towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Housing & Neighborhoods Working Team

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Agenda - Meeting 6

Welcome & Introductions

Fair Housing Equity Assessment Update

Review Key Points from Strategy Theme Discussions

Determine Action Steps, Project Leads and Participants

Next steps
Working Team Process and Timeline

6 Meetings/4 Tasks

1 Establishing Goals
2 Frame Strategies
3 Identify Actions
4 Construct Indicators

Nov 2013 Community Congress Workshops

NEXT

+2 Additional Meetings

FEB Combined Meeting

REVIEW & REFINE

At two more meetings in 2014 the working teams will consider feedback from the fall Council and Community Congress sessions.

DRAFT Plan Spring 2014

#oneregionfwd
Fair Housing Equity Assessment Update

The Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is a comprehensive examination of the current state of racial and ethnic inequality within the region. This examination takes into account current barriers to opportunity as well as historical causes of segregation and exclusion.

-- **Understand** the historical, current and future context for equity and opportunity in the region and the data and evidence that demonstrates those dynamics

-- **Engage** regional leaders and stakeholders on findings and implications of analysis

-- **Integrate** knowledge developed through the Regional FHEA exercise into the strategy development process (e.g., priority setting and decision making)
Fair Housing Equity Assessment Update

Ultimately, the goal of the FHEA is to help guide strategy development within the regional planning process to alleviate geographic inequalities and provide opportunities to all residents.

January 31: FHEA Advisory Committee Meeting 3: telling our story
Work Product: narrative draft of FHEA, compiled public comments
Advisory Committee Task: feedback on above
Fair Housing Equity Assessment Update

Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty

By HUD’s definition:
- three times the MSA family poverty rate (37%)
- 50% minority
Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty

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Working Team Recap

Review Progress to Date:

Final Draft Goals

Strategies and Strategy Themes

Key Points from Strategy Theme Discussions
Final Draft Goals

Provide equal opportunity for all to choose from a full range of housing types, tenures, locations and prices throughout the region.

Expand choices for distinctive, high quality neighborhood environments in the city, the suburbs, village centers, and rural hamlets.

Preserve and revitalize our existing housing stock to preserve history, embedded energy, and neighborhood integrity.

Design neighborhoods to be safe, healthy, accessible and walkable appropriate to central city, suburban, or rural contexts.

Create mixed-use neighborhoods where daily needs are accessible on foot, bicycle, or transit as well as by automobile.

Design new and retrofit existing housing for energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy production.

Employ inclusive design and supportive housing to accommodate all residents regardless of ability or means.

Focus housing investments where residents will have easier access to employment especially by transit and other modes.
Strategy Themes

Provide Resources for Informed Decision Making & Action
-- supply data and tools for cross sector partners

Anticipate, Accommodate and Embrace Demographic Shifts
-- focus on retaining and attracting residents

Target Neighborhoods Based on Their Strategic Assets
-- one size does not fit all

Improve the Housing Support and Delivery System
-- enhance capacity and program effectiveness
Strategies: Housing and Neighborhoods

Theme A: Provide Resources for Informed Decision Making & Action
-- supply data and tools for cross sector partners

Assess and address supply against demand by housing type and neighborhood.

Develop a Regional Property Information System including open source data on neighborhoods & municipalities.

Develop a tool box for municipalities, developers, non-profits, and residents to effectively design, produce and preserve sustainable housing types and neighborhoods.
Strategies: Housing and Neighborhoods

Theme B: Anticipate, Accommodate and Embrace Demographic Shifts -- focus on retaining and attracting residents

Diversify housing types (townhouses, lofts, "mingles") and forms of tenure (condos/ coops/ cohousing, rentals) in mixed use neighborhoods – at a variety of price points.

Develop and deploy housing models to accommodate people with special needs and an aging population by coordinating design, neighborhood context, supportive services, and other programming.

Identify and recruit demographic groups that might provide impetus for focused neighborhood revitalization.
Strategies: Housing and Neighborhoods

Theme C: Target Neighborhoods Based on Their Strategic Assets
-- one size does not fit all

Emphasize community based planning with residents and stakeholders to maximize participation, leverage diffuse resources, and focus on quality of life improvements.

Connect public policy and investment priorities to community goals to create "complete communities" with a range of accessible services and amenities.

Focus public investments in neighborhoods with existing infrastructure, community anchors, viable fabric, and active capacity to spur private investment.

Design ameliorative interim “better, not bigger” strategies for neighborhoods where strategic assets are missing and normal property markets have ceased to function.
**Strategies: Housing and Neighborhoods**

**Theme D:**
**Improve the Housing Support and Delivery System**
-- enhance capacity and program effectiveness

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Reconsider the scope and scale of the housing support and delivery system, to increase region wide capacity while remaining responsive to community context

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Develop better opportunities/ supports/ protection for renters and home buyers - particularly from traditionally vulnerable groups

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Create greater understanding of housing assistance programs and their community-wide benefits to remove the stigma of affordable housing initiatives while increasing individual participation and community support

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Enhance the code enforcement system and connect it to existing education and support programs
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme A: Provide Resources for Informed Decision Making & Action
-- supply data and tools for cross sector partners

There is a preference is for a data system that can be continually refreshed rather than a one-off analysis, which also implies a preference for a local host.

A data system should have breadth and depth. It must provide neighborhood level indicators of assets and needs, but also information at the parcel level.

Though most information would be open to the public, some information may be behind a log-in to protect individual confidentiality.

The tool-kit could be tied to the data system, but can’t simply be an on-line repository. There needs to be direct technical assistance available as well.
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme B: Anticipate, Accommodate and Embrace Demographic Shifts
-- focus on retaining and attracting residents

Local government or a resident-driven organization is needed to seed diversification of the housing stock.

Zoning codes need to be amended in many cases to allow greater flexibility of unit types.

Compete streets, local services and neighborhood retail are important components in creating diverse, accessible housing – the efforts need to be interrelated.

Differentiating communities, gearing the feel or culture of place to an affinity group is a good opportunity to create stronger neighborhoods, but it must be authentic. This cannot happen in the absence of neighborhood input or realistic market data.

Local communities need access to technical assistance and support to find the best strategies and tools to design and implement a plan (see strategy C).
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme C: (1 of 2)
Target Neighborhoods Based on Their Strategic Assets
-- one size does not fit all

Greater analysis and understanding of the regional and hyper-local markets are needed (see strategy set A).

True community based planning requires resources dedicated to the process, and a support system needs to be in place to build this capacity across the region.

All residents, and particularly those in neighborhoods that are not the target of conventional revitalization efforts, need to have options and feel empowered to make decisions that are best for them and their families.
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme C: (2 of 2)
Target Neighborhoods Based on Their Strategic Assets
-- one size does not fit all

New and innovative ways to revitalize communities (crowdsourced from the communities themselves) need to be piloted.

Planning needs to be tied to implementation, ideally through participatory budgeting, with flexible funding for early action steps.

Municipal and County capital budgets, ideally tied to state and federal investments, need to be aligned to create high impact investments.
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme D: (1 of 2)
Improve the Housing Support and Delivery System
-- enhance capacity and program effectiveness

There needs to be regional expertise and efficiency in delivering housing services. Small, neighborhood based organizations should be able to be a conduit for these services for their communities.

There are lots of best practices nationally, but getting to a local solution will require a big table and will be time and resource intensive.

A major funder (or a collaborations of funders) needs to be the driving agent, making organizations that have been discussing this for decades get to a point of decision.
Key Points from Working Team Discussions

Theme D: (2 of 2)
Improve the Housing Support and Delivery System
-- enhance capacity and program effectiveness

There needs to be a collective effort to rebrand or reeducate the region on housing that is affordable. This should involve an intensive outreach effort to identify key roadblocks, influencers and officials to develop a marketing and advocacy plan.

Leverage emerging technology to bring local knowledge to bear on problem properties.

New policies and tools are needed to address slumlords and vacant properties, but people in need of assistance should be able to access it through the enforcement system.
Developing the Action Plan

The Task Ahead

Given the goals, strategies and key considerations we set, how are these strategic initiatives crafted to achieve all goals?

- Specify action items
- Identify lead agents and other participants
- Suggest sources of support
- Sketch implementation timelines
Developing the Action Plan

Theme A: Provide Resources for Informed Decision Making & Action
-- supply data and tools for cross sector partners

Need to Identify:

• A local organization or institution to lead the creation and maintenance of a database

• Dedicated resources to ensure longevity

• A technical assistance provider to facilitate understanding and use of the system
Developing the Action Plan

Theme B: Anticipate, Accommodate and Embrace Demographic Shifts
-- focus on retaining and attracting residents

Need to Identify:

• An advocacy and education lead

• A market analysis of units-types not currently in production

• A technical assistance provider to help communities assess, interpret and plan for changing populations

• A regional coordinator for zoning, planning regulations and investment decisions.
Developing the Action Plan

Theme C: Target Neighborhoods Based on Their Strategic Assets
-- one size does not fit all

Need to Identify:

• A market analysis for individual neighborhoods

• A support system for community based planning efforts

• An advocacy and education lead for participatory planning and budgeting

• Ongoing training for local planning community (staff and boards)
Developing the Action Plan

Theme D: Improve the Housing Support and Delivery System
-- enhance capacity and program effectiveness

Need to Identify:

• A trusted institutional funder to take the lead system reform

• A convener and the resources to develop and deploy a region-wide marketing and education strategy for quality housing

• A champion for distressed property reform
Developing the Action Plan

Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Centralized Support Activities for a Cycle of Neighborhood Development:
1. Gather, organize and present data
2. Interpret data with and for regional stakeholders and neighborhoods
3. Facilitate neighborhood driven, integrated and inclusive planning efforts, connected to government and private resources
4. Help neighborhoods, developers, and government devise and implement specific projects based on these plans

Region Wide Systems Change to Support Distributed Implementation:
5. Enhance the capacity of the community development system
6. Reform local zoning regulations
7. Address the regional challenges of distressed and vacant property
Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

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Overlap with Land Use and Development Working Team
Developing the Action Plan

Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Centralized Support Activities for a Cycle of Neighborhood Development:

1. Gather, organize and present data

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Developing the Action Plan

Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Centralized Support Activities for a Cycle of Neighborhood Development:

2. Interpret data with and for regional stakeholders and neighborhoods

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Centralized Support Activities for a Cycle of Neighborhood Development:

3. Facilitate neighborhood driven, integrated and inclusive planning efforts, connected to government and private resources

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Developing the Action Plan

Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Centralized Support Activities for a Cycle of Neighborhood Development:

4. Help neighborhoods, developers, and government devise and implement specific projects based on these plans

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Region Wide Systems Change to Support Distributed Implementation:
5. Enhance the capacity of the community development system

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Region Wide Systems Change to Support Distributed Implementation:

6. Reform local zoning regulations

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
Developing the Action Plan

Overarching Action Items for Housing and Neighborhoods

Region Wide Systems Change to Support Distributed Implementation:

7. Address the regional challenges of distressed and vacant property

Draft Action Steps:

Potential Actors:

Resource Needs and Sources:

Timeline:
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

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