

URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS ALLIANCE (UNA) 2009-10 Work Plan

Urban Neighborhoods Alliance (UNA) is a non-profit grassroots community development corporation designed to help the City of Springfield with the improvement and redevelopment of the City’s five center city neighborhoods. UNA provides core services to these neighborhoods through implementation of the Neighborhoods Element of Vision 20/20 and various other plans and strategies. UNA accomplishes this by managing the neighborhood clean-ups within its area, assistance in planning implementation and neighborhood communication and addressing affordable housing needs. UNA is also involved in helping the city address code abatement issues and the foreclosure epidemic crisis we are facing.

Work Program Task	UNA Activities/Progress
Neighborhood Initiative Actions	
I. Development of Collaborative Relationships	
1. Coordinate and work further with member neighborhood associations and help in promotion of these associations.	
2. Pursue additional funding sources for the implementation of the goals & objectives of the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance.	
II. Increase Home Ownership	
1. Continue down payment and closing cost assistance programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand bank consortia. ✓ Market to the residents—multi pronged approach (i.e. Night in schools education program, newsletter, website) 	
2. Continue contractor renovation program and promote same.	
3. Continue to pursue, maintain & market employer-assisted housing programs. Have neighborhoods identify major employers in their areas.	
4. Continue and expand financial literacy & homebuyer education program	
5. Market neighborhoods within the UNA boundaries to bankers, realtors and leaders of faith-based institutions.	

6. Continue to implement Freddie Mac's "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaign to combat predatory lending.	
7. Maintain & expand a Housing Center within the Urban Neighborhoods Alliance to address the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand homebuyer education classes in collaboration with Caring Communities. ✓ Maintain a Tool Lending Library for use by neighborhood residents. 	
8. Develop & implement a plan for the formation of a Community Land Trust to ensure safe, affordable housing for neighborhood residents.	
III. Improve Housing Stock	
1. Continue below market remodeling loan programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand number of financial institutions. ✓ Help pre-qualify borrowers. ✓ Mass market—Wal-Mart approach. 	
2. Hold investment property owners accountable to city codes.	
IV. Improve the Image of Center City Neighborhoods	
1. Decrease crime and perception of crime in the neighborhoods through awareness, promotion, COP program, and elderly programs. Work with the Springfield Police Department in ways to make neighborhoods safer.	
2. Continue the relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and realtors.	
3. Use multi-list to build database. Have neighborhoods identify realtors active in neighborhoods. Include education in UNA programs.	
4. Provided funding is available, coordinate neighborhood open houses in the different neighborhoods to encourage private investment in the center city neighborhoods.	
V. Support and Encourage Neighborhood Initiatives	
1. Provided funding is available, continue current mini-grant program.	

<p>2. Examine government and foundation programs that may expand funding opportunities.</p>	
<p>3. Provided funding is available, continue the coordination of neighborhood clean-up and bulky item pick-up programs and tire disposal events.</p>	
<p>4. Continue landlord training program and encourage more owners of single family residences to attend. Work with landlords and tenants to better educate both to create better living units. Conduct classes or seminars to address these issues and improve landlords/tenant relationship.</p>	
<p>5. Increase neighborhood participation toward common goals.</p>	
<p>6. Work with realtors and neighborhoods to identify new residents in neighborhoods and engage those new residents.</p>	
<p>7. Continue support of crime free multi-housing training particularly in regard to illegal drug activity. Develop a stronger sense of community pride.</p>	

City of Springfield Scope of Work 2009-10

West Central Stabilization Grant (\$6,850)

Provide communication and support to the West Central Neighborhood Association to lead a strategic planning exercise to identify specific issues, goals, and outcomes sought as a result of the program.

- ✓ UNA would work with City staff to develop a strategic planning sessions(s) for the neighborhood.
 - ✓ UNA would facilitate this exercise.
 - ✓ UNA would work with City staff & others for the planning of this event and inviting participants.
 - ✓ UNA would be the lead agency on the identification of goals and help in the implementation of these goals.
 - ✓ UNA would convene a meeting to review the goals and how these have been implemented.
 - ✓ UNA would post all information on the planning exercises on the UNA website, including upcoming events and recaps of the meetings.
 - ✓ UNA will develop flyers and promotional materials to engage and invite residents to participate.
 - ✓ Coordination of the strategic planning exercises will include all related promotional expenses, printing, except mass-mailing to the entire neighborhood residency.
- Coordinate and supervise neighborhood cleanup event(s) which might include curbside pickup, e-waste disposal and prescription drug disposal.
 - ✓ UNA would solicit bids from companies and secure contracts for the implementation of the clean-ups.
 - ✓ Develop flyers and promotional mailers to engage and invite West Central neighborhood to the neighborhood cleanup events.
 - ✓ Organize the mailing and/or door-to-door delivery of cleanup flyers, including the purchase of materials for promotion.
 - ✓ Recruit, organize, and coordinate volunteers to work at each cleanup event.
 - ✓ Deliver signs, supplies, and required paperwork to each event.
 - ✓ Initially, there would be two major clean-ups per year, possibly one on the north and one of the south-side of the neighborhood. The north side clean-up would be held at Campbell Elementary School and the south side clean-up would be held at Temple Baptist. The clean-ups might include the following:
 - ✓ Regular trash;
 - ✓ Bulky item pick-up;
 - ✓ Prescription drug drop-off;
 - ✓ E-Waste disposal
 - ✓ Recycling education done in conjunction with waste hauler
 - ✓ There would also be a fall brush and limb drop-off and pick-up.

- ✓ Provide report with typical cleanup information including the number of residents served, volunteer data, type and tonnage of trash, volume, etc. collected.
- ✓ Expenses associated with the cleanup events, including but not limited to dump fees, supplies, and mailing expenses are eligible for reimbursement.
- Coordinate landlord training and tenant rights.
 - ✓ A specialized landlord training program would be set up and administered for landlords in the West Central neighborhood. This workshop or series of workshops would deal with basic landlord tenant information in addition to specific issues in the West Central neighborhood. This will be set up to best fit the schedule of the West Central, either in a single eight-hour session or broken up into multiple sessions.
 - ✓ The landlord training would be more interactive than other landlord training workshops UNA has done to allow for more participation from the landlords.
 - ✓ Every landlord that attends will receive a certificate upon completion and advertised as a participant in this program. Landlords that attended previous landlord training workshops would be duly noted. Ongoing dialogue would take place between UNA staff and landlords on landlord/tenant issues.
 - ✓ UNA would implement a program that teaches tenant how to become better tenants, what their rights are and how to work with the neighborhood to be part of the community.
 - ✓ UNA would market this program to the neighborhood and conduct these workshops at the best possible times for the neighborhood.
 - ✓ UNA will develop flyers and promotional materials to engage and invite tenants, landlords, and property management companies.
 - ✓ UNA will provide the City a final report following the event(s), identifying results, number of attendees, and other beneficial reporting information needed to gauge the success of the program.
 - ✓ Coordination of the landlord training and tenant rights will include all related promotional expenses, printing, etc. except mass-mailing.
- Assist the COP officer with the development of a neighborhood watch program
 - ✓ UNA will coordinate meetings between the COP officer and the neighborhood block captains to allow for the formation of the Neighborhood Watch program.
 - ✓ UNA will generate maps that show which blocks have block captains covering and where the block captain is located.
 - ✓ UNA will generate spreadsheets that block captains will be able to see where the owner-occupied and rental properties are in their area.
 - ✓ UNA will coordinate quarterly meeting (if wanted) with other neighborhoods that have a Neighborhood Watch program.
 - ✓ UNA will help West Central to secure Neighborhood Watch signs for the neighborhood.
 - ✓ Assisting with the Neighborhood Watch will include all related promotional expenses, printing, etc. except mass-mailing.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (Land Trust) (\$64,800)

- The city shall not authorize payments to UNA for operating expenses unless they are eligible expenses within the requirements and limitations of Title II of Division B. of the Housing and Recovery Act, 2008 as amended. The requirements and limitations of the receipt of these funds by UNA are set forth in Title II of Division B of the Housing Economic Recovery Act, 2008 as amended.