

**UNWA NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND JOBS COMMITTEE
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

Developing goals, objectives, and projects and programs refines the information from the UNWA neighborhood planning process into a set of specific actions. Statements made by Employment, Education and Jobs Committee members at the October 14 Town Hall Meeting and committee meetings on October 21, October 28 and November 11 are listed below by the general topics to which they relate. Staff has developed draft goals, objectives, and projects and programs based on the statements made by committee members. As the committee continues to discuss the topic of Employment, Education and Jobs, this information will be added to and modified by the committee. When the committee has completed work, this document will be the basis of a report that summarizes the work of the committee.

LACK OF BASIC EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AND IMPROVING EXISTING EDUCATION SYSTEM NEEDED

Statements

1. In UNWA, 39% of persons over 25 years old do not have a high school diploma.
2. The unemployment rate is 13.7% which is nearly three times the rate of the county –5.4%.
3. There is a considerable need for GED programs for adults.
4. Recognized a heavy need for literacy programs for children and adults.
5. After-school programs exist, but need further emphasis.
6. There is not enough encouragement for students to improve.
7. Only 18% of Indianapolis Public Schools students go on to gain a two- or four-year degree.
8. Reading comprehension should be focal point, linked to higher education.
9. Several educational resources exist (three grade schools, one charter school, and IVY Tech College, with IUPUI nearby) but are underutilized by neighborhood residents.
10. Job training is needed in the community for those who want to work but lack the skills necessary.
11. There is a need for adult post-high school educational programs to focus on job skill training.
12. Use existing educational facilities to provide vocational skills training courses.
13. Schools should incorporate ethics and honesty in curriculum.
14. There is a vast need for computer skills training in 21st Century.
15. UNWA, Inc. does conduct computer training, but few people are motivated to attend sessions.
16. Huge need for day care that is affordable for one or two-income families.

Goal

Increase after-school enhancement of reading skills for children and adults and provide for adult post-high school educational programs to focus on job skill training.

Objective

Increase the educational skills and job skills of UNWA citizens.

Project or Program

Seek agreements between area business and faith-based organizations and use existing educational facilities to provide vocational skills training courses, GED courses, and adult literacy programs and day care services.

Visit <http://www.unwa.org/> for more information regarding the plan.

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COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN UNWA

Statements

1. A commercial node study, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Corridor Enhancement Work Program, was recently conducted. It concluded a need for a 'central point' of commercial development in UNWA.
2. Specific needs were grocery, hardware supply, bank, pharmacy, and dollar merchandise.
3. Area specified is between 27th and 29th Streets on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street.
4. Currently in UNWA, the community is fragmented – existing services are not well known or well served.
5. Need to encourage neighborhood businesses to hire persons from the neighborhood.

Goal

Businesses to hire local persons for jobs and promote local community.

Objective

Promote existing vacant commercial buildings to be used to provide neighborhood type shopping uses.

Projects and Programs

Implementation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Corridor Enhancement Work Program.

JOB CENTER

Statements

1. Recognized a need for a community job center for persons to research information on available jobs and available vocational training courses.
2. A job center could have representatives from businesses and colleges to meet with prospective employees or students.
3. There is a need to organize businesses and faith-based associations to work toward getting information to citizens of UNWA.
4. Information could be gained by initiating a community web site for job seekers / students.
5. Business and Faith-based Associations could also improve information availability by developing a community newsletter.

Goal

Make available a place for job seekers to gain information about available jobs and to gain vocational skills training.

Objective

Increase resources to job seekers and job training courses to UNWA residents.

Projects and Programs

Implement a Business Association and a Faith-based Association to initiate a Job Center for UNWA.

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EXISTING RESOURCES

Statements

1. Information is needed regarding existing services provided by agencies in the neighborhood.
2. UNWA, Inc. needs to organize businesses and faith-based firms to help inform and educate the citizens of UNWA.
3. The participants expressed the need that youth need to be taught that education is the first tool for success in life.
4. Expand use of existing public facilities such as Riverside Center and Flanner House.

Goal

Ensure that existing resources and services offered in the neighborhood are being used to the advantage of neighborhood residents.

Objective

Information is needed regarding resources and services offered in the neighborhood. This information needs to be published and communicated to the neighborhood.

Projects and Programs

Develop a comprehensive list of resources and services offered in the neighborhood.

OTHER STATEMENTS

1. Historically, persons could get a job that would pay enough to live with just a high school diploma. Now, persons need to further their education beyond high school, including vocational training for “hands-on” work.
2. There are 320 businesses that employ over 4,000 people in the UNWA community.
3. Churches can initiate a youth mentoring program since there are nearly 100 churches in UNWA.
4. Need to tie community efforts and initiatives together.
5. Higher educated areas are proven to have higher property values, lower educated areas with lower property values.
6. The City should help businesses expand.
7. There is a need for a strong group of leaders to be in charge to get tasks done.
8. It is critical that entire community takes an active role in improving the community. It cannot be the role of an individual to see this through. Residents need to know which neighborhood organization represents their area and how to be involved.
9. Better communication is needed between the faith-based, business and resident organizations in the community.
10. There needs to be agencies in the neighborhood that deal with jobs, housing and education.
11. The transportation needs for a large number of residents are not being met.