

Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2)

Community Solutions Team –
New Orleans

Goals

- Creating new partnerships between federal agencies and localities to spark economic development
- Cut-through the red tape and ensure taxpayer dollars are used wisely
- Support bottom-up solutions that break down silos within federal and local governments, and will urge the private and nonprofit sectors to come up with innovative strategies to solve challenging issues
- Recommend policies for building local expertise in strengthening local economies and changing Federal policies and programs to address issues to strengthen local capacity and spur economic growth

Current Cities

- SC2 pilot cities were selected on the basis of strong local leadership and collaboration, economic need, potential for economic growth, geographic diversity, and the ability to test the SC2 model across a range of environments.
 - Chester, PA
 - Detroit, MI
 - Cleveland/Youngstown, OH
 - Fresno, CA
 - Memphis, TN
 - New Orleans, LA.
- Federal assessment teams spent time on the ground working directly with mayors and other local officials to determine needs, opportunities and gather input for the pilot initiative.

SC2 History

- July, 2011 - Launched by White House Domestic Policy Council
- Spring 2011 - Organizational Assessment Teams (OATs) perform City assessments
- September, 2011 - Community Solutions Teams (CSTs) deploy
- March, 2012 – White Housing Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities established by Executive Order and housed at HUD
 - Includes 19 federal agencies

SC2 Future

- **SC2 Fellows**
 - Early- to mid-career professionals to the SC2 pilot cities to work in the offices of the local government.
 - HUD developed the fellowship program and funded it with a donation from the Rockefeller Foundation.
 - German Marshall Fund, Virginia Tech, and Cleveland State University will act as the third-party administrators of the program.
- **SC2 Economic Planning Challenge**
 - National Grant Competition overseen by EDA to help additional cities develop economic blueprints.
 - Six cities will be competitively selected to receive grants of approximately \$1 million that they will use to administer a competition, in which they will challenge multidisciplinary teams of experts to develop comprehensive economic and land use proposals for their cities.
- **The National Resource Network**
 - Extends SC2 beyond the original 6 cities by providing qualifying local governments with an on-call group of non-governmental experts to help solve problems and maximize resources.
 - The Network can help with basic operational issues such as deficits, lack of staff capacity, and poor bond ratings.

SC2 New Orleans CST

- "With the amount of federal investment hitting the streets of our city, Strong Cities, Strong Communities provides the type of interagency cooperation, coordination and expertise that is vital to making the most of existing resources," said **New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu**. "President Obama's commitment to New Orleans has been a critical part of our recovery, and SC2 is helping to revitalize our economy and improve the quality of life for our residents."

SC2 New Orleans CST

- 55 people
 - 30 City/community members
 - 25 federal members from 13 agencies
- Sub-Teams around six priority areas
 - Economic/Workforce Development
 - Criminal Justice
 - Health & Human Services
 - Sustainable Communities
 - Information Technology
 - Operations

Workforce Accomplishments

- **Section 3 Working Group**

- Collaboration between JOB1, City's Office of Supplier Diversity, HANO, HUD, DOL, SBA and local non-profits
- Coordinates employment training and hiring efforts. Links HUD's Section 3 online Business Registry pilot with City's workforce development center and HANO's Section 3 hiring.
- As a result, City has used CDBG funds to establish a "Contractor's College" housed at JOB1.

- **Government Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Program**

- A collaboration between the Economic Development Administration (EDA), The Idea Village and the City of New Orleans

- **"Workforce Summit" Group for Connecting Citizens to Jobs**

- Convened by the VA SC2 Team member, brings together representatives from the VA, the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana National Guard, the Department of Labor, the Small Business Administration, and affiliate academic institutions

Human Service Accomplishments

- **Plan for a Homeless Resource Center**
 - Establishment of a Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) in the former VA downtown hospital site - an innovative partnership between the City of New Orleans, the Department of Veterans Affairs and its community partners
 - The CRRC will directly promote close partnerships with federal, state, local and community agencies serving the homeless, and is being funded by VA. The Plan was announced in late November.
- **Publication of the New Orleans Behavioral Health Resource Guide**
 - As part of the City's overall effort to improve behavioral health care in New Orleans, the City and federal SC2 staff have created a Behavioral Health Resource Guide. This document is a comprehensive listing of substance abuse and mental health care providers and services that allows residents to easily identify and subsequently access necessary care and services for mental health and substance abuse conditions. It was released in early January, 2012.

Criminal Justice Accomplishments

- **Mayor's Strategic Command to Reduce Murders**
 - Comprehensive public health and law enforcement framework based on the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission model
 - Established in partnership with DOJ
 - Utilizes a multi-disciplinary, data-driven, evidence-based approach to review each murder, nonfatal shooting, and near-fatal domestic violence incident, in select high-incident neighborhoods, to generate recommendations for both short-term tactical responses and longer term systemic change needs
 - Responses and changes include policy and community service delivery adaptations that will decrease the likelihood of homicides occurring in the future
 - Launched in late November, 2011

Links with Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

- Directed City assignment of DOJ COPS Community Engagement TA to Choice Neighborhood to leverage City and HUD resources and braid in Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation funds available to the CNI as a Public Safety Enhancement
- Local health clinic looking to expand into new FQHC has connected with the CNI's Resident working team and community engagement team to do community health surveys and as a result may site clinic in Choice Neighborhood boundaries
 - Relationship also resulted in clarification of intent for HUD and HRSA regulations

Collaboration Resources

- Goal 3 of HUD's *Strategic Plan 2010-2015 envisions housing as a platform for improving the quality of life for HUD-assisted residents.*
- Hud.gov > Public & Indian Housing > Resources for Community and Supportive Services
- > News & Events > Joint PIH/CPD Notice on Promoting Partnerships to Utilize Housing as a Platform for Improving Quality of Life ([PIH 2011-51 or CPD 2011-09](#))