

HERITAGE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE – ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Heritage Community Initiative (“HCI”) has defined education and economic development as its core value and as the means to establish a real foundation for low performing neighborhoods. HCI will implement a comprehensive education-to-employment-to-enterprise [E3] paradigm, with education programs, family support mechanisms, diverse community learning, and a strong system of learning environments at its center. Family support and community learning strategies will include programs to improve health, safety, and environments where learning occurs. Furthermore, HCI will leverage resources and community assets to enhance family access to 21st century learning tools.

ACET promotes ideal principles and values of the Heritage Community, with a focus on the character and history of Atlanta neighborhoods. ACET has designed models that promote high impact education and learning; and has identified engagement and employment as necessary benchmarks for community economic development. Inherent in the framework of HCI, is a community redevelopment model that fully integrates multiple forms of 21st century housing and a business enterprise design that allow market and cooperative economic principles to co-exist. This framework is essential for attacking the structural challenges of neighborhoods within the HCI Zone.

The priority objectives will ultimately raise awareness, capacity and economic self-sufficiency of the citizens within the HCI corridor; while also providing **positive social and economic impact to the City of Atlanta.**

ACET engenders support from the City of Atlanta Government, to support the objectives and proposed details of this Initiative. ACET has initiated interaction with NPU’s, neighborhood associations, homeowners, renters, and business owners to relate the values and viability of HCI. The support that HCI has garnered is strong and growing.

ACET implements and tests the best practices generated by the “We Dream a World” principles, which serve as a framework for attacking the challenges in neighborhoods within the HCI Zone.

EDUCATION

The Heritage Education objectives are defined in four (4) phase 1 priority areas that serve to complete its education mission.

- HCI will be used as a vehicle to engage state and municipal policy makers, advocates, organizers, direct service providers and parents into productive dialogue, while demonstrating how policy recommendations and promotion can affect positive change for citizens in other similar communities in Georgia.
- HCI will provide programmatic support for area non-profits, organizations and schools engaged youth education and outreach through project management, capacity building, funding, policy and best practice integration.
- HCI will continue to promote and assist in the sustainability of a community fund that provides ongoing resources for future initiatives related to education/learning, families, public safety, health, and economics.
- HCI will support funding, management, promotions, and logistics of events and projects that produce the flow information, encourage resident participation, and promote community education

EMPLOYMENT

The Heritage Employment objectives are defined in three (3) priority areas that serve to complete its “everyone working” mission.

- HCI will serve as an employment resource to support training in basic employability skills, cooperative employment, vocational training, green job training and placement, and ongoing professional development.
- HCI will provide a framework to engage all residents for short term and long term volunteer opportunities that contribute to the sustainability of outcome focused community initiatives.
- HCI will market itself as a resource to obtain highly qualified resident workforce; while promoting a live and work environment.

ENTERPRISE & ECONOMICS

The Heritage Economics objectives are defined in four (4) priority areas that serve to complete its business enterprise and economic development mission.

- HCI will be used as a vehicle to engage state and municipal policy makers, advocates, organizers, direct service providers and families into productive dialogue regarding how best to transform residential housing and commercial corridors
- HCI will provide programmatic and support (project management, funding, and best practices) for HCI businesses, non-profits, organizations, and schools challenged by limited financial and human resource capacity.
- HCI will serve as an economic development conduit to support community asset building, micro enterprise development, cooperative business development and training, and affordable homeownership preservation.
- HCI will promote and support community sustainability through the creation of a community fund that provides ongoing resources for future development and renovation of community centers and schools, and the creation and funding for micro enterprises.

HOUSING

The Heritage Housing Program is defined in four (4) priority areas that serve to complete its affordable housing mission.

- HCI will promote safe, affordable and transit accessible housing for individual and families seeking to reside in the community and leverage public, private sector and foundation resource to improve quality and cleanliness housing stock and streetscapes.
- HCI will provide pre-and post purchase homeownership education focusing on affordability concepts, maintenance, and debt reduction.
- HCI will support the development of permanently affordable homeownership models including limited equity cooperatives and community land trusts.
- HCI will assist in the creation of alternative financing mechanisms and down payment assistance options for families.

FAMILIES AND FATHERHOOD

The Heritage Families and Fatherhood has defined in four (3) priority areas that serve to complete its strengthening families mission.

- HCI will design and facilitate workshops that support the strengthening of families and bring men/fathers into a prominent role with the family/community structure.
- HCI will enhance its fatherhood/BMB program network and define best practices that encourages cross agency/program collaboration.
- HCI will growth its pipeline of HCI registered BMB/families who have established development plans for their education, employment, health and finance.

JUSTICE, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Heritage Justice objectives are defined in three (3) phase 1 priority areas that serve to complete its justice policy mission.

- HCI will be used as a vehicle to engage state and municipal policy makers, advocates, organizers, families into productive work sessions regarding policies that disproportionately affect certain communities of people.
- HCI will incorporate regularly scheduled voter education, registration and mock elections to reconnect resident to the political and education platforms.
- HCI will education the community on the core issues the cause the prevalent problems related to crime, the justice system and reentry

HEALTH

The Heritage Health Campaign objectives are defined in three (2) phase 1 priority areas that serveits heath mission

- HCI will host monthly health symposiums and screenings that address ant community and individual health issues experienced by residents.
- HCI will create a health info center markets the importance of prevention and provide 24 hours access to health related information.