

Summary of Goals and Strategies 2006 to 2011

Housing Goals

Goal 1: Increase ownership opportunities for low and moderate income households. Over the next five years, provide 200 new ownership units for low and moderate income households.

- Strategy 1A: Continue funding and assisting agencies such as Nehemiah Corporation and Habitat for Humanity in the development of new affordable housing
- Strategy 1B: Increase the number of potential new homeowners through marketing, assistance with credit analysis and homeownership counseling
- Strategy 1C: Increase the number of new homeowners by facilitating the involvement of private lenders in low and moderate-income neighborhoods

Goal 2: Increase rental opportunities for low and moderate income households. Over the next five years, provide 100 additional rental units for low and moderate income households.

- Strategy 2A: Use CDBG and/or HOME funds to support multifamily rental housing development in rural areas
- Strategy 2B: Encourage leveraging of other resources to make development of rental housing feasible for for-profit and nonprofit developers
- Strategy 2C: Seek increased resources for tenant based rental assistance for very low-income persons
- Strategy 2D: Increase the supply of public housing, especially in the rural areas of the county.

Goal 3: Preserve and renovate substandard housing and promote community revitalization. Over the next five years, repair 60 substandard homes in need of emergency assistance and renovate to code 300 substandard dwellings.

- Strategy 3A: Provide financial assistance for the repair of homes owned by low and moderate residents
- Strategy 3B: Increase private reinvestment by lenders and property owners in neighborhoods through the use of incentives and other indirect measures
- Strategy 3C: Assist in the development or continuation of concentrated neighborhood rehabilitation programs and activities by helping existing neighborhood organizations and forming new neighborhood organizations dedicated to community revitalization
- Strategy 3D: minimize the abandonment or destruction of housing stock that can be rehabilitated

Goal 4: Eliminate the hazards of lead-based paint from the County's housing stock. Over the next five years, reduce by 25% the annual average incidence of lead based poisoning.

- Strategy 4A: Monitor changes in the number and extent of housing units containing lead- based paint
- Strategy 4B: Work with the Department of Health and Environmental Control to develop an outreach and education program to raise awareness about the dangers associated with lead-based paint
- Strategy 4C: Develop and provide technical assistance to contractors and organizations involved in the rehabilitation and/or renovation of homes containing lead-based paint
- Strategy 4D: Develop educational programs and information for parents with young children living in homes with lead-based paint

Goal 5: Improve blighted and/or slum neighborhoods. Over the next five years, select two Neighborhoods for comprehensive needs analysis and planning, and subsequent concentration of code enforcement, housing and infrastructure improvements.

- Strategy 5A: Promote community- or neighborhood-wide rehabilitation projects and activities
- Strategy 5B: Support code enforcement and demolition of dilapidated dwellings and structures, and clean up undeveloped properties contributing to neighborhood blight
- Strategy 5C: Promote housing maintenance programs to keep homes from falling into disrepair and expand the use of repair programs such as those in use by the City of North Charleston in the rural areas of the county

Goal 6: Ensure fair housing practices. Over the next five years, establish a monitoring system to determine the effectiveness of the following fair housings strategies and adjust as necessary to ensure the elimination of discrimination and unfair housing practices.

- Strategy 6A: Ensure that all persons seeking housing, especially lower income individuals, are provided equal opportunities to housing in all areas of the county
- Strategy 6B: Provide support services to assist low-income residents in overcoming barriers to obtaining and maintaining decent affordable housing
- Strategy 6C: Ensure that all available housing for low and moderate income families meets or exceeds Housing Quality Standards (HQS) as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Strategy 6D: Improve awareness of federal and state fair housing laws. To this end, the County has established a Fair Housing Hot Line, which allows individuals to be advised by phone of their fair housing rights. An outreach program also informs the public of available support and resources through the distribution and display of information in public places and newsletters. The County will also continue to stage public forums, symposiums and public media forum such as FOCUS (channel 2) to advise residents of fair housing laws and their fair housing rights nondiscrimination.

Homeless

In 2005 in the South Carolina Lowcountry Continuum of Care—which includes Charleston, Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton and Jasper counties—there were an estimated 840 homeless persons. Individuals made up 516, homeless families with children comprised 154 and 170 were persons in homeless families with children. In Charleston County alone, there were 620 homeless people identified during a point-in-time survey conducted on January 27, 2005. Of these, 513 were adults and 107 were children. An estimated 196 were chronically homeless, and an annualized 3,094 residents of the county are homeless. Although most were sheltered, the need still exists for more shelter units, particularly individual units. Charleston County, as an active participant in the Lowcountry Continuum of Care Partners, has established its own goals and strategies that support the efforts of the continuum.

- Goal 1: House and feed the homeless. Over the next five years, reduce the referenced point-in-time number of homeless in Charleston County by 20%.
- Goal 2: Reduce the probability of at-risk persons from becoming homeless. Over the next five years, reduce the number of foreclosures by 25%, and reduce the number of evictions to no more than 40 annually.
- Goal 3: Maintain a continuum of supportive services and shelters to meet the needs of the homeless. Over the next five years, increase the supply of emergency shelter space by 35 spaces and the supply of transitional housing by 10 units.

Improving and/or Expanding Community Facilities

Goal 1: Create new and/or improve existing park facilities to meet the recreational needs of low and moderate income residents. Over the next five years, create two new neighborhood park facilities and improve facilities in existing parks serving low and moderate income residents.

- Strategy 1A: Upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities, where necessary
- Strategy 1B: Develop parks and recreational facilities in proximity to low and moderate income communities
- Strategy 1C: Provide meaningful recreational programs (for example, youth sports league activities) and proper supervision of park activities

Goal 2: Make childcare facilities and services affordable and accessible to low and moderate income communities. Over the next five years establish at least two public-private partnerships to provide childcare service in or near low and moderate income communities.

- Strategy 2A: Encourage public-private partnership development of child care facilities to serve low and moderate income communities.

Goal 3: Provide social and training opportunities for the youth of low and moderate income households. Over the next five years, develop two youth centers in or near low and moderate income communities.

- Strategy 3A: Develop youth centers in proximity to low and moderate income communities
- Strategy 3B: Promote the development of and/or support the efforts of job training programs for at-risk youth

Goal 4: Meet the social needs of the elderly. Over the next five years, establish at least two new senior citizen facilities in or near low and moderate income communities.

- Strategy 4A: Develop facilities and programs to meet existing needs of low and moderate income elderly population
- Strategy 4B: Increase the development of facilities and services for the elderly, commensurate with projected increases in the number of elderly

Goal 5: Ensure access by low and moderate income households to quality healthcare facilities and services. Over the next five years, measurably improve access to quality healthcare services by low and moderate income residents.

- Strategy 5A: Develop a system of healthcare clinics distributed geographically to provide comprehensive county coverage
- Strategy 5B: Improve access (transportation) to existing healthcare facilities from rural low and moderate income communities
- Strategy 5C: Expand emergency medical and rescue service to better serve rural low and moderate income communities
- Strategy 5D: Support local initiatives to improve the delivery of healthcare services

Goal 6: Provide the best possible rural transportation system. Over the next five years, measurably improve effectiveness of rural transportation system by increasing ridership above previous years' level.

- Strategy 6A: Continually refine and improve the existing rural transportation system, as this system is the only means of transportation for many low and moderate income households
- Strategy 6B: Support innovative alternatives to improve rural transportation

Goal 7: Make communities and neighborhoods safe. Over the next five years, reduce the rate of reported crimes in low and moderate income communities by 20%.

- Strategy 7A: Increase safety through outreach programs designed to increase crime awareness, promote the use of neighborhood watch patrols and provide violence counseling
- Strategy 7B: Install streetlights in unlighted communities
- Strategy 7C: Assist in "burglar proofing" homes and communities
- Strategy 7D: Remove from the community potential drug houses such as vacant unkempt buildings and structures

Economic Development

Goal 1: Create new enterprises and expand existing businesses by providing training and technical assistance programs to current and potential small-business owners. Over the next five years, assist in the development of three community-based businesses in proximity to and primarily benefiting low and moderate income communities.

- Strategy 1A: Provide training and technical assistance programs necessary for small businesses to become successful community-based entrepreneurs
- Strategy 1B: Support efforts to develop small business opportunities for low and moderate income residents by cultivating skills-building and training workshops

Goal 2: Increase employment opportunities and decrease underemployment of low and moderate income residents. Over the next five years, increase by 10% over previous year's enrollment level of low and moderate income residents in technical and job training programs.

- Strategy 2A: Use the resources of the Charleston County Employment and Training Administration as a vehicle to provide job training, education and job referrals for low and moderate income residents
- Strategy 2B: Utilize youth training programs as opportunities to provide job skills training

Goal 3: Promote and support neighborhood empowerment initiatives to produce economically revitalized neighborhoods. Over the next five years, create, train and assist three new neighborhood associations in improving economic conditions in their neighborhoods.

- Strategy 3A: Support the development of neighborhood associations and provide them with the tools necessary to become self-sufficient and successful
- Strategy 3B: Promote the involvement of residents in planning and revitalization efforts of their neighborhoods

Goal 4: Develop infrastructure, including buildings and building renovations, in support of economic development. Over the next five years, Prepare two or more buildings and/or sites for economic development in proximity to low and moderate income communities.

- Strategy 4A: Work with the Charleston County Economic Development Manager to facilitate economic development opportunities
- Strategy 4B: Renovate marginal and/or abandoned buildings for economic development reuse

Facilitating Communities with Adequate Infrastructure

Goal 1: Provide safe and sanitary water and sewer service to all households. Over the next five years, improve water and sewer facilities and services for 200 low and moderate income households.

- Strategy 1A: Upgrade or replace existing septic systems in unincorporated areas of the County
- Strategy 1B: Upgrade existing water supplies where needed, by extending existing water systems or providing new wells
- Strategy 1C: Support initiatives by participating municipalities to make needed improvements to or extensions of existing sewer systems to serve predominately low and moderate income communities and/or for economic activity designed to benefit low and moderate income communities

Goal 2: Protect the public from flood hazards. Over the next five years, protect 3,210 acres of development in need of storm drainage improvements, as delineated by the Charleston County public works department.

- Strategy 2A: Improve drainage in residential areas including the installation of new drainage conduits and collection structures

Goal 3: Protect the public from fire hazards. Over the next five years, assist rural fire departments serving low and moderate income communities in upgrading fire protection classification by at least one level higher than the previous years' class protection.

- Strategy 3A: Support the public service districts in their efforts to improve fire protection

Goal 4: Provide adequate means of transportation to all developed areas of the county. Over the next five years, pave 42 miles of dirt roads in or serving primarily low and moderate income communities; improve 123 miles of paved streets; and install 32,000 linear feet of sidewalk.

- Strategy 4A: Support street and road, sidewalk and bikeway improvements to facilitate transportation within and strengthen transportation linkages to low and moderate income communities
- Strategy 4B: Encourage transportation alternatives and the development of a balanced system of streets, sidewalks, bikeways and public transportation