Building Economic Resilience to Disasters in the Southern Tier

Disaster Recovery in Distressed Communities

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Disaster Trends
Global Occurrences 1970 to 2010

Man-made disasters
Natural catastrophes
June 1, 2011
Springfield, MA
Search & Rescue
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Protection of Life & Property
Damage Assessment
In economically distressed communities, disasters exacerbate and accelerate the process of decline...
...resulting in more vacant lots and buildings
Decreased economic activity
Increased disinvestment
Loss of community
Decreased public safety
More vacant lots
Illegal Dumping
Vacant Buildings
Survived the tornado – lost to fire
Tornado damaged Low-income housing co-op now in foreclosure
So what do we do now?
An initiative of DevelopSpringfield and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority
Identify new opportunities
Coordinate Volunteers
Engage the community
Reimagine Neighborhood Centers
Reimagine Intersections
Envision new streetscapes...
...and new street standards
Neighborhood Stabilization Strategy

* Demolition of unsalvageable buildings
* Strategic rehabilitation of salvageable damaged and vacant buildings
* Business retention strategy
* Vacant lot clean-up and reuse – expedited abutter lot sale program community gardens pocket parks temporary art installations & murals parking infill development
* Engage neighborhood residents, business and property owners in the process
Vacant Property Analysis
Selective Demolitions
Partner with Nonprofit Partners & Volunteers
Rebuild Together on Tyler Street
Strategic Acquisitions
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Leverage Existing Business Assistance Programs

*Façade Improvement Grants & RLF Loans*
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Re-purpose Vacant Lots
Community Gardens
Re-purpose Vacant Lots
Pocket Park - Philadelphia
Re-purpose Vacant Lots
Small Infill parking lots for businesses and residents
Groundbreaking for New Housing
Funded through NSP and CDBG DR Funds
Celebrate Every Success

• Create Events – groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, etc.

• Issue press releases and use social media to broadcast events, business re-openings and other milestones.

• Encourage broad community participation
Groundbreaking for New School
Plan now because you never know what the next disaster will be or when it will strike...
Gas explosion - Springfield, MA - November 23, 2012
over 60 downtown buildings damaged or destroyed