

NCSHA 2016 Annual Awards Entry Form

(Complete one form for each entry)

Deadline: Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Visit ncsha.org/awards to view the Annual Awards Call for Entries.

Instructions: Type entry information into the form and save it as a PDF. Do not write on or scan the form. If you have any questions contact awards@ncsha.org or 202-624-7710.

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the program.

Entry Name: _____

HFA: _____

Submission Contact: (Must be HFA Staff Member) _____ **Email:** _____

Please provide a 15-word (maximum) description of your nomination to appear on the NCSHA website.

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page:

HFA: _____

Entry Name: _____

Select the appropriate subcategory of your entry and indicate if you are providing visual aids.

Communications	Homeownership	Legislative Advocacy	Management Innovation
Annual Report	Empowering New Buyers	Federal Advocacy	Financial
Creative Media	Encouraging New Production	State Advocacy	Human Resources
Promotional Materials and Newsletters	Home Improvement and Rehabilitation		Operations
			Technology
Rental Housing	Special Needs Housing	Special Achievement	Are you providing visual aids?
Encouraging New Production	Combating Homelessness	Special Achievement	Yes
Multifamily Management	Housing for Persons with Special Needs		No
Preservation and Rehabilitation			

HFA: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)
Category: Special Achievement
Entry Name: Building the Fire and the Role of the HFA

Introduction: Housing Finance Agencies can be more than superb program administrators. We can be important accelerants, providing the spark and much needed fuel to cause transformational community revitalization.

NIFA's ten year financial investment, coupled with our direct and active participation in the revitalization efforts for a 400 city block area of North Omaha, now known as the "Village", in many respects resembles and parallels the building of a camp fire. Initially, someone must gather together the loose tinder and kindling (NIFA), a spark (NIFA) ignites what is gathered, next follows the adding of timbers to feed the fire (the Community), and finally, once established, the fire must constantly be tended (fed and stoked) to keep the flames burning bright and the embers hot (the role of the NIFA-sponsored organization, the African American Empowerment Network).

The Community and the Challenge. From Omaha's earliest beginnings, North Omaha was the commercial, social, cultural and political heart of Nebraska's African American community. Civil rights leader Malcolm X was born in North Omaha. The North Omaha *Dreamland Ballroom* played host to jazz great (and Omaha native) Preston Love, as well as the likes of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Louis Armstrong and Nat King Cole. Sports *Hall of Famers* Bob Gibson and Gayle Sayers grew up in North Omaha. Prior to 1968, North Omaha was a vibrant community. Unfortunately, the riots during the 1960's civil rights movement took a toll on the neighborhoods and the community entered a spiral of decline with significant population loss and disinvestment.

The civil unrest, continuing racism, despair and distrust turned the once vibrant hopes and dreams of those in the North Omaha community into a culture of hopelessness. Census data completed in 2006 indicated that among America's 100 largest metro areas, Omaha had the third-highest black poverty rate and the highest percentage of black children living in poverty. Six of ten North Omaha black children lived below the poverty line. The unemployment rate for blacks living in North Omaha exceeded 11%, three times that of the rest of the city. The all too often outcomes of poverty and despair – extreme violence, out-migration and disinvestment – became the "new normal" for the community. Some spoke of "two Omaha's;" Omaha and the separate but not equal North Omaha.

Building the Fire – Gathering the Kindling, Generating the Spark and Lighting the Fire. In October 2006, NIFA reached out and, together with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, African American business leaders, corporate leaders, elected officials and members of the North Omaha community, formed an unparalleled alliance of public, corporate and community interests to address the issues in North Omaha head on. This group initiated and funded the North Omaha Development Project (the "NODP"), to which NIFA contributed the "spark," \$75,000 from general operating funds. A team of nationally recognized community planning professionals was assembled and, working with the community, conducted a comprehensive, all-inclusive analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for revitalization in North Omaha. NIFA's Executive Director, Tim Kenny, and NIFA Board Member, Michael Maroney, along with NIFA Director of Development, Ted Simpson, were instrumental in this effort serving on the initial Executive and Steering committees.

The NODP produced a basic outline for the economic development of North Omaha, publishing "*A Strategy for Community Investment*"¹ (the "SCI Plan") which recommended building from strengths on the neighborhood edges, transforming the image of North Omaha at its core and spreading the momentum in directed ways throughout the neighborhoods. The SCI Plan, completed in October 2007, represented the first ever comprehensive economic study of North Omaha and was formally adopted by Omaha's City Council to be part of the City's urban Master Plan.

Stoking the Fire. While providing significant information and overall guidance on the redevelopment and opportunities for North Omaha, the SCI Plan provided a lofty view from a "30,000 foot elevation." The Plan was a

¹ http://urbanplanning.cityofomaha.org/images/stories/Area%20Plans/NODP_Full_Document-LOWRes_web.pdf

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great beginning, but needed to be broken down into actionable steps. While conversations continued, there was a dearth of ideas for what was to occur next and the leadership that was needed to continue the conversation was not readily identifiable. Clearly “the fire needed dry fuel and stoking.” Not content to idly sit by and permit the community’s focus, initial momentum and collaboration generated from the SCI Plan to languish and disappear, NIFA turned attention to “stoking the fire” in 2009 by encouraging the community to take the SCI Plan to “ground level” and lay out a specific action plan. To do so, NIFA partnered with Alliance Building Communities, Inc. (“ABC”), a 501(c)(3) corporation, the members of which were three established North Omaha non-profit organizations, to launch the next phase toward revitalization of North Omaha.

To develop a “ground level” tactical blueprint and implementation plan which incorporated the SCI Plan’s recommendations, NIFA and ABC each contributed \$181,000 and issued a national Request For Proposals (“RFP”) in July 2009 via the American Planning Association’s website. RFP applicants were asked to identify and develop action plans for the creation of five (5) iconic and transformational development projects within the SCI Plan’s targeted development opportunity areas. Specifically, respondents were encouraged to identify high density, mixed and affordable income residential uses (both homeownership and rental), as well as retail, institutional, educational and manufacturing (jobs) uses. NIFA and ABC requested proposals for projects/designs that, when implemented, would have a transformational impact upon the identified neighborhoods by dramatically improving the quality of life and serving as powerful catalysts for increasing public/private investment in five key defined neighborhood areas.

Tending the Fire. Two planning consultants were engaged from the fourteen respondents. It was clear to NIFA and ABC that to be truly successful in “rebuilding the fire,” we would need a known, respected and trusted North Omaha based and focused organization to lead, facilitate, and coordinate the effort on a 24/7 basis. Enter Willie Barney, President, and Vicki Quaites-Ferris, Director of Operations, of the African American Empowerment Network (the “EN”). The EN is a grass roots 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2006 and working to address crime and social issues existing in North Omaha. NIFA and ABC contracted with the EN to facilitate all aspects of the planning process and community outreach and engagement. To further assist EN’s efforts in carrying out the task, in 2010 NIFA awarded the EN a three-year capacity grant of \$25,000/year (NIFA’s NCSHA 2008 award winning Outreach Partnership Program²). Impressed with the results of the EN efforts, NIFA has annually, since 2013, provided the EN with a technical assistance grant of \$100,000 per year, matched by philanthropic sources, to support their continued leadership of revitalization efforts in North Omaha - to “Tend the Fire!”

Two years of intense work commenced in November of 2009 under the leadership of the EN, with ABC and NIFA providing executive oversight/advisory assistance. The product of these efforts, The Village Revitalization Plan,³ was released in April 2011 and adopted as part of the City of Omaha’s Master Plan in July 2011. The Plan was the culmination of the work and ideas of the planning consultants, the executive and advisory committees, key stakeholders in the North Omaha community, such as the Omaha Public School District, and more than 500 residents (including school children) living in the community. The goal was to align the aspirations of the North Omaha community with the reality of the area’s development potential. Those living and working in the community were deeply involved in the public process to define, and then further refine, the concepts put forth by the

² <https://www.ncsha.org/about-hfas/annual-awards/homeownership/encouraging-new-production>

³ <http://tiny.cc/NORevitalizationPlan>

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development consultants. The result was a clear vision of realistic, implementable concepts, supported by the entire community, providing a clear blueprint for the re-construction of North Omaha over the next 30 years.

How is the Fire Burning? In the ten years since the “spark” provided by NIFA and others, much has been accomplished in the revitalization of North Omaha...and yet much remains to be done. Importantly, the spirit and feeling of hope of those living in North Omaha, and indeed all of Omaha, has been empowered and the sense of opportunity has been reborn and embraced. Much of the successes realized to date can be directly attributed to the organizational and facilitation skills of the EN.

The EN's **mission** of “working together to transform the economic condition and quality of life of African-American North Omaha residents...” is driven by the **vision** that “Omaha will be recognized as a fully engaged and empowered community where African-Americans, North Omaha residents, and citizens in every zip code are thriving and prosperous – spiritually, mentally, physically, socially and financially.” The key **guiding principles** are faith, family, community, engagement, empowerment, and shared-decision making. The **central objectives** are:

- Build Wealth and Ownership (every adult has a living wage and sustainable employment)
- Prepare our children (Every child receives a high quality education > cradle to career)
- Increase Home Ownership & Revitalize Neighborhoods (Every resident lives in safe, affordable housing)
- Create Stronger & Healthier Families (Every person has access to quality health care, healthy foods, and support services need to address poverty)

To accomplish these objectives the EN, along with input and support of NIFA and other community leaders and partners, created a **7-Step Empowerment & Transformation Plan**. This plan identified the following seven central focus areas – with short, medium and long term measurable goals identified:

1. Employment and Entrepreneurship
2. Education and Youth Development
3. Housing, Neighborhoods and Transportation
4. Faith and Hope
5. Safe Communities – Violence Prevention and Justice
6. Health and Healthy Families
7. Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Technology and Media

In December of 2013, the EN, again only after soliciting wide ranging and diverse inputs, created the Transformation 2025 Plan – which sets specific goals in all seven focus areas. The direction provided by the outlining of the goals accelerated the pace of rebuilding and transforming North Omaha. Keeping track, measuring results, comparing results with the goals, and sharing the results (both positive and negative) is the hallmark of the EN's ability to obtain the trust, respect, continued buy-in, support and participation of the residents of North Omaha. (See *Transformation 2025 Update – 2016 Final Report for the 9th Annual Empowerment Network Conference* following the narrative.)

NIFA's ten year investment, in both financial resources and technical assistance, in North Omaha, including its support of the EN, which any HFA might accomplish in similarly challenged and declining neighborhoods or regions of cities in their state, has returned tremendous dividends to the citizens of North Omaha, the City of Omaha and the entire State of Nebraska. During this time period NIFA has allocated in excess of \$11 million of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (“LIHTC”) to 23 projects, resulting in 788 new or renovated safe, decent housing units in the North Omaha. Additionally, NIFA expects to issue up to \$10,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds in June of 2016, to be combined with 4% LIHTCs, to finance the first phase of the Highlander project of 75 North Corporation on the former PleasantView Public Housing Project site in the heart of North Omaha. (See Omaha World Herald news article at the end of the Transformation Plan.) The results of these efforts have been transformative for North Omaha. NIFA and our partners will continue this important work into the future so that lives may truly be changed.

Transformation 2025 Update

Collaboration, Alignment and Strategic Reinvestment

2016 Final Report for 9th Annual Empowerment Network Conference

9th Annual State of African-Americans

9th Annual State of North Omaha

Empowerment Plan and Transformation 2025

Working Together to Transform Omaha

into ONE Great City – thriving and prosperous - in every zip code and neighborhood!





Working Together to Rebuild and Transform Communities

The Original State of North Omaha and African-Americans Summit was held on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006

"It's time to come together" was the theme in December of 2006. Come together. Work together. Pray together. Stay together. Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It! Since that time, over 500 hundred organizations and thousands of residents have participated. Measurable progress has occurred, with more work ahead.

Beginning in June 2006, the Empowerment Network hosted meetings, summits and focus groups with residents and leaders to identify key issues and solutions. The first large leadership meeting was held in September 2006 when 70 leaders convened and agreed to work together. The first State of African-Americans and North Omaha was held in December of 2006. The initial meetings started with three and grew to over 300.

The Network also hosted youth summits and small group meetings with teens, successful students, gang members, ex-offenders, single mothers, parents and grandparents. The primary purpose was to gain resident and stakeholder input on issues, solutions, and priorities. This strategy continues today. The Empowerment Network made a commitment to hold monthly meetings with the community to provide updates, answer questions, provide opportunities for engagement, and periodically assess priorities and make adjustments to strategies. The annual meeting now includes reports from the Mayor, City Council, Douglas County, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Police Department, other community partners and neighborhood associations. In December 2013, the Transformation 2025 goals were outlined to accelerate the pace of rebuilding and transforming the city, with special emphasis on North Omaha and South Omaha.

Initially designed and launched by African-Americans and North Omaha residents, the Empowerment Network Collaboration now includes people of all races across the city, county, region and nation. Over 500 organizations and thousands of individuals have participated. The Network model is now recognized regionally and nationally. National groups are traveling to Omaha to learn more about how they can do similar work in their own cities.

The contents of this document reflect the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals. Most are engaged as collaborative partners through a collective works process. Others are aligning their work with these efforts. Some are doing their part by working more independently. We honor and celebrate every organization and individual working to improve our community. Hundreds of additional organizations, programs and efforts are not identified, but are doing great things in the community. If you or your organization would like to be included in future documents, please contact the Empowerment Network. And, if you would rather not have your organization included in the document, please contact the Network.

The input, recommendations and suggestions of over 3,000 residents and leaders and over 2,500 youth and young adults, compiled through surveys and polls conducted at conferences, summits, forums, community meetings, outreach events and other small and large group sessions are summarized in this document as needs, issues and priorities. The community recommendations are then integrated with national best practices and key elements of successful movements to form the basis of the comprehensive and collaborative strategies. Thank you to the Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Police Dept., Douglas County, City of Omaha, and community partners for assisting with gathering information for the report. And, special thanks to OEDC and UNO for their assistance with ACS, North Omaha demographics and maps on unemployment and poverty.

Empowerment Network: Collective Works & Measurable Results

Working together to transform Omaha into a GREAT city, thriving and prosperous, in every zip code and every neighborhood!

PURPOSE: To Unite & Transform Omaha by extending the “greatness” of Omaha to every zip code & neighborhood.

MISSION: Working together to TRANSFORM the ECONOMIC condition and QUALITY OF LIFE of African-Americans, North Omaha residents, and citizens of the Greater Omaha area by implementing the Empowerment Covenant and 7 Step Empowerment Plan. The vision is complete with short-term and long-term goals, strategies, activities and measurable outcomes. We will close long-standing gaps in employment, entrepreneurship, education, housing, and other quality of life factors that have been traditionally based on race and geographic segregation.

VISION OF THE FUTURE: Omaha will be recognized as a fully engaged and empowered community where African-Americans, North Omaha residents, and citizens in every zip code are thriving and prosperous—spiritually, mentally, physically, socially, and financially. Inspired by Joshua Ch. 1:6-9

KEY PRINCIPLES: Personal Responsibility, Leadership Accountability, and Comprehensive Collaboration. We work together in a positive, proactive, and partnership-oriented way. At the heart of the Empowerment Movement, African-Americans and North Omaha residents are coming together to lift each other up and collaborating with others, as equal partners, to measurably transform communities.

CORE VALUES: Faith, family, community, engagement, empowerment, shared-decision making

OBJECTIVES:

1. BUILD Wealth and Ownership (Every adult has living wage+, sustainable employment)
2. PREPARE Our Children (Every child receives a high quality education -> Cradle to Career)
3. INCREASE Home Ownership & Revitalize Neighborhoods (Every resident lives in safe housing)
4. CREATE Stronger and Healthier Families (Every person has a strong family, with access to quality health care, healthy foods and support services needed to address poverty)

STRATEGIES:

1. Empowerment Network Collaborative Results Model – Engagement, Education, Empowerment
2. Personal Responsibility and Collective Works
3. Leadership Accountability & Comprehensive Collaboration

THE 7 STEP EMPOWERMENT & TRANSFORMATION PLAN:

1. Employment and Entrepreneurship
2. Education and Youth Development
3. Housing, Neighborhoods and Transportation
4. Faith and Hope
5. Safe Communities – Violence Prevention and Justice
6. Health and Healthy Families
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TRANSFORMATION 2025 - TRENDS & BOLD GOALS:

By 2025/2030 or sooner, the Omaha Metro and State of Nebraska will be number one in the nation for graduation rates; sustainable, living wage employment; entrepreneurship and business ownership; home ownership; and, quality of life. Economic and quality of life gaps based on race and geography would not exist.

PRIMARY GOALS (Baseline)	2013	2014	2015	L-T Trend	2016G	2025G	Vision
AA* - Median HHld Income (2006-2008=\$27,480)	\$29,032	\$28,434	\$28,722	↑	\$29,000	\$35,000	\$50,000
AA - H.S. Graduation Rate (2006 = 62%)	75%	81%	76%	↑	80%	90%	100%
AA - Prepared for College/ACT (2007 = 16.9)	16.4	16.3		↔	17	22	
AA – Civilian Unemployment (ACS 1 yr) (2007=17.5%)	13%	est. 12%	10.1%	↓		<5%	<3%
AA* - Civilian Unemployment (2009 = 16.7%)	15.8%	15.2%	14.4%	↓		<10%	<5%
AA* - Home Ownership (2007=37%)	37.3%	36.2%	35%	↓		50%	70%
AA* - Poverty Rate-Families (2007=33%)	27.1%	27.1%	27.3%	↔	26%	20%	<10%
NO - H.S. Graduation Rate (North, NW, Benson, Central)	78%	80%	76%	↑	80%	90%	100%
NO - New Jobs & Connections (sustainable, living wage) - (updating)						4,000	5,000
NO - New and Improved Housing Units (mixed-income) - (updating)						4,000	5,000

SECONDARY GOALS (Baseline)	2013	2014	2015	L-T Trend	2016G	2025G	Vision
Summer Employment (2007 = 30)	600	550	560	↑	800	2,000	3,000
NO - Gun Violence Incidents (2007=112)	75	75	55	↓	-70%	-90%	-95%
AA - New & Expanded Businesses (updating)					40	200	400
NO - New & Expanded Businesses (updating)					40	250	500
NO - Civic Engagement – Voting (2004/06) - updating						65%	100%
NO - Health Index (in development)							
AA* - Marriage Rate	28%	28%		↓	29%	35%	50%
NO - Tourism (Arts/Culture)						100,000	250,000

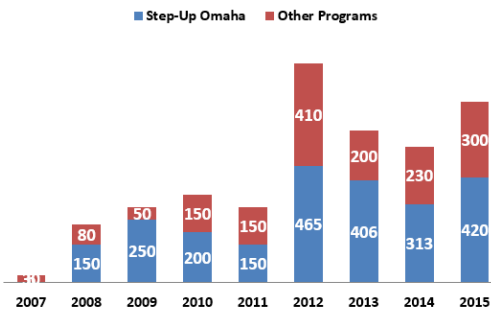
*ACS Data: American Community Survey – Census – Using 5 Year Data for 2015 Update; Sources of other data noted within the document

Employment: Jobs, Job Training and Careers

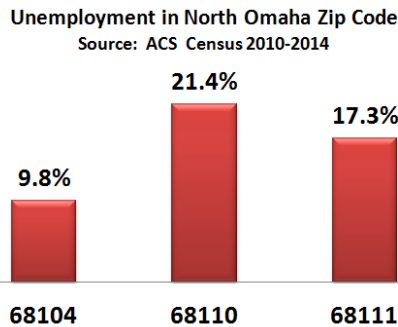
Every adult, willing and able, will have access to sustainable, living wage employment

TRENDS & KEY DATA

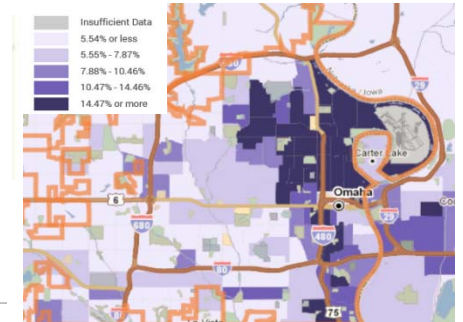
Reviving Summer Employment Growth of Step-Up & Other Programs



North Omaha Unemployment

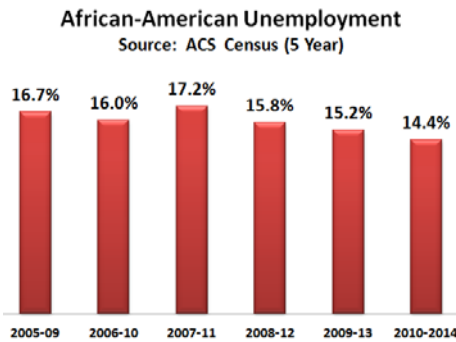


Concentration of Unemployment 2014 ACS Census (5 Yr)

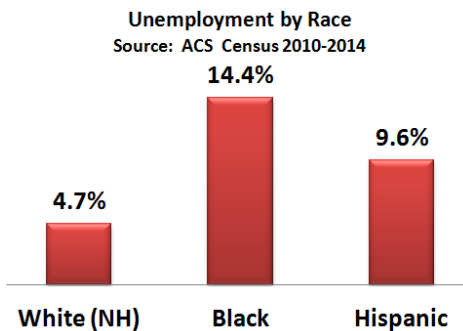


Source: American Community Survey – 2015 Release – Omaha MSA – 5 Year Avgs.

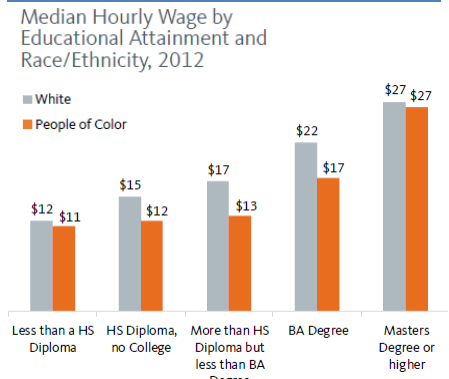
African-American Unemployment Rate (5 Yr) – Omaha MSA



Unemployment by Race and Ethnicity (Omaha MSA)



Wage Gap in Omaha Region by Education & Race Ethnicity



Source: American Community Survey – 2015 - Omaha MSA – 5 Year Avgs.

Source: PolicyLink Equity Profile - 2014

Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

- Sustainable, Living Wage Employment Needs**
 - Jobs and Internships
 - Job Training
 - Vocational Training
 - Employability Training
 - Career Advancement Opportunities
 - Transportation to Current Employment Opportunities
 - Address wage gaps; lack of mid/senior mgt
- Gaps**
 - North Omaha unemployment level
 - Skills Gaps/Skills vs. Open Positions
 - Lack of specific training for open jobs
 - Transportation/Location of Jobs
 - Lack of Opportunities for ex-offenders
 - Effective reentry programs
 - Culture of workplaces
 - Childcare/Cliff Effect
 - Wage Gaps

Collaborative Strategies:

- Summer Employment and Year Round Employment for Youth and Young Adults
- Linking residents with current employment opportunities
- On the Job Training – Step-Up Omaha!, Urban League, Goodwill, HWS, Maximus, Metropolitan Community College and others
- Specialized Training for open jobs/careers
- Vocational Training – MCC, Goodwill, Cross Training, BMU
- Bring Jobs to and Create Jobs in North Omaha
- Employability Training – Heartland Workforce Solutions, Step-Up, Urban League, Hope Center and others
- Work with Employers to Close Skills and Wage Gaps
- Work with Employers to Diversity Management/Ldrship





Step-Up Omaha! 2015 Employment Program – Press Conference
420 Total Positions Created in 2015 (Summer and Extended Pilot)

Developments and Projects:

Employment & Job Training

1. Step-Up Omaha Employment Initiative – Summer and Year Round
2. Urban League Bootcamp and Employment Programs
3. Heartland Workforce Solutions on Ames Street & Goodwill on 72nd
4. Hope Center Employability Academy
5. Reentry Programs – ReStart, MCC, ENCAP
6. African-American Young Professionals
7. Urban League Young Professionals
8. African-American Leadership Conference expands
9. Chamber launches Talent Initiatives
10. Family Housing Advisory Services – Financial Self-Sufficiency Programs

2014-2015 Successes & Promising Initiatives:

1. Success of Step-Up Omaha and expansion
2. Funding increase for Heartland Workforce Solutions
3. Increased funding for Job Training Programs
4. State Legislature passes important legislation
 1. Enterprise Zones
 2. \$10 million for Job Training Cash Fund
 3. Subsidized employment program
 4. Ban the Box
5. Metropolitan Community College announces \$90 million expansion focused on job training
6. OPS working with partners to expand career education options – Benson High School; Board approves expansion to focus on Entrepreneurship, Business, Health and Construction Design
7. Expanding vocational training opportunities (OPS, Goodwill, Metropolitan Community College & others)



Metropolitan Community College Expansion



Benson Career and College Academy



Community Meeting with Entrepreneurs, Contractors & Organizations March 2015

African-American Consumer Spending Power

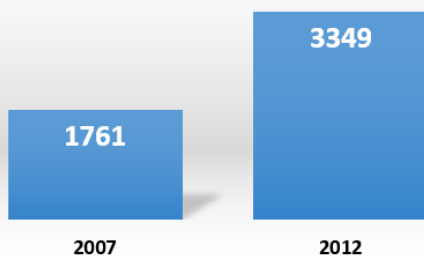
\$750,000,000

African-American annual
income in Omaha

Source: American Community Survey 2013

African-American Owned-Businesses

Source: Economic Census –
Survey of Business Owners



North Omaha Business Opportunities



Stores Needed:
Grocery
Restaurants
Specialty Foods
Clothing & Shoes
Furniture
Electronics
Neighborhood
Services
Building Materials

**\$150,000,000 to
\$200,000,000**

in spending is exported out of
North Omaha every year
Source: North Omaha Village
Feasibility 2011

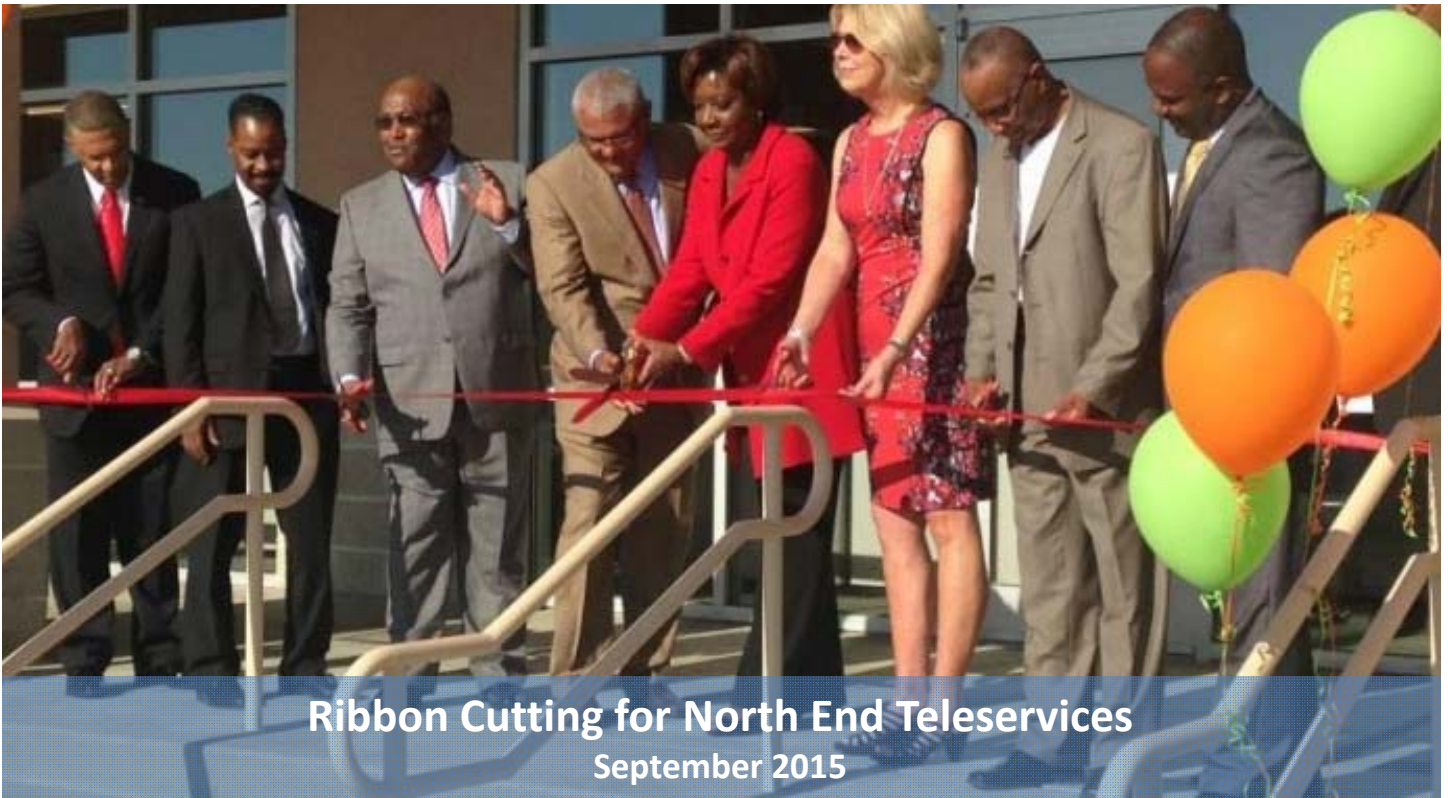
NODP and NOVZ
Economic Studies –
2007-2011

Entrepreneurship Strategies:

1. Support African-American and North Omaha businesses with consumer spending power
2. Entrepreneurship Training
3. Administrative Support
4. Supplier Diversity Opportunities –City, OPS, CSO, Corporate Omaha and others
5. Entrepreneurship & Access to Credit & Capital – Revive Business Network, Start Center, OSBN, Chamber of Commerce, Federal Reserve, NBDC, SBA, Banks, Mountain Plains Minority, Supplier Diversity Council
6. Joint Marketing Opportunities

Contracting Strategies:

1. Support African-American and North Omaha contractors with consumer spending power
2. Contractor Training and Contracting Opportunities – Small and Emerging Business Ordinance, City, OPS, CSO, Corporate Omaha and others
3. Access to Credit & Capital – Revive Business Network, Start Center, OSBN, Mountain Plains Minority Supplier Diversity Council, Chamber of Commerce, Federal Reserve, NBDC, SBA, Banks
4. Bonding



Ribbon Cutting for North End Teleservices
September 2015

2014-2015 Success & Initiatives

Business Development & Contracting

- Opening of North End Teleservices
- Omaha Small Business Network Expansion and Launch of new Loan Program
- Expansion of the Start Center
- Launch of REACH Program
- Advocacy of North Omaha and Minority Contractors
- Expansion of Revive! Business Network
- Catholic Charities expands Micro-loan program in North Omaha
- Omaha Chamber’s Thrive Program
- Expanded Contracting Opportunities w/ City, County, State, Corporate, OPS, Major Employers
- OPS Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- OPS/Jacobs Academy
- New City of Omaha Director of HR&R and SEB Program expansion

Initial Gaps and Priorities for 2016

1. Expand and support African-American and North Omaha business class
2. Re-launch community collective spending campaigns
3. Expand the Revive! Business Network
4. Work with City of Omaha and corporate employers on contracting and supplier diversity opportunities
5. Work with City, County, State and Federal officials to gain access to opportunities and resources
6. Expand Soft Skills Training
7. Administrative support for contractors
8. Increase micro-loans for small businesses and contractors
9. Address contractor capacity and reasons why small and emerging businesses are not getting contracts
10. Address gaps with prime contractors
11. Expand apprenticeship programs
12. Expand entrepreneurship programs to assist ex-offenders

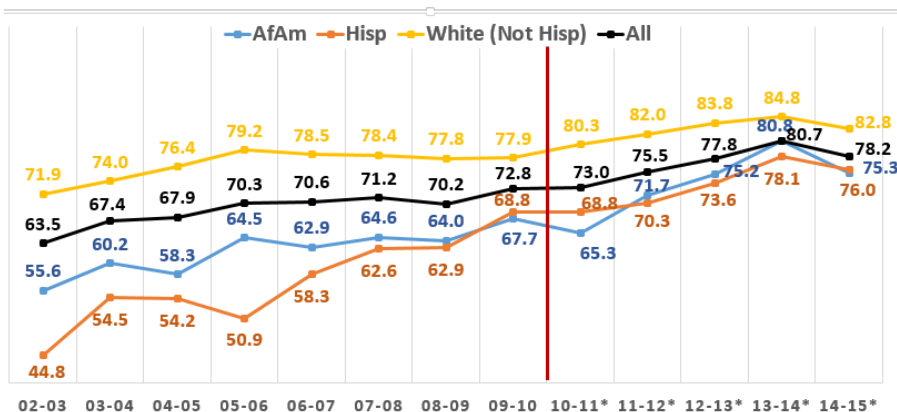
Major Opportunities for Jobs, Careers and Contracts (Must find ways to link to and maximize these developing opportunities to connect unemployed and underemployed with jobs, careers and contracts)

<u>City, OPS, DC, CHI, other</u>	<u>Construction Projects</u>	<u>Fortune 500</u>	<u>Possible Locations</u>
Small/Emerging Bus. Ordinance	Housing/Revitalization N.O.	Berkshire Hathaway	24 th and Lake
City, Public Works & CSO	UNMC Cancer Center	Union Pacific	Ames Street
OPS Contracts	75 North Revitalization	Kiewit	30 th Street
Metro Contracts	MCC and UNO	Mutual of Omaha	72 nd Street
County Contracts	Transportation/Transit		South 24 th
	OPS Bond	Other Construction	Cuming Street
City of Omaha - Jobs & Careers	CHI Health	White Lotus	Dodge Street
CHI Health, CU, First Data, Coke	Strategic Air Command	Fair Deal Village Marketplace	
OPS - Jobs & Careers	Crossroads Mall	HDR and other Downtown	

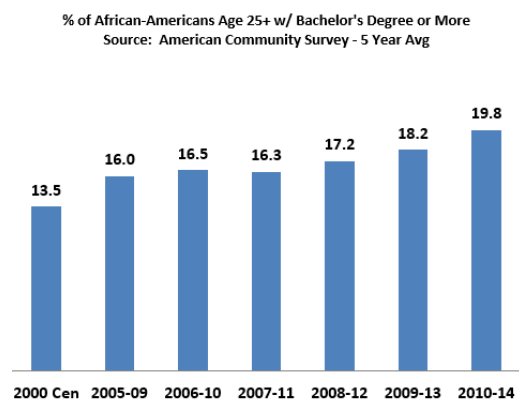
Education and Youth Development

Every child will have access to a high quality education

High School Graduation Rates By Race and Ethnicity



% of African-Americans over age 25 with Bachelor's Degree or more



Source: Census; American Community Survey

Source: Neb. Dept. of Education and OPS Research Division

Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

1. Effective principals and leaders in every building
2. High quality, effective and diverse teachers
3. Welcoming and supportive environment for parents
4. Funding to address the needs of students
5. Challenging curriculum; improve reading, math scores; improve ACT scores/AP placement/gifted and talented
6. Increase the graduation rate, prepared for careers
7. Access to quality early childhood development
8. Support for struggling students and families
9. More students entering and completing college and attaining additional skills/certifications
10. Students enter careers successfully

Cradle to Career Collaborative Strategies:

- A. **Equity Funding** : Increase funding, resources and support; Match the needs of the students and families
- B. **Empowered Parents, Families and Community** – Develop strategies that fully engage parents and families: Increase parent outreach, create an inviting environment, open & consistent communication, shared decision-making, financial support
- C. **Early Childhood**: Invest in and expand high quality childhood development, so that every child is prepared for success in Kindergarten
- D. **Excellent Schools in every Neighborhood**: Core elements in every school and classroom: Effective and culturally relevant teachers; collaborative, strong, instruction-focused principals; challenging/Interactive curriculum; extended learning time (Day & Year)
- E. **Expanded, Coordinated Wrap-around Services** – Implement and coordinate support services for students and families by following the cradle to career process: Teams, Needs Assessments, Services Delivery (including mentoring & tutoring), Data, Evaluation
- F. **Engaged Students - Attendance, Hope, Engagement, Leadership and Careers** – Continue to improve attendance; build hope; increase # of students taking Algebra, AP, ACT; engage & develop leadership skills; link students w/scholarships, jobs, interns, etc
- G. **Technology** – Close the digital divide. Expand technology in homes and schools. High speed access for homes, schools & business.

Gaps and Potential Priorities

1. Reading and math proficiency have improved, but large gaps still remain
2. More behavioral and mental health services for families and children are needed
3. More parental engagement
4. More community presence at schools (parents, individuals, organizations, businesses, etc)
5. More open and honest communication about successes and challenges
6. Increase teacher diversity
7. More equity, fair and just inclusion strategies
8. Shorter summer breaks/extended time in classroom
9. Address transitions between elementary, M.S. and H.S.
10. School discipline continues to be a problem that must be addressed
11. Increase opportunities for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)
12. Address disconnects with refugees and new immigrants
13. Provide services to support children with incarcerated parents

National Best Practices to address high poverty schools:

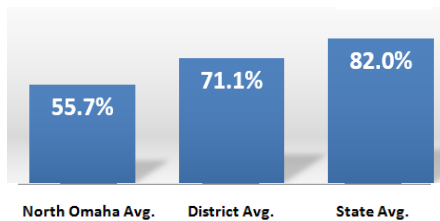
1. **Integrate Schools & Funding** (Socio-Economically)
2. **Expand Proven, Innovative Targeted Strategies** (Dual Language, Focus & Magnet Schools: integrated socio-economically)
3. **Invest in Excellence at Every School/Neighborhood** Match investment to the needs of each school: People, resources, funding, etc

Education and Youth Development

Every child will have access to a high quality education

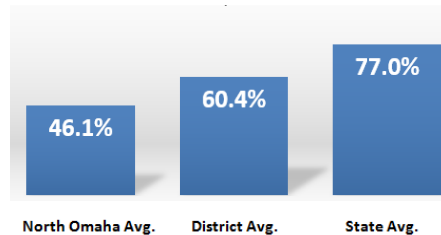
55.7% of North Omaha 3rd Graders are proficient in Reading

3rd Grade Reading Proficiency - NeSA
Source: OPS and NDE State of Schools



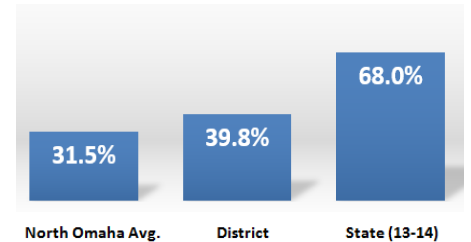
46.1% of North Omaha 4th Graders are proficient in Math

4th Grade Math Proficiency - NeSA
Source: OPS and NDE State of Schools



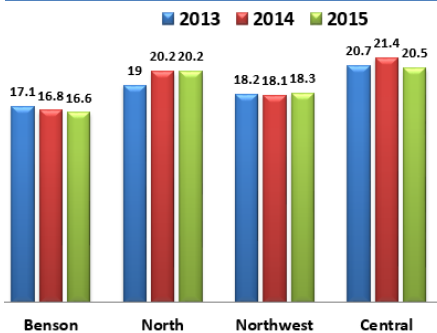
31.5% of North Omaha 8th Graders are proficient in Math

8th Grade Math Proficiency
Source: OPS and NDE State of Schools

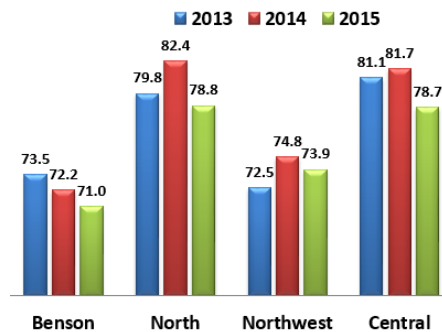


Source: Neb. Dept. of Education and OPS Research Division – 2014-2015

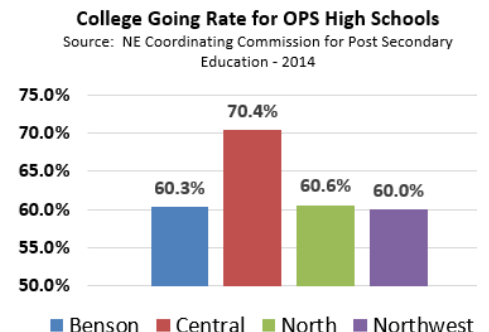
Avg. ACT Scores 2014-2015



Graduation rates in North Omaha schools were increasing until 2015



% of Graduates Going to College By OPS School



Source: Neb. Dept. of Education and OPS Research Division – 2014-2015

Source: NE Post Secondary Commission - 2014

2014-15 Successes & Promising Initiatives

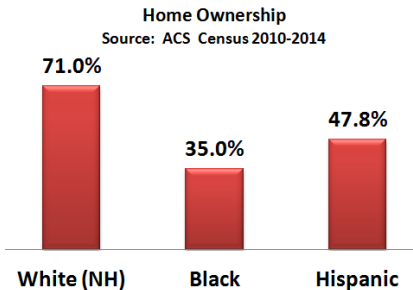
- School-based Health Centers expanded & Mobile Dental
- Learning Community of North Omaha opens
- Learning Community now serving over 200 families of kindergarten and 1st grade students
- \$421 Million Omaha Public Schools Bond work begins
- Omaha Public Schools Strategic Plan completed
- United Way Strategic Plan focuses on education (classroom ready) and workforce (work ready)
- Lozier Foundation opens Nelson Mandela Elementary
- 75 North Howard Kennedy Project approved
- Benson High School College and Career Academy – focus on Business, Health, Construction Design/Mgmt
- OPS, Learning Community and Buffett Early Childhood invest in Early Childhood Expansion; 8 more early childhood classrooms added
- Wakonda Elementary becomes “Turnaround” School
- Wilson Focus School continues to excel with extended day and year model
- OPS hires executive directors to work with principals to accelerate growth and expansion of best practices
- Empowerment Network and City of Omaha selected by National League of Cities as one of 11 cities for Black Male Achievement initiative (OAAMAC)
- OAAMAC expands to 40 plus partners and hosts National League of Cities and PolicyLink; Mentoring Program launched with MMP, OPS, 100 Black Men, Empowerment Network and others
- Voice Advocacy Center, Omaha NAACP and National NAACP expand Dyslexia Work
- NETV partners with community to produce “The Need to Succeed: Closing Omaha’s Black Male Achievement Gap”
- Innovative models continue to produce strong results: OPS Accelerate; Focus School; Dual Language
- OPS NeSA scores continue to rise in elementary
- OPS ACT scores improve
- Girls Inc. building construction in process
- NorthStar opened
- Expansion of OPS Career Center options; special focus on college prep and career programs
- Midlands Mentoring Partnership and Mentoring organizations expand recruitment campaign
- 100 Black Men expand mentoring and Sat. Academy
- Empowerment Network, 100 Black Men and Urban League recruitment program focused on AA men
- Fraternity & Sorority: Mentoring & education efforts

Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization and Transportation

Every family will have access to affordable housing and live in mixed-income, thriving neighborhood

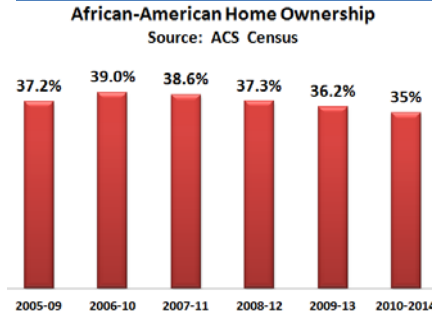
TRENDS & KEY DATA

Home Ownership by Race and Ethnicity – Omaha MSA

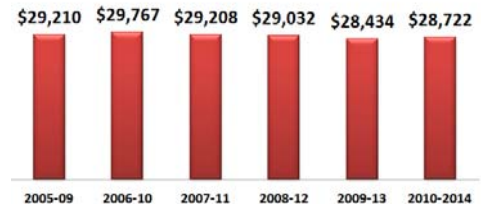


Source: American Community Survey – 2015 Release – Omaha MSA – 5 Year

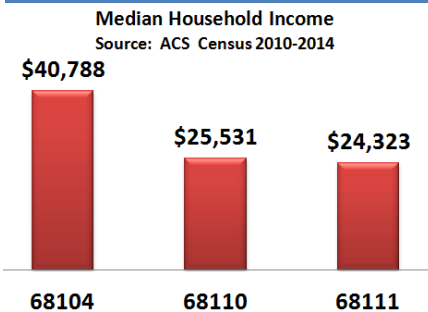
35% of African-Americans in Omaha own their homes



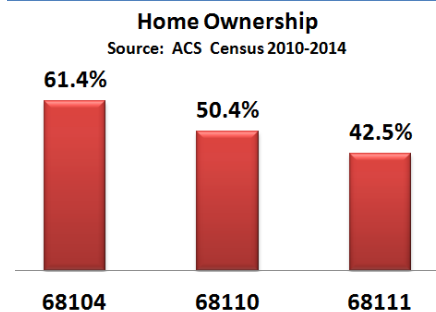
Median Hhld Income for African-Americans – Omaha MSA (Adjusted)



Median Hhld Income for North Omaha Zip Codes



% of Owner Occupied Homes in North Omaha by Zip Code



Source: American Community Survey – 2015 Release – Omaha MSA – 5 Year 2010-2014

North Omaha: Priority Address Demo, Rehab & Vacant Lots

Thousands of Vacant Lots

800+ Homes Targeted for Demolition

Limited funds and long waiting list for home rehab

Source: City of Omaha and North Omaha Community Meetings

Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

1. Demolition of Blighted Homes
2. Develop on Vacant Lots and Rehab Homes (Funds for Home Rehabilitation)
3. Prevent Foreclosures and Address Lending Discrimination; bring bankers to these meetings
4. Address Mortgage Crisis and loss of home value
5. Address Problem Landlords; hold accountable
6. Building New Home Developments and Mixed-income neighborhoods; more services
7. Improve roads and address transportation
8. Build affordable housing; senior housing
9. Clean up neighborhoods; trash, litter, etc.
10. Urban agriculture, gardening, energy efficiency, etc.
11. Housing support/strategies to assist ex-offenders

Collaborative Strategies:

- A. **Home Ownership** – Address the mortgage crisis and lending; demolition of dilapidated homes; rehab of homes; address vacant lots
- B. **Mixed-Income Neighborhoods** - Rebuild targeted communities, increase home ownership & create strong, active neighborhoods; expand affordable housing into areas of “high opportunity”
- C. **Civic and Commercial Districts** – Revitalize neighborhoods with Business, Retail, Services and Recreation
- D. **Improved Transportation** – Address transportation issues to improve - Access to Work, School, and Support Services; including public transit and micro solutions
- E. **Environmental Justice** – Partner with efforts to address Lead, Water, Waste, and other environmental issues

Concerns...Vacant Lots, Fire Damaged, Blighted Homes. Need More Funds for Rehab, Demo & Renovation...



75 North Highlander Project

Ground Breaking November 2015



Recent Developments & Progress:

1. Omaha Economic Development Corporation
 - Fair Deal Village
 - Margaret Development
 - Prospect Village
2. Holy Name
 - St. Richard's Housing Development
 - Prospect Village Housing Development
3. North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance - New partnerships and expansion
4. City of Omaha – 24th St., 16th St., Lake St., Florence Streetscape

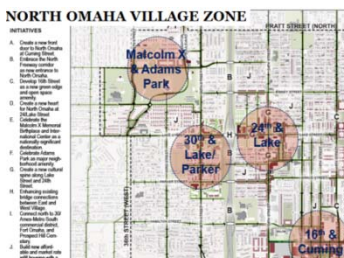
Gaps/Areas for Improvement

1. Better engagement of refugee population
2. Transportation
3. Mixed-income
4. More affordable homes needed
5. Loss of residents
6. Credit availability needs to increase/Insurance
7. Financial education needs to be expanded
8. Incentives to build housing in North Omaha

2014 -15 Successes & Promising Initiatives

1. \$90 Million 75 North Revitalization breaks ground
2. \$90 Million Metropolitan Community College expansion breaks ground/construction is underway
3. Ames, Lake and other Streets Resurfaced
4. Land Bank approved and received \$150K from City; new director hired
5. CHI announces \$35 Million CU Med Center at 24th/Cuming; construction is underway
6. Prospect Village (Hill) collaboration, demo, rehab, new homes and coordinated support services
7. City of Omaha Demolition Program expands
8. 24th and Lake Revitalization continues
 - a. Blue Lion purchased; mixed use planned
 - b. Fair Deal Village Marketplace moves forward
9. City of Omaha Housing Developments – Lake Street
10. St. Richards Development/2nd Phase Opens
11. Heartland 2050 plan completed with new Equity Profile
12. Adams Park and Malcolm X Center Revitalization
13. Habitat for Humanity – OOIC, Prospect Village
14. Abide/Bridge Ministries Revitalization
15. Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance – Healthy Homes Project

North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan Comes to Life...Major Development in each area



Areas of Focus



OEDC - Fair Deal Village East



CHI Creighton Univ. Medical Center



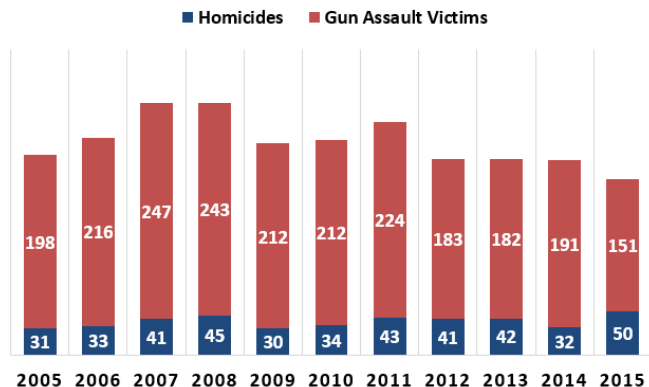
75 North Highlander Townhomes

Violence Intervention and Prevention/Justice & Reform

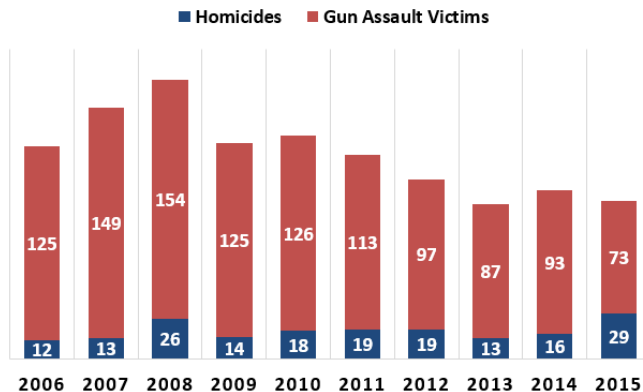
Every neighborhood will be safe and thriving

TRENDS & KEY DATA

GUN VIOLENCE TRENDS: CITY OF OMAHA
SOURCE: OPD PRELIMINARY 2005-2015



GUN VIOLENCE TRENDS: NORTHEAST PRECINCT
SOURCE: OPD PRELIMINARY 2006-2015



Source: Omaha Police Department – Preliminary 2015 Report – 10 Year Trend Jan-Dec.

Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

1. Expand Employment – Year Round & Summer
2. Continue building stronger relationships between Police and Community
3. Expand reentry initiatives
4. Improve and expand support services for families
5. Create and expand housing options
6. Expand gang intervention efforts
7. Improve graduation rates & educational outcomes
8. Increase community involvement
9. Increase church & faith community engagement
10. Increase enforcement efforts

Collaborative Strategies:

- A. **Prevention** – Expand efforts – Community Healing, School Outreach, Employment, Conflict Resolution, Mentoring, Positive Activities and Alternatives, Neighborhood and Village Stakeholders
- B. **Intervention** – Expand efforts - Street Outreach, Gang Intervention, Crisis Response, Family Support, Hospital Intervention
- C. **Enforcement and Community Involvement** - Remove Illegal Guns; Targeted Arrests of Hard Core; Prosecution & Community Support
- D. **Reentry and Support Services** – Provide stronger support and services - Pre-release Training, Education, Employment, One Stop Ctr, Resources, and Coaching; Support Services - Housing, Counseling, Transportation, Substance Abuse Treatment, etc.
- E. **Justice and Civil Rights** – Juvenile Justice Reform, Adult Prison and Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Police/Community Relations, Housing and Employment Discrimination, etc.

Programs, Initiatives and Progress:

1. Step-Up Omaha!, Summer Works and Goodwill total of 560 Summer Jobs in 2015
2. OPD Community Events, Precinct Advisory Committees, Problem Resolution Teams
3. Hope Center expands Village Basketball Alliance
4. Churches and community organizations expanded Youth Outreach & Stakeholders
5. Expanded Harmony Week/Safe Alternatives
6. Expanding partnership Student Peace Movement with community partnerships
7. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
8. NONA expands with new marketing director
9. OPD Targets Arrests of Hard Core Offenders
10. Omaha 360 and Compassion in Action Pledge for Peace behind the Walls
11. Douglas County Reentry Initiatives Council
12. City of Omaha, ENCAP, EN launch RISE Initiative
13. EN and Omaha 360 Hosted Summits on Adopt-a-Block, Gun Violence and Prison/Reentry Summit

2014/2015 Successes & Promising Initiatives

1. Expansion of 360 Partners & Reductions in gun assaults
2. Increase number of residents calling to prevent and report crimes; increased clearance rates
3. OPD piloted Body Cameras; Launching 115 in 2016
4. Crime Stoppers increased to \$10,000 and \$25,000
5. Continued Omaha 360 Mobile Job and Resource Fair
6. Re-launched door-to-door, neighborhood peace walks
7. Advocated for Reentry Reform with Jobs, Housing, Mental Health, Support Services, etc.
8. Formed positive alternatives and media groups
9. OPD expanded operations to remove Illegal Guns
10. OPD expand targeted operations to arrest Hard Core
11. 70%+ clearance rates with community participation





Omaha 360 Collaboration Meeting March 2015

Reentry Priorities

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Mental Health Counseling
4. Financial Support for Transition
5. Transportation
6. Support Group
7. Reconnecting with Family
8. Drug Treatment
9. Childcare

2015 – Solutions to Solve Justice Issues

1. Create more venues for positive interaction between police and community
2. Increase diversity within police dept. and justice system
3. Continue to improve process for citizens to get complaints addressed
4. Continue to monitor and address Racial Profiling reports
5. Continue to address Disproportionate Minority Contact
6. More training for police officers on justice related issues
7. Continue to monitor and address youth & adult court
8. Address disproportionate sentencing and incarceration
9. Continue to expand funding for pre-vocational training and reentry programs; address lack of visitors
10. Training opportunities for youth and adults to better understand how to engage with police

Gaps/Areas for Improvement

1. Disproportionate Minority Contact
2. Addressing good time and early release
3. Inequality of sentences
4. More funding needed for re-entry programs
5. Lack of behavioral health/mental health support
6. Need an expanded gang intervention team

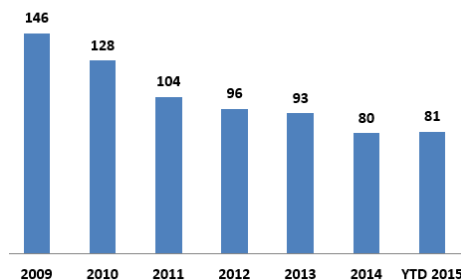
Prison and Justice Reform Strategies:

1. Invest in Alternatives to Prison
2. Community-based parole and probation
3. Interventions by community agencies
4. Faith-based interventions
5. Mental health treatment
6. Neighborhood-based intervention
7. Drug Treatment
8. At Home Monitoring
9. Drug Court

2014-15 Successes & Promising Initiatives

1. Major prison Reform bill passed/now implementation
 - a. Vocational training
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. Reentry funding \$3.5 million available
2. Juvenile Justice Reform effort launched by Foundations and FSG; Collective Impact effort formalized with staff (Operation Youth Success)
3. More youth kept in juvenile court rather than adult
4. State funds to keep juveniles out of detention
5. More probation officers hired to add more alternatives to prison
6. Ban the Box legislation passed/now in effect
7. JDAI and other initiatives contributing to reductions in youth detention population

Douglas County Juvenile Detention: -45%
Source: DCYC Average Daily Population

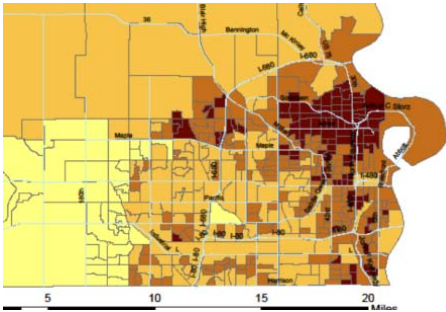


Health

Every family will have access to quality health care and healthy foods

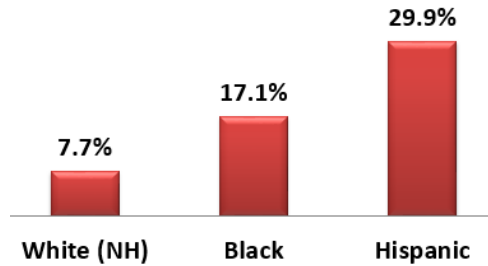
TRENDS & KEY DATA

Dark Indicates Potential for Greatest Health Impact



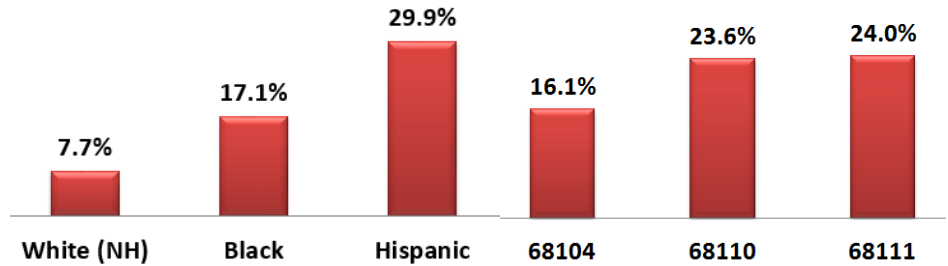
% with No Health Insurance By Race and Ethnicity

No Health Insurance
Source: ACS Census 2010-2014



% with No Health Insurance By Zip Code

% with No Health Insurance
Source: ACS Census 2010-2014

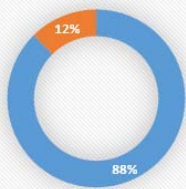


Source: Douglas County Health Department – CHIP Presentation

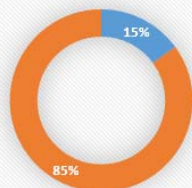
Source: American Community Survey – 2015 Release – Omaha MSA – 5 Year 2010-2014

Data from 2015 Community Health Report Card (Northeast Omaha)

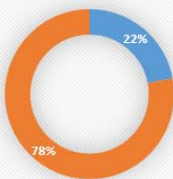
88% have a Particular Place for Medical Care



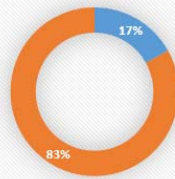
15% report Fair or Poor Health



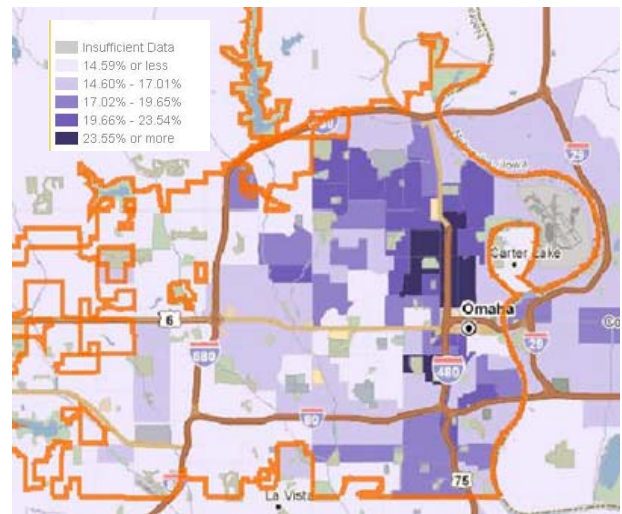
22% said costs prohibited a physician's visit



17% report being victim of Domestic Violence



% of Residents Reporting Poor or Fair Health By Zip Code (2013)



Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

1. Reduce Obesity and Increase Access to Healthy Foods & Exercise
2. Behavioral/Mental Health
3. STD/HIV
4. Lack of Insurance
5. Substance Abuse
6. Alzheimer's
7. Diabetes
8. Heart Disease
9. Lead – soil and paint
10. Breast Cancer
11. Prostate Cancer
12. Infant Mortality

Collaborative Strategies:

- A. Physical Health
 - A. Establish Primary Health Home
 - B. Expand Insurance Coverage
 - C. Improve Access to Healthy Foods & Active Lifestyles
 - D. Address STD/HIV
 - E. Heart Disease
 - F. Other critical health issues
- B. Mental/Behavioral Health
 - A. Address Substance Abuse
 - B. Post Traumatic Stress
 - C. Conflict Resolution
- C. Violence as a Public Health Issue



Fair Deal Village Marketplace – Expanding Access to Healthy Foods (N. 24th Street – Opening Fall 2016)

Community Programs and Progress:

1. Douglas County Community Health Needs Assessment : Working together to address Access, Obesity, Violence, Behavioral Health
2. Douglas County Health Department: Community Transformation Grant
 - a. Neighborhood Corner Stores
 - b. School & Community Gardens
3. Affordable Health Care Community Outreach
4. HungerFree Heartland – Food Availability
5. Emotional CPR w/CHI Health & Omaha 360
6. No More Empty Pots – Food Systems
7. Whispering Roots – Urban Agriculture
8. OEDC – Fair Deal Village Initiative
9. Healthy Futures - School-based Health Center expansion; Charles Drew, OPS, One World
10. Charles Drew and Omaha Housing Authority
11. Lutheran Family Services
12. Heartland Family Service
13. Nebraska Children’s Home Society
14. I AM Will Mental Health Housing/Support
15. Mental Health Summit – MCC, Deltas and UNMC

Gaps/Areas for Improvement:

1. Lack of mental health services, especially for youth
2. More mental health and behavioral health support is needed at schools
3. Uninsured Omaha residents
4. Lack of resource information
5. Care for refugees and immigrant population
6. Solutions to Post Traumatic Stress
7. Address the high number of youth and adults incarcerated because of mental health concerns

2014-15 Successes & Promising Initiatives

1. Affordable Health Care implementation
2. CHI Health Announced \$35 Million Creighton University Medical Center at 24th and Cuming; Building under construction
3. REACH Grant: Creighton University, Charles Drew Health Center, NE Center for Healthy Families team for \$1.5 million grant
4. Expansion of Charles Drew Health Center, including longer hours
5. Expansion of School-based Health Center with Charles Drew and Building Healthy Futures
6. Expansion of Earned Income Tax Credit Program (\$3,000,000 success in 2015)
7. Moving Forward with CHIP Plan
8. Douglas County reports: (2014)
 - a. Number of smoke-free apartments increased from 48 to 75
 - b. Number of retail outlets with healthy food access of 3 or higher: Increased from 9 to 11 in North O.
 - c. 3,000 young people tested for STD’s
9. Douglas County embraces ACES model – trauma informed care
10. Neighborhood Corner Stores continue moving forward with new signage and merchandise
11. Whispering Roots – Urban Agriculture expands
12. CHI Health and Omaha 360 eCPR expansion

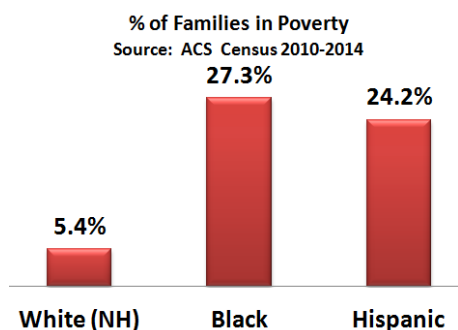


Healthy Families

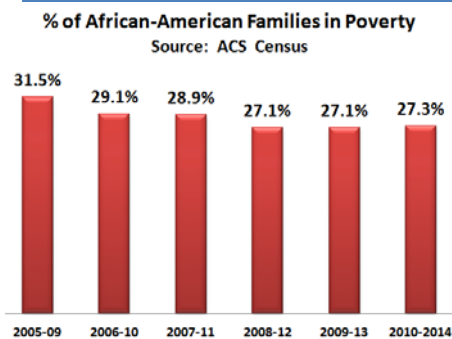
Every family will have access to the support services needed

TRENDS & KEY DATA

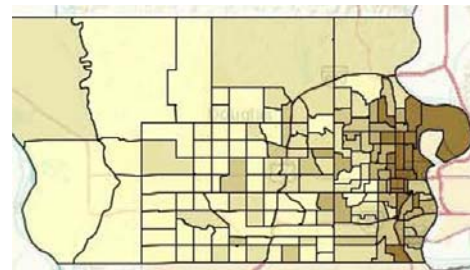
27.3% of African American & 24.2% of Latino families are in Poverty



Poverty Rate Trend for African-Americans Families



High Poverty Rates Omaha/CB MSA Map



Source: American Community Survey – Omaha MSA 2015 Release – 5 Year Avgs.

Community Needs/Issues/Priorities:

1. Absence of fathers in households; Single parent households
2. Basic needs: Food, Homes, Clothing
3. Financial literacy
4. Renter and home buyer training; Housing discrimination
5. Teen pregnancy
6. Marriage and parenting
7. Children – Delinquency, Foster Care, etc
8. Family support services and systems – Ex: mentoring
9. Domestic/Intimate Partner Abuse
10. Seniors – Housing, Support, Medicare & Abuse

Collaborative Strategies:

- A. Self-sufficiency:
 - Work to move families out of Poverty through Employment and improving Support Systems
 - Removing Barriers: Including Basic Services and Family Support;
 - Financial Freedom – Literacy, Training, and Wealth Building
- B. Relationships, Marriage, and Parenting
 - Reduce Teen Pregnancy and Unwed Pregnancies
 - Engage more fathers and positive role models
 - Build Healthy Relationships and Parenting Skills
 - Increase Marriage Rate

Recent Highlights & Progress:

1. Affordable Health Care Community Outreach & Enrollment
2. Charles Drew Health Center – new and renewed grants of over \$2 million
3. Family Housing Advisory Services – Individual Development Accounts, Earned Income Tax Program; Reduce Mobility Initiative
4. Douglas County Health Department: Community Transformation Grant
 - a. Neighborhood Corner Stores
 - b. School & Community Gardens
5. Emotional CPR initiative w/ Alegent & Omaha 360
6. No More Empty Pots – Food Systems
7. Whispering Roots – Urban Agriculture
8. Healthy Futures - School-based Health Center expansion
9. Charles Drew and Omaha Housing Authority partnership
10. Father's for a Lifetime – 1,200 Fathers Served

2014-15 Successes & Promising Initiatives

1. Family Housing Advisory Services
 - Financial Stability, Home Ownership Training, Individual Development Plans, Earned Income Tax Cr.
2. State Legislature added child care credits for families
3. United Way – Completed Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Process; Opened Application Process
 - a. Focus on Basic Needs
 - b. Classroom Ready
 - c. Workforce Ready
4. Minimum Wage Increase – Ballot Initiative Passed
5. Women's Fund – developing effort to focus on reducing teen pregnancy and addressing STD's
6. Creighton University – Financial Stability Programs
7. Center for Holistic Development's American Promise Initiative – Focus on Parents, Families and Young Men
8. Omaha Health Kids Alliance – Healthy Homes Projects
9. Lutheran Family Services Initiatives
10. Nebraska Children's Home Society Initiatives
11. Expanding Health Insurance Coverage
12. Heartland Family Service

Faith and Hope

Every family will be exposed to a message of hope – inside and outside of the walls

Peace Walk and Door-to-Door
Community Outreach



Community Praying Together
after the death of Officer Orozco



Native Omaha Days Parade
Adopt-A-Block



Youth Outreach and Community
Engagement



Leadership and Faith-based
Financial Empowerment



Collaborative Strategies:

- A. **Outside the Walls Approach** – Expand Adopt-A-Block Neighborhood Partnerships, Prayer Walks, and Family Support
- B. **Children’s Ministries; Youth Outreach and Community Engagement:** Expand Events, Activities and Ministries for Children and Youth
- C. **Active Engagement of Church Members:** Outreach Events, Neighborhood Assoc., Mentoring, Prison Ministries, etc.
- D. **Prison Reentry** – Coordinated strategy to engage faith communities and organizations in successful reentry of returning citizens
- E. **Church-based Economic Strategies** –Support African-American, North Omaha and other businesses that invest in the community

Initiatives and Progress:

1. Expanding Pastors and Faith Leaders monthly partnership meeting
2. Expanding Adopt-A-Block
3. Expanding Village Stakeholders
4. Expanding Village Basketball Alliance
5. Hosting large scale neighborhood events and activities
6. Targeted prayerwalks
7. Developing new partnerships in South Omaha
8. Partnering on RISE grant
9. Hosting youth activities
10. Purchasing rental homes and converting them to home ownership
11. Neighborhood clean up efforts
12. Cleaning up vacant lots

2014-15 Successes & Promising Initiatives:

1. Expanding Adopt-A-Block & Village Stakeholders
2. Building relationships and partnerships throughout the city of Omaha
3. Building strong relationships with Omaha Police Department
4. Participation with Omaha 360, Stop the Violence Demonstrations and Targeted PrayerWalks
5. Building South Omaha Partnerships to expand Village Stakeholders groups
6. Expanding youth outreach activities
7. Partnering with Mayor’s Faith and Community Advisory Group
8. Expanding Youth Ministries
9. Expanding Prison & Reentry Ministries
10. Church-based Economics Movement

Arts, Culture, Media and Communications

Every family will be exposed to African-American and other cultures

Imagine the Possibilities...



Community Priorities: (opportunities)

1. 24th and Lake
2. Great Plains Black History Museum
3. Malcolm X International Center
4. John Beasley Theater
5. Loves Jazz and Arts Museum
6. Omaha Star
7. Tuskegee Airmen
8. Black Music Hall of Fame
9. Historic Churches, Buildings, Homes and Cemeteries
10. Black Sports Hall of Fame

Top 5 Most Like to Have in North Omaha:

1. Outdoor Community gathering space (concerts, farmer's markets, etc)
2. Performing Arts Center & Live Theater
3. History Museum
4. Live Music Venue
5. Movie Theater

Recent Highlights:

1. 24th and Lake – Major Events
 - Christmas in the Village
 - Stroll Down Memory Lane
 - MLK Week in the Village
 - Mobile Civil Rights Museum
2. Native Omaha Days
3. Love of Arts Music Festival
4. Love's Jazz and Arts Center
5. Fair Deal Village Marketplace
6. Union for Contemporary Art, Gallery, Housing
7. Bemis/Carver Bank Building
8. Big Mama's Sandwich Shop
9. Styles of Evolution Clothing Store expansion
10. Taste of Heaven and others

Collaborative Strategies:

- A. **Strengthen the African-American and North Omaha Arts & Culture Community:** Establish & expand North Omaha Arts Alliance
- B. **Establish the arts industry as an economic engine:** Revitalize the 24th and Lake District: Arts, History & Entertainment
- C. **Media and Communications:** Expand African-American & North Omaha media; establish positive relationships with media
- D. **Transition Malcolm X into an International Attraction:** Develop a Cultural Center w/History, Housing, Business, Youth Development



Promising Initiatives:

1. North Omaha Village Zone Revitalization
2. 24th and Lake Arts, Culture, Entertainment & Business District – Blue Lion, Fair Deal Urban Village, Festival Sq.
3. Great Plains Black History Museum
4. Love's Jazz and Arts Center
5. Malcolm X Center
6. North Omaha Arts Alliance
7. Night Fox Entertainment
8. Festival Square Development at 24th and Lake
9. Groups:
 - African-Cultural Connection
 - Washington Branch Library Events and Others
10. Media
 - Omaha Star
 - Revive! Omaha Magazine/North Omaha Guide
 - Channel 22
 - 1690 AM and 95.7 The Boss
 - Expanding partnerships with Major Media

Empowerment & Transformation 2025 PLAN for PROGRESS: (Leadership Accountability & Collaboration)

Working Together towards Measurable Change: Collaborative Partners Lead Various Initiatives

- A. **Engage and mobilize residents, leaders, & elected officials** regularly and consistently on issues, solutions, decision-making, implementation and evaluation in a solution-focused environment; informal & formal commitment to the empowerment covenant
- B. **Encourage active neighborhood involvement, engagement, and leadership**
- C. **Increase civic engagement - volunteering, service, mentoring**
- D. **Increase voter education, participation, and empowerment**
- E. **Support positive media outlets, channels, and balanced coverage of North Omaha and African-Americans**
- F. **Advocate for urban policies that support transforming the economic progress and quality of life** in every zip code and neighborhood, by addressing economics, education, housing, health, and civil rights/justice

1. Employment & Entrepreneurship - Employment & Entrepreneurship Collaboration

Sustainable, Living Wage Work – Every person has access to a sustainable living wage career

- A. **Youth Jobs and Internships:** Increase the number of summer jobs and expand transitions to year round education & employment
- B. **Targeted Job Training:** Implement category specific training & transitional jobs, moving towards sustainable living wage employment
- C. **Career Development & Advancement** – Address wage gap; develop pipelines and pathways to middle/senior level employment & boards
- D. **Business Development:** Recruit, develop, train, support & expand new and existing African-American & North Omaha businesses
- E. **Wealth-Building and Contractor Development:** Develop and expand wealth-building and contract opportunities/training/bonding
- F. **Access to Credit and Capital:** Develop new funds, opportunities, programs and initiatives to address access to credit and capital

2. Education & Youth Development - Cradle to Career Collaboration

Graduation with Marketable Skill and Prepared for Post Secondary – Every child has access to a high quality education

- A. **Equitable Funding** : Increase funding, resources and support; Match the needs of the students and families
- B. **Empowered Parents, Families and Community** – Develop strategies that fully engage parents and families: Increase parent outreach, create an inviting environment, open & consistent communication, shared decision-making, financial support
- C. **Early Childhood:** Invest in and expand high quality childhood development, so that every child is prepared for Kindergarten
- D. **Excellent Schools in every Neighborhood:** Core elements in every school and classroom: Teacher Effectiveness & Culturally Relevant; Collaborative, Strong, Instruction-focused Principals; Challenging/Interactive Curriculum; Ext. Learning Time (Day &Year)
- E. **Expanded, Coordinated Wrap-around Services** – Implement and coordinate support services for students and families by following the cradle to career process: Teams, Needs Assessments, Services Delivery (including mentoring & tutoring), Data, Evaluation
- F. **Engaged Students - Attendance, Hope, Engagement, Leadership and Careers** – Continue to improve attendance; building hope; increase # of students taking Algebra, AP, ACT; engage & develop leadership skills; link students w/scholarships, jobs, interns, etc.
- G. **Technology** – Close the digital divide. Expand technology in homes and schools. High speed access for homes, schools & business.

3. Housing, Neighborhoods, and Transportation – Sustainable Communities Collaboration

Living in a Healthy Home and Neighborhood – Every person has a thriving home and neighborhood to live in

- A. **Increase Home Ownership** – Address the mortgage crisis; demolition of dilapidated homes; rehab of homes; address vacant lots
- B. **Mixed-Income Neighborhoods** - Rebuild targeted communities, increase home ownership & create strong, active neighborhoods
- C. **Civic and Commercial Districts** – Revitalize neighborhoods with Business, Retail, Services and Recreation
- D. **Improved Transportation** – Address transportation issues to improve - Access to Work, School, and Support Services
- E. **Environmental Justice** – Partner with efforts to address Lead, Water, Waste, and other environmental issues

4. Faith & Hope - Pastors, Ministers, and Faith Leaders Covenant

Exposed to Message and Examples of Hope – Every person has hope and the opportunity to reach their full potential

- A. **Outside the Walls Approach** – Expand Adopt-A-Block Neighborhood Partnerships, Prayer Walks, and Family Support
- B. **Youth Outreach and Community Engagement:** Expand Events, Activities and Ministries for Children and Youth
- C. **Church-based Economic Strategies** –Support African-American, North Omaha and other businesses that invest in the community
- D. **Common Community Language and Measures** – Use Hope Measures, Strengthfinders, 40 Assets and the Empowerment Covenant

5. Violence Prevention and Justice Reform - Omaha 360 VIP Collaboration & Justice Collaboration

Living in a Safe and Secure Neighborhood – Every person lives in safe housing and thriving, mixed-income neighborhoods

- A. **Prevention** – Expand efforts – Healing, School Outreach, Employment, Conflict Resolution, Mentoring, Positive Activities , Juv. Justice
- B. **Intervention** – Expand efforts - Street Outreach, Gang Intervention, Crisis Response, Family Support, Hospital Intervention
- C. **Enforcement and Community Involvement** - Remove Illegal Guns; Targeted Arrests of Hard Core; Prosecution & Community Support
- D. **Reentry and Support Services** – Provide stronger support and services - Pre-release Training, Education, Employment, One Stop Ctr, Resources, and Coaching; Support Services - Housing, Counseling, Transportation, Substance Abuse Treatment, etc.
- E. **Justice and Civil Rights** – Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Police/Community Relations, Housing and Employment Discrimination, etc.

6. Healthy Families - Health and Healthy Family Initiative

Living in a Strong & Healthy Family – Every person has a strong family, w/ access to health care, healthy foods & support services

- A. **Self-sufficiency:** Work to move families out of Poverty through Employment and improving Support Systems; Removing Barriers: Including Basic Services and Family Support; and, Financial Freedom – Literacy, Training, and Wealth Building ; Increase home ownership
- B. **Physical Health** – Improve Access to Quality Health Care and Establish Primary Health Home, Improve Access to Healthy Foods and Reduce Obesity through Active Lifestyles; and address STD/HIV, Heart Disease, and other critical health issues
- C. **Mental/Behavioral Health** – Address Substance Abuse, Post Traumatic Stress, Conflict Resolution; Violence as a Public Health Issue
- D. **Relationships, Marriage, and Parenting** – Reduce Teen Pregnancy, Build Positive Parenting Relationships, Increase Marriage Rate

7. Arts, Culture, Media and Communications- North Omaha Arts & Media Alliance

Easy Access to Culture, Arts, Positive Media & Technology – Every person is exposed to the best of our culture & key technology

- A. **Strengthen the African-American and North Omaha Arts & Culture Community:** Establish & expand North Omaha Arts Alliance
- B. **Establish the arts industry as an economic engine:** Revitalize the 24th and Lake District: Arts, History, & Entertainment
- C. **Transition Malcolm X into an International Attraction:** Develop a Cultural Center w/History, Housing, Business, Youth Development
- D. **Media and Communications:** Expand African-American & North Omaha media; establish positive relationships with major media



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Buffett-backed plan to transform crime-plagued north Omaha neighborhood passes 1st test with city

By Christopher Burbach / World-Herald staff writer | Posted: Friday, February 6, 2015 1:00 am

A Buffett-backed effort to create a new neighborhood on a former north Omaha public housing site is likely to begin this year with the construction of apartments and town houses.

The first phase of the Highlander 75 North development will include 16 buildings with a total of 109 rental units, the group told the Omaha Planning Board on Wednesday.

Some will be market-rate, and some will be low-income units. They are expected to rise by 2016 on both sides of 30th Street, between Parker and Patrick Streets.

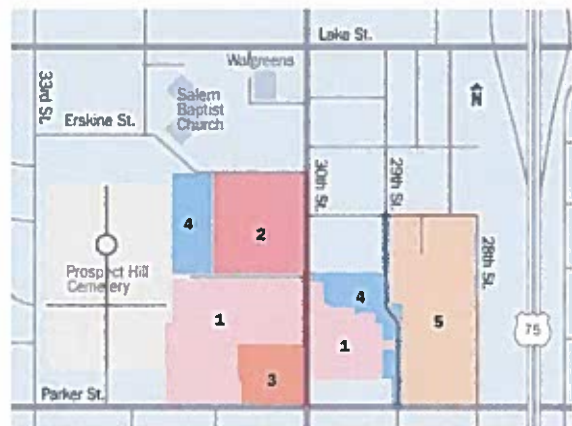
The mixed-income rental housing will form the first element of a redevelopment of the crime-plagued former Pleasantview Homes public housing project.

The nonprofit Seventy-Five North Revitalization Corp., whose financial supporters include Susie Buffett and her father, Warren Buffett, is partnering with Illinois-based Brinshore Development.

Future phases would include an educational enrichment complex, businesses and single-family homes. Seventy-Five North leaders also hope to partner with the nearby Howard Kennedy Elementary School and make adult education classes available in the neighborhood.

Seventy-Five North is working with Purpose Built Communities, a nonprofit consulting firm that has used the model to turn around crime-ridden neighborhoods in Atlanta and New Orleans. The development also is connected with the City of Omaha's North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan.

Seventy-Five North was created in 2010. It purchased the 23-acre Pleasantview Homes site last year from the Omaha Housing Authority, which had demolished the public housing apartments.



North O map

The plans have been in the works for some time between the developers and neighbors, community groups and city officials.

Wednesday was their first time to be presented to a public body.

“It’s just the first step of really sending a message to the community that this is really going to happen,” said Othello H. Meadows III, executive director of Seventy-Five North.

The group hopes to turn around the neighborhood’s chronic poverty, unemployment and crime by building a vibrant residential neighborhood with people of a variety of income levels, from all walks of life, Meadows said.

“We’ve got a long way to go to actually bring this to fruition,” he said.

They took a step Wednesday.

Jerry Slusky, an attorney for the developers, told the board that the first phase of Highlander 75 North will cost an estimated \$25.4 million. The developers will seek about \$1.2 million in tax-increment financing, in which a portion of a development’s future increased property taxes are used to pay for certain upfront costs.

The first phase would include a variety of housing types: live-work town houses with residences above ground-floor workspaces, multigenerational town houses, traditional town houses and apartment buildings.

Rents will range from \$600 to \$900.

Groundbreaking for the first phase could take place in November, and people could move in by December 2016.

The Omaha Planning Department gave the plans a glowing recommendation.

“It’s going to make a very positive change in the neighborhood and be a catalyst for other good things to happen,” Assistant Planning Director David Fanslau said.

The Planning Board voted 7-0 Wednesday to recommend that the City Council approve the preliminary plans.

City Councilman Ben Gray said he’s confident that the quality and design of the homes and neighborhood will attract people — and that the plans will materialize.

“The people who are investing in it are patient enough that we can make the right things fit,” Gray said.

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