Plan for Our Future:

Community Driven Planning:
Community Planning Assistance Program

Housing and Community Development Network Annual Meeting
October 20, 2015
East Windsor, NJ
Program Goal

To assist communities to understand how planning can help them reach their goals.

To support community-driven planning by providing volunteer professional planning support to communities addressing specific issues.

To take on projects that can be completed in a relatively short time.
Program Highlights

- Volunteer Planning Projects
- Planning in Schools
- Community Planning Workshops
Volunteer Program History

Planning Needs Survey
CPAP begins
Round 1 Project Solicitation
Planning in Schools #1
Round 2 Project Solicitation
Planning in Schools #2
Round 3 Project Solicitation

Volunteer Program – The Numbers To-Date

- 7 municipalities
- 10 community groups
- 2 schools in Newark

- Volunteers – over 70 people have volunteered for projects
- APA Members and non-members
Client and Volunteer Recruitment

- Communities – Partner with the HCDNNJ to solicit for proposals community-based groups.
- Municipalities – contact all NJ municipalities with solicitation
- Volunteers – Recruit volunteers professional from the NJ Chapter membership list as well as others who have offered to volunteer.
Municipalities

- Bayonne
- Bradley Beach
- Maurice River Township
- Seaside Heights
- Boonton
- Passaic
Community Groups

- Tri-City People’s Corporation, Newark
- New Community, Newark
- Women Rising/Bergen Communities United, Jersey City
- Jewish Renaissance Corporation, Perth Amboy
- Coalition to Preserve the Palisades, North Bergen
- Urban League OF Essex County, Newark
- Ironbound Community Corporation, Newark
- South Ward Children’s Alliance, Newark
- St. Josephs Carpenter, Gloucester City
- New Brunswick Tomorrow, New Brunswick
- Paulus Hook Neighborhood Associations, Jersey City
- Redstone Neighborhood Association, Jersey City
Examples of Municipal Projects
Smith Street in Perth Amboy
Main Street in Bradley Beach

What is this Place?
Maurice River Township Economic Strategies
Examples of Community Group Projects
West Side Park Neighborhood Newark
Bergen Communities United in Jersey City
North Hudson Park in North Bergen
Examples of Planning in Schools
Planning in Schools

- Louise A. Spencer School – 50 8th graders in an after school program
- Abington Avenue School – 150 8th graders – integrated into curriculum
- Developing a City Planning Curriculum for grades 4 through 8
CPAP has sponsored two community planning workshops to discuss how planners and communities can work together more effectively. These were co-sponsored by HCDNNJ, Rutgers, LISC, Together North Jersey, and the Center for Community Planning.
Results/Lessons Learned

- Discovered a strong need in communities for planning support. Municipalities and community organizations need help.

- Levels of knowledge about planning ranges from very low to very high.

- Some communities need to crawl before they can walk.

- Ability at the community level to follow up is mixed.

- Projects have to be finished quickly to maintain interest of the volunteers.

- There is a need for more resources to support community-level planning that we are doing.

- APA-NJ and the HCDNNJ are partnering to strengthen the program.