$631,000).
- Implemented the START program to support property owners in the targeted area with code violations, façade improvements and other blight issues

3. Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health

- Designated portions of the City Liquor Tax Funds will focus on the targeted area around substance abuse treatment and prevention and developed partnerships with local service providers to implement the programs.
- Developed strategies to increase awareness and symptom management of diabetes, stroke and heart disease among elders.
- Increased awareness of Healthy Babies program by establishing partnership with the YWCA and Wichita Police Department.

4. Children and Youth

- Prioritized resource needs for schools with the highest concentration of 67214 students through formal data collection. Provided funding to one additional summer learning program in the targeted area to close the achievement gap.
- Established the Kansas Strengthening Kids of Incarcerated Parents (SKIP) program at Winfield Correctional Facility to address the needs of children of incarcerated parents.
- Increase the ability of youth in the targeted area to participate in summer jobs and prepare them for employment by supporting and expanding program, and identify the unemployed teens.

5. Safe and Secure Neighborhoods

- Created the Summer Youth Employment Program, with assistance from the Urban League, which hired eight adolescents to landscape and clean the targeted community last summer.
- Helped coordinate a seminar with the Wichita Police Department in August of 2007 to provide educational opportunities to community members on violence within the community and available local resources.



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