

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

A community revitalization strategy is a deliberate, concerted, and locally approved plan or documented interconnected series of local efforts with local stakeholder support intended to improve and enhance specific aspects of a community or neighborhood. While community revitalization can look very different between communities, these strategies often target an area that is larger than a parcel, PUD, or subdivision, but small enough that one municipality or county (or a small conglomerate of municipalities or counties) can have jurisdiction over it.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION CAN MEAN:

- 🏠 Economic Development
 - 🏠 Downtown or target-area revitalization
 - 🏠 Business development
 - 🏠 Economic development – growing employers and jobs
 - 🏠 Improvements in infrastructure
 - 🏠 Improvement in services and amenities (health, education, shopping, etc.)

- 🏠 Housing Development
 - 🏠 Improvement in housing stock
 - 🏠 Infill housing/reduction in vacant lots
 - 🏠 Rehabilitation of dilapidated properties

- 🏠 Community Development
 - 🏠 Increase in community meetings/neighborhood organization
 - 🏠 Increase in public safety
 - 🏠 Increase in transportation options and access
 - 🏠 Increase in walkability
 - 🏠 Improvement in recreational opportunities
 - 🏠 Natural resource protection
 - 🏠 Community gardens
 - 🏠 Environmental planning and initiatives
 - 🏠 Improvement in stormwater management

...and can/should involve:

Local citizens
Neighborhood boards and groups
Nonprofit agencies
Local businesses
Educational institutions
Service-providing agencies and individuals
Governmental representatives and agencies



WHAT ROLE DOES COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PLAY AT IHDA?

Community revitalization plays a prominent role in ensuring the health and success of Illinois communities, and therefore, IHDA is a strong proponent of these processes. Taking an active approach to community revitalization planning can also play a critical role in helping communities qualify for assistance and investment through a variety of agencies. In addition to Community Revitalization serving as a 10-point category on IHDA's Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) application, IHDA also implements a range of grants and programs designed to meet communities' revitalization needs that are available to nonprofits and units of local government:

- 🏠 Abandoned Property Program
- 🏠 Blight Reduction Program
- 🏠 Single Family Rehabilitation Program
- 🏠 Land Bank Capacity Program and Technical Assistance Network
- 🏠 Home Accessibility Program
- 🏠 Foreclosure Prevention Program
- 🏠 Housing Tax Credits
- 🏠 Homeownership Programs

WHAT CAN IHDA OFFER YOU

IHDA employs two full-time Community Revitalization Planning Specialists (CRPSs) who are available to work with you and your community to discuss your current or desired plans for promoting revitalization and development in your community. Regardless of where you are in the process of community revitalization, IHDA's CRPSs can provide technical assistance to you in the following ways:

- 🏠 Economic Development
- 🏠 Understand the guidelines for preparing Community Revitalization Strategies on your Low Income Housing Tax Credit application
- 🏠 Coordinate with other state, regional, and federal agencies who may be able to meet your community's needs
- 🏠 Strategically plan for future tax credit development sites
- 🏠 Gain expertise regarding housing development, planning processes, and utilizing governmental resources
- 🏠 Connect to market analysis tools that help communities understand and predict trends in their areas, particularly related to housing
- 🏠 Begin the process of intergovernmental/multi-jurisdictional coordination and planning
- 🏠 Strategize future planning and investment in your community

REACH OUT TO A COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PLANNING SPECIALIST

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