

An FHLBank Pittsburgh/ CCRS Partnership

FHLBank Pittsburgh developed the Blueprint Communities® program in order to assist communities in need of revitalization.

The University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service (CCRS) has partnered with FHLBank Pittsburgh to implement the Blueprint Communities® program for selected Delaware communities.

CCRS is dedicated to developing the capacity of organizations and individuals working to enhance the economic, social, cultural, and physical conditions of Delaware communities.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Blueprint Communities® program is to serve as a catalyst for revitalization of distressed areas resulting in sustainable, healthy communities by energizing local leaders, residents, and stakeholders; facilitating holistic community planning; and encouraging public and private investments.

Blueprint Communities® provides training, technical assistance, coaching, and financial support to groups of people from selected communities in Delaware who seek to develop and implement plans that will revitalize their communities.

Which Communities are Eligible?

The detailed eligibility criteria can be found on the CCRS Community Revitalization website.

A key eligibility criterion is the strength and diversity of the community planning team that must be organized in order to participate. Planning teams must demonstrate the capacity for sustained local leadership, and a commitment to collaboration with a wide range of community stakeholders that includes residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government.



The CCRS office is located in the
Community Service Building

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9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.



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Blueprint COMMUNITIES®

Delaware

A Community Revitalization Initiative of
FHLBank Pittsburgh in partnership with the
University of Delaware Center for
Community Research and Service



How to Apply?

Interested communities can apply for a Blueprint Community designation by submitting a proposal; the electronic proposal can be found on the CCRS Community Revitalization website at: www.ccrs.udel.edu/community-revitalization

The Blueprint Communities® Request for Proposal is an online submission. Once submitted all proposals will be evaluated by the CCRS and FHLBank Pittsburgh staff and the most qualified communities will be selected for participation.

Team Composition

Community teams should consist of ten members who are committed to the revitalization of their community. Six of the ten members must be residents of the community. Team members must include representatives of the following organization types: housing, community or economic development organizations, community based organizations, local governments, and an FHLBank Pittsburgh member institution. The team should also reflect the diversity in their community and include:

- Residents (long term and newcomers) and non-residents
- Diverse age groups
- Male and female members
- Those with critical skills related to community revitalization
- Those with various skills useful for community planning
- Representatives of active community organizations with missions that support the goals of community revitalization

All team members must also commit themselves to completion of the Blueprint Communities® training sessions and to actively participate in the revitalization of their community.



Training Topics

The Blueprint Communities® training sessions are designed to provide participating teams with the skills and knowledge needed to develop and implement an effective community revitalization plan. Training topics will include:

- Community leadership and teamwork
- Using technology as a tool for community revitalization
- Sharing your community's story
- Conflict resolution
- Planning for development
- Mobilizing your community for change
- Funding development activities
- Implementing projects/programs and sustaining impact



Timeline

Phase 1 Dec. 2016 - Feb. 2016

The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available online for prospective planning teams and communities to fill out and submit. The RFP can be found on the CCRS Community Revitalization webpage. In addition, the opportunity to become a Blueprint Community will be promoted through information sessions and outreach to prospective planning teams and communities.

The deadline for community planning teams to submit their proposals is February 5th, 2016. Communities selected to participate in the Blueprint Communities® program will be notified before **February 15th, 2016.**

Phase 2 Mar. 2016 - Dec. 2016

During this phase, CCRS will work intensively with teams to finalize plans by November 30th, 2016. Training and coaching sessions will be provided to guide and inform teams in their efforts to develop a revitalization plan.

Phase 3 Dec. 2016 - Dec. 2017

During this phase, team trainings will become specialized and tailored to fit each team's goals and proposed revitalization plans. Coaching and technical assistance will focus on the needs of the individual teams as they implement their projects. Blueprint Communities® teams will also have the opportunity to publically present their finalized revitalization plans.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the CCRS office, and/or schedule a meeting to speak with **Roger Hesketh**.

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