



Morristown United for Healthy Living

October 24, 2016, 5:30pm- 7:30pm, St. Margaret's Catholic Church

Agenda

Dinner will be served

- 5:30 **Welcome & Introductions** (Linda)
- 5:40 **Ground Rules/Team Norms** (Diana/WotS)
- 5:50 **Re-Cap of our Work** (Michelle)
- 6:00 **Priority Issue Updates** (Linda, all)
- 6:10 **"Dreaming" Activity: Envisioning a Better Future** (Diana/WotS)
-Share-back and discussion
- 6:40 **Overview of Grant Resources** (Ashley)
Presentation of NJHC Planning Model + Discussion (Ashley)
- 7:00 **Joint Agenda-Planning and Next Steps** (Solangel)
- 7:30 **Close**

Meeting Goals:

- Provide updates on work since last meeting (key stakeholder contacts)
- Begin planning process with envisioning how we can make an impact
- Share grant resources
- Present proposed planning model and decide on usefulness
- Collectively define next steps

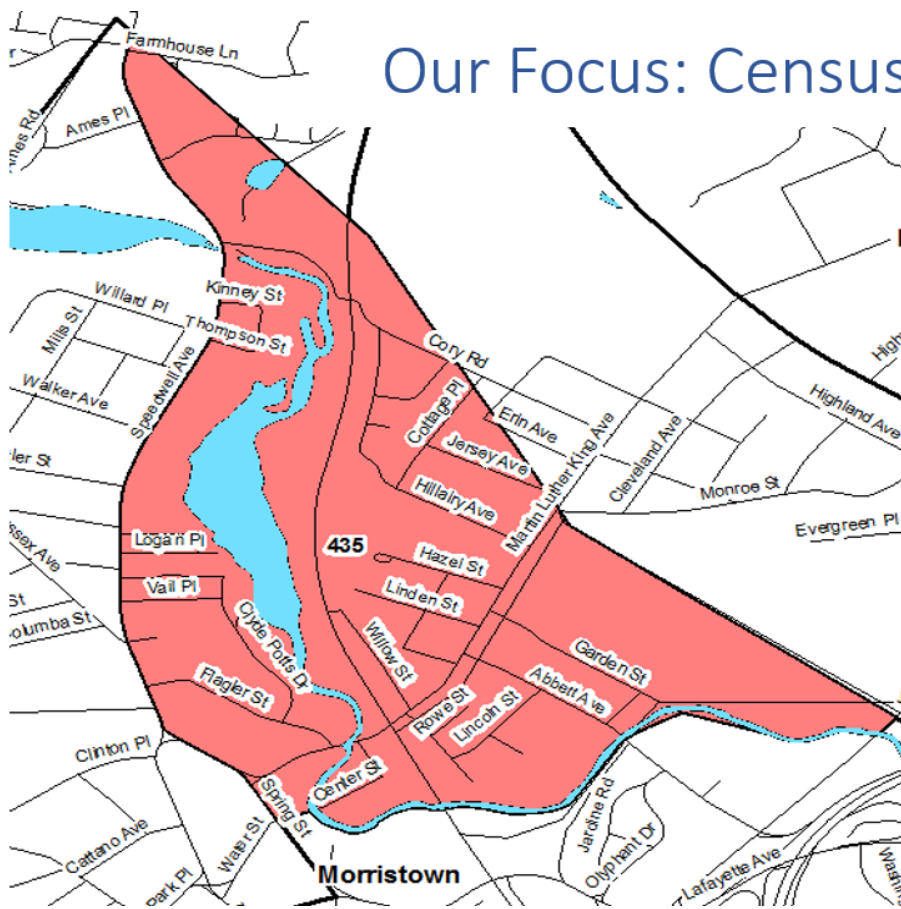
Next meeting, November 28th, 5:30-7:30 (same location)

Minutes Follow

Ground Rules/Community Agreements

- 1) Don't "yuck" my "yum" (if someone is for something or likes something and you don't agree, don't reject their opinion or express distaste)
- 2) Share honestly
- 3) Be mindful of phone use
- 4) Ouch! (if you find something hurtful or offensive, bring it up so we can address it as a group)
- 5) Step up, step down (speak up when you have something to say, and be mindful not to dominate conversation)
- 6) Don't make assumptions
- 7) Spelling don't count (when people speak or write, avoid bringing correcting small things like grammar, pronunciation, etc.)

Recap of our Work



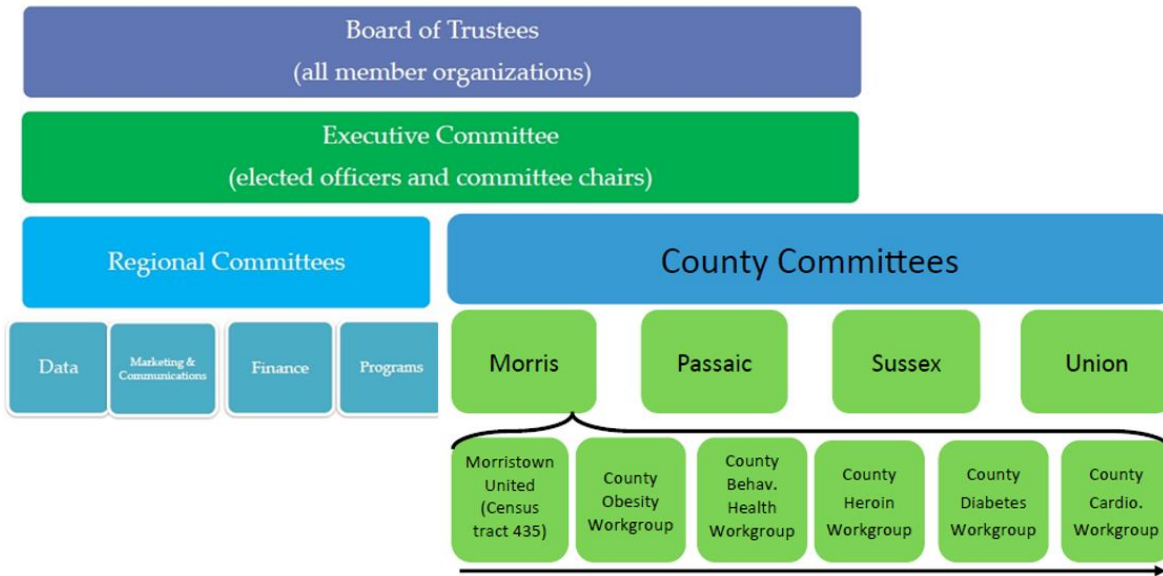
Our Focus: Census Tract 435

Our mission is to build a culture of health in Morristown's census tract 435 by fostering teamwork, sharing resources, engaging the community, assessing neighborhood specific needs, and collaboratively creating and implementing action plans to address these needs.

North Jersey Health Collaborative



your health matters



Founding

- Census tract 435 identified as priority area by NJHC
- Steering committee invited
- Grant application accepted
- Boundary Spanning Leadership Training

Needs Assessment

- Review of existing county data
- Postcard survey in 435 (N= 163)
- Coalition assembled
- Data review and listening sessions
- Key informant interviews
- Community interviews (N= 43)
- Voting

Action Planning

- Selection of priority health issues
- Stakeholder recruitment
- **Redefining our mission and vision as a group**
- **Visioning our preferred future**

Implementation & Evaluation

You are here



Priority Issue Updates



Housing and
the Built
Environment

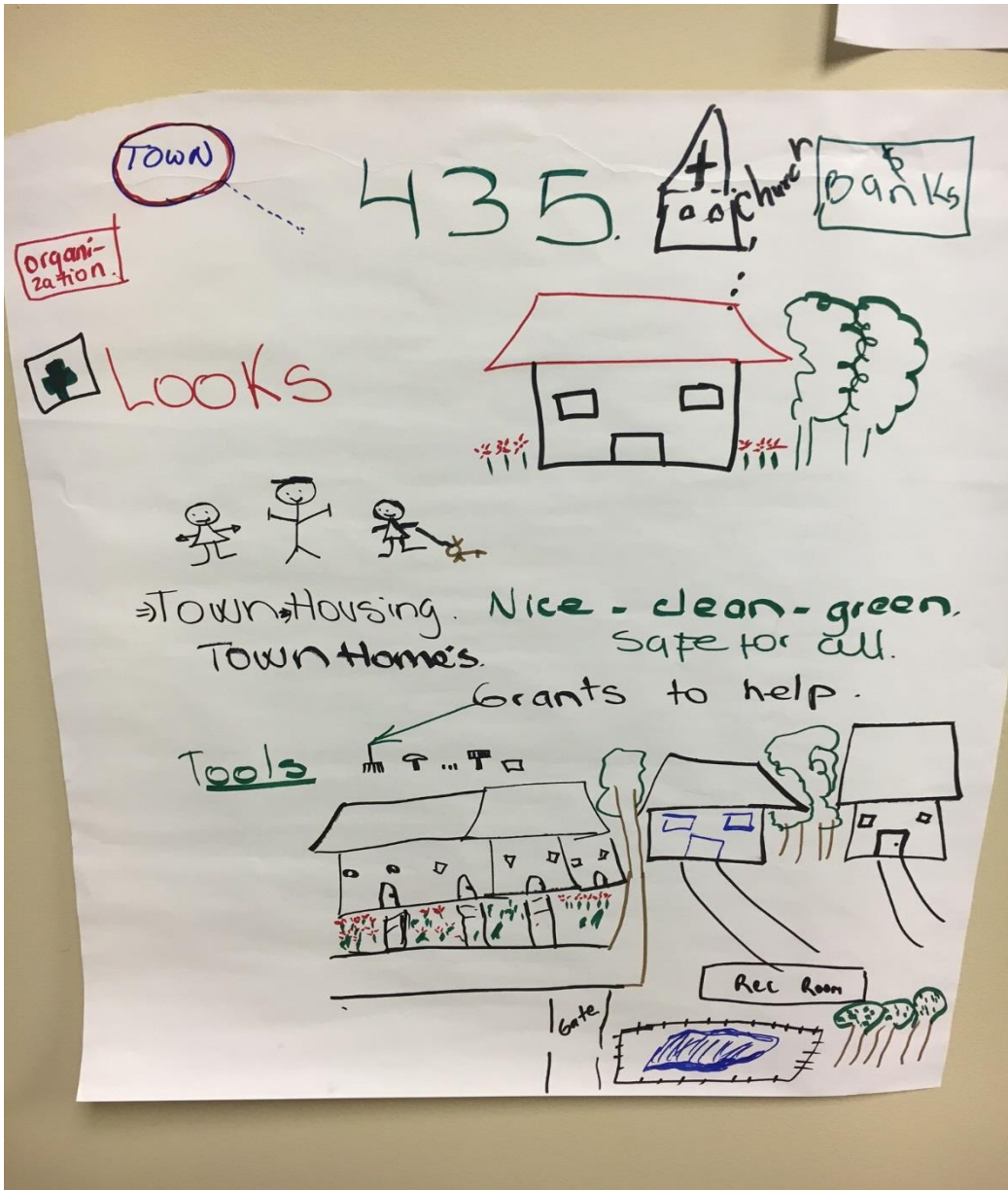


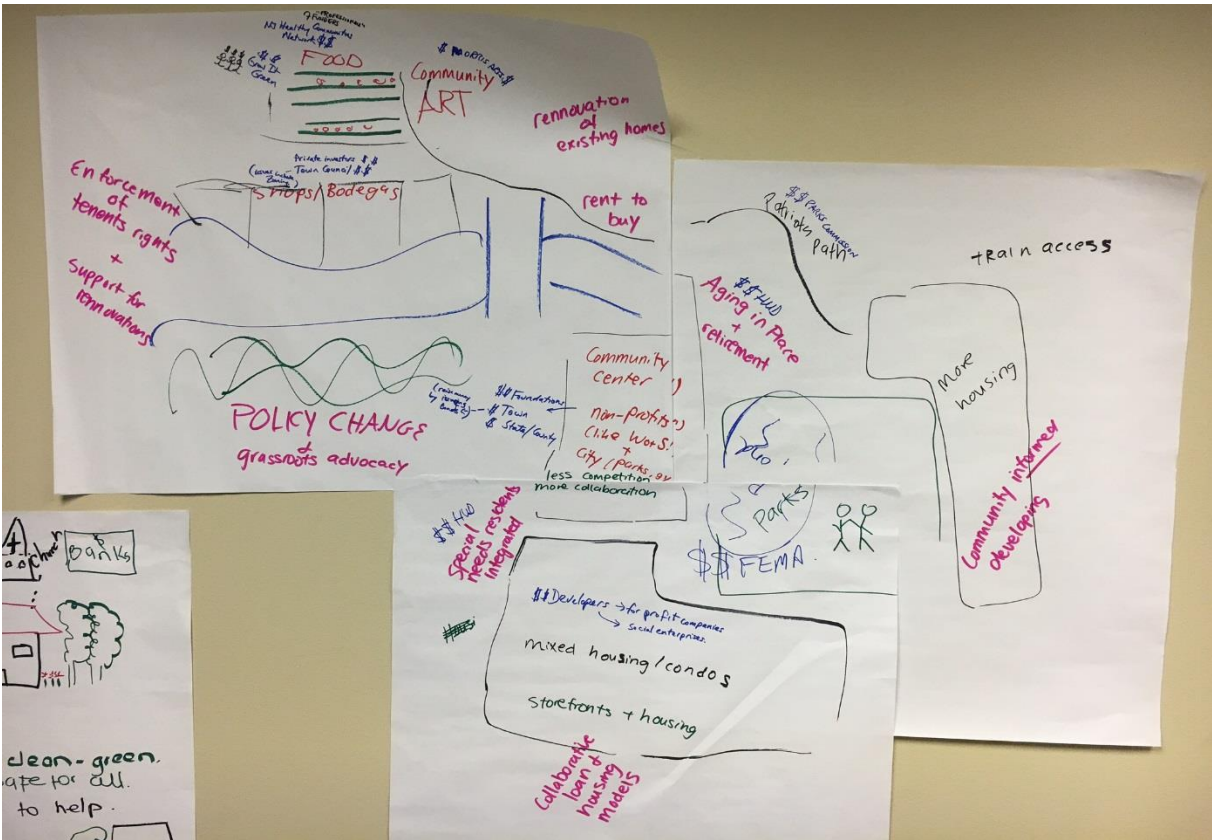
Financial
Inequity

- Stakeholder recruitment
 - Human Relations Commission, Fair Housing Committee
 - Currently working to assess how well cities are performing on housing mandates
 - Forum on Housing (held earlier this month):
 - Many key players were in the room
 - HUD presented on the Fair Housing Act, rights of tenants and Section 8; they shared that they can help by providing data
 - Legal Services in Northwest NJ presented on how to help clients stay in their homes; basically, you are a tenant for life unless you don't do a few specific things (people are being evicted illegally in many cases)
 - Could they help us better understand the protections for tenants during redevelopment? Could we provide "redevelopment 101" for residents?
 - Housing Partnerships was in attendance; Linda Murphy will be in contact
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Rich and Spencer joined the group and shared that there is already work going on in the area (e.g., on Hazel St. and MLK).
 - They are currently working on making improvements to existing housing. They charge for materials but donate the time of the supervisors and volunteers (which can cut the price in half). They are hoping to cut this cost even more via materials donations by large companies.
 - Morristown Housing Authority
 - Linda Murphy contacted; they have a conflict with our meeting date (we will re-assess our schedule to accommodate)
 - Morris County Housing Authority
 - Michelle Riley has been in contact
 - Note from Michelle Harris: this is a good group to involve because the Housing Authority can become a community development force and build homes in the county
 - National Realtors Association
 - Grants available for partnering with local realtors; funding could be used to bring in experts to present to/advise our coalition
 - Additional stakeholders for recruitment:
 - Homeless Solutions
 - Affordable Housing Alliance
 - Market Street Mission
 - Community Soup Kitchen

Dreaming Activity

Attendees were asked to gather in groups and vision—through words or pictures—their picture of what it would look like if we successfully addressed the issues of housing and financial inequity in our community. Images of the vision boards are below, followed by themes and items of discussion.





Rent Control

Wharton Program
 0% mortgage

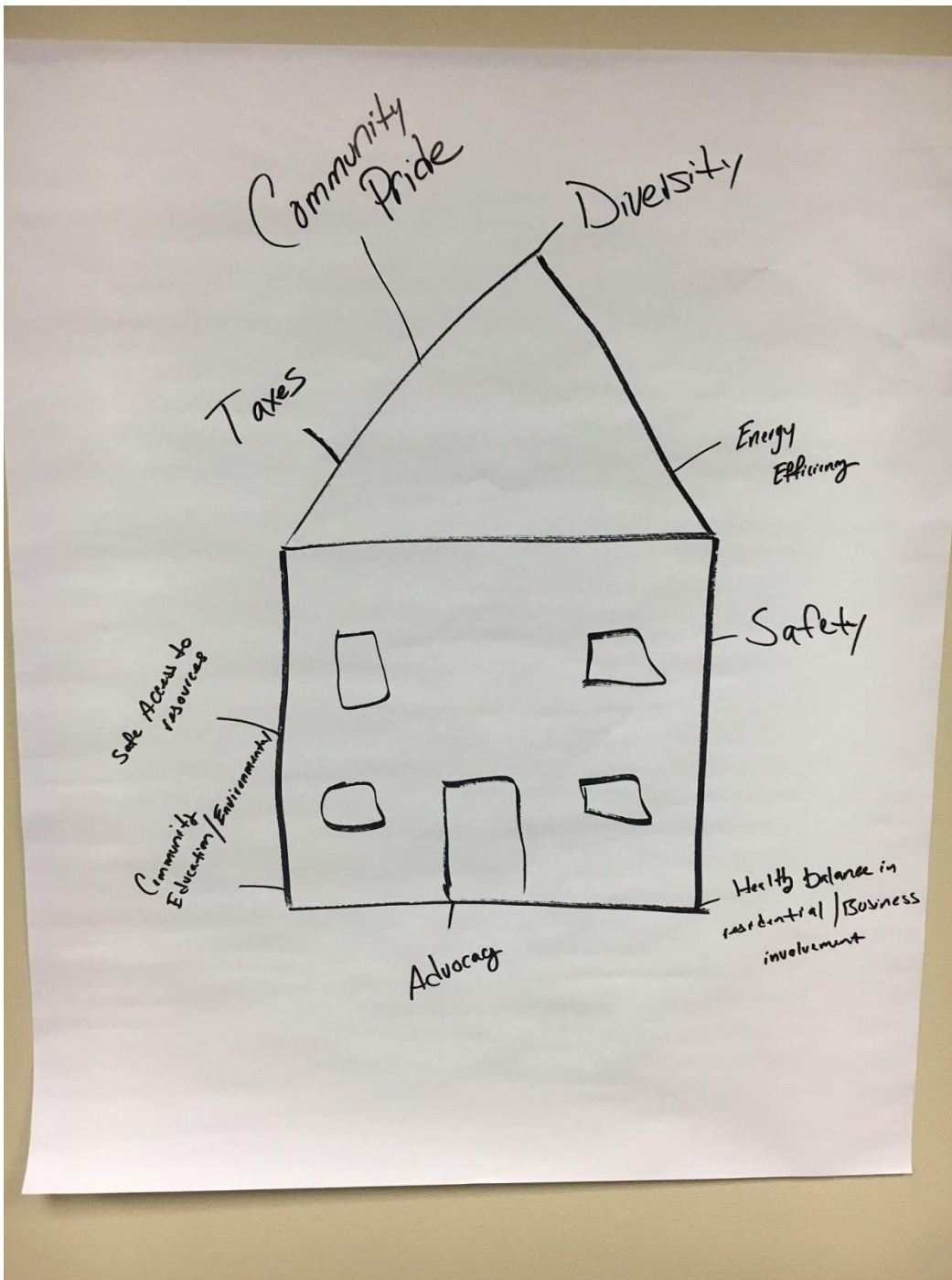
Faith Community Property ownership/mg+

Home Repair Loan forgiveness after year 5

Public Transit

Open Space

We are pro-home ownership



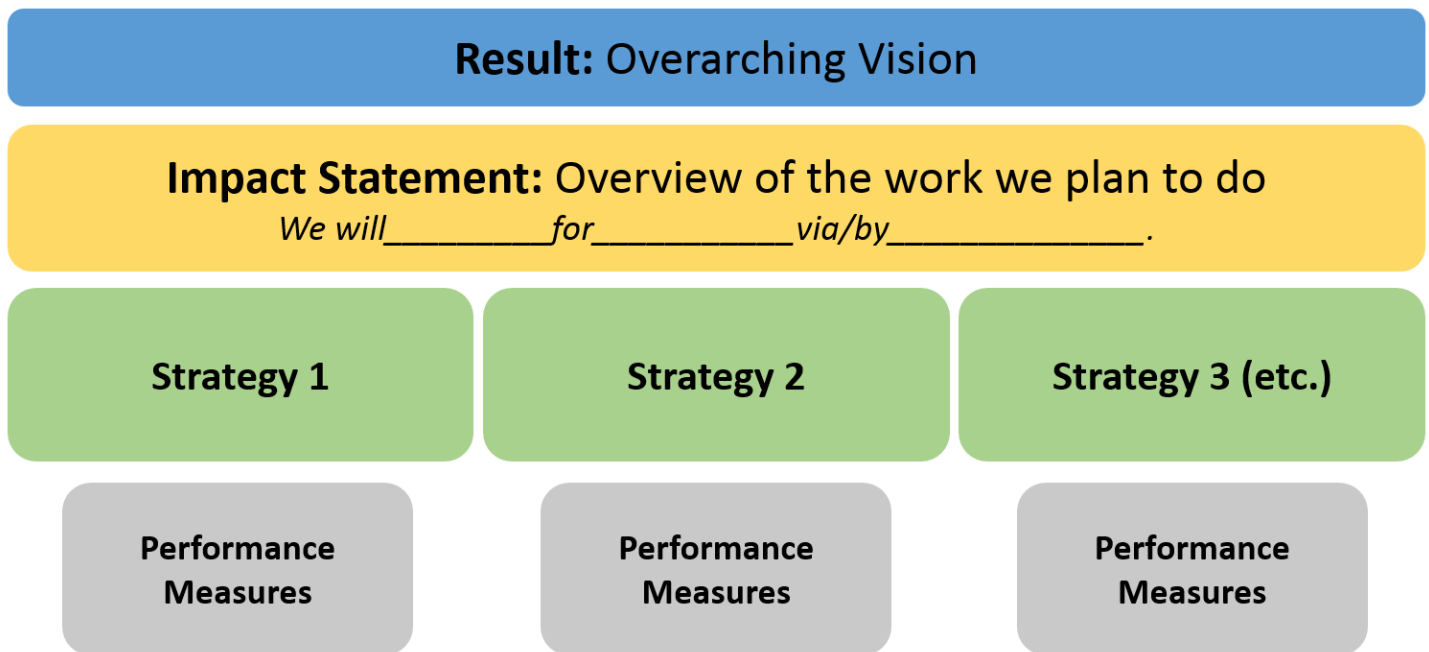
- Themes and points of discussion following dreaming activity:
 - Support for renovation needed
 - Accessible loans as a key mechanism
 - Advocacy and resident mobilization key to success
 - Policy change needed
 - Housing should be safe and energy efficient
 - Affordable housing should be integrated and come with the same amenities as other housing units/developments
 - Education is key; people need to be aware of and have access to the resources available to them

- Rent control is important
- Need to have room for families within housing units
- Community pride is key
- Business involvement can bring resources and attention to our efforts
- We need to build care and concern among neighbors
- May want to also focus on employment and resources for employment to complement these efforts
- Home ownership as a value
- Partner with faith communities (property ownership/management)
- May want to replicate the Wharton Project
 - 0% interest mortgage for home repairs (for health/safety and/or to bring a unit up to code); a partnership between a municipality and residents; payment is only due on sale or transfer
 - Spencer from Morristown Habitat will share additional details (present before the town council?)
- May want to explore housing cooperatives as an alternate model
- Local government needs to learn how to leverage state and federal funds
- There are many other efforts going on in this area: can our coalition work as a local hand for these efforts, bringing attention to the needs and strengths of this neighborhood?
- Need to explore what (if any) funds are available in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- The community should be “nice, clean, and green; safe for all”
- Emphasis on mixed-use, mixed-income housing; integration of commercial properties (e.g., bodegas, stores along the water)
- Creation of a community center with local non-profits and city departments (e.g., parks and rec)
- Development should be community informed
- People should be able to age/retire in place
- Integrated housing for people with special needs
- Green spaces/community gardens/community art
- Enforcement of tenant’s rights
- Need to consider funding streams for all potential initiatives:
 - Commercial shops/bodegas—private investors, Town Council (need to consider zoning issues)
 - Community gardens/green spaces—Grow it Green, NJ Healthy Communities Network, other “professional funders,” Parks Commission
 - Community art—Morris Arts
 - Community center—foundations, Town/County/State, raise funds by investing in bonds
 - Housing that meets the needs low-income, special needs, senior residents—HUD
 - New development—for-profit companies, social enterprises

Overview of Grant Resources



Proposed Planning Model



Visit www.njhealthmatters.org/tiles/morris to see how this model has worked for the other workgroups in Morris County.

- Dizery Salim also put together a draft blueprint for how we can formalize our mission and aims as a group; this will be presented at the next meeting

Next Steps

- Additional stakeholder recruitment/conversations (who else should be at the table?)
- Brainstorm our intended result and impact statement (view examples at www.njhealthmatters.org/tiles/morris)
- Draft job description for Community Organizer (come to next meeting with ideas about what this person would need to do/any potential candidates)
- Best practices for addressing our priority issues (bring ideas for strategies/initiatives to next meeting)