

Topic Area: **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

Goal #1: Raise Awareness of available supportive services in Salem County

Suggested Strategies:

1. Develop a comprehensive directory of supportive services to be used or distributed in all programs in the county.
2. Include qualifying criteria for service and locations in the directory to save client wait time
3. Use the directory to refer participants or clients to the appropriate agency (develop a universal referral form)
4. Develop collaborations and partnerships within supportive agencies
5. Local Agencies to conduct speaking engagements in local churches, schools etc to raise awareness about available supportive services; to citizens at large across racial groups
6. Involve the local businesses and politicians to raise their awareness of supportive services; who in turn will assist with raising the awareness among citizens on using services to get out of poverty
7. Provide culturally sensitive materials and use bi-lingual presenters at meetings
8. Update formal and informal assets in the community through website

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Develop and distribute a comprehensive directory for Salem County in English and Spanish by June 2008
2. Complete updating of asset mapping by June 2008

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Goal #2: Develop a citizen advisory board to be included in community collaborative groups addressing poverty within the county

Suggested Strategies:

1. Provide trainings to empower citizens to acquire the skills (and confidence) to serve as committee members, board members, leaders etc
2. Provide food incentives at education sessions or meetings
3. Hire diverse staff who can identify (with) when speaking to; and reaching those living in poverty
4. Shift the paradigm to create an environment where all those attending the sessions feel welcome (from the typical meeting setting)
5. Include language so that all can understand

Accountability Measure(s):

Over the next two months conduct citizen outreach to interest individuals to serve on a commission to reduce poverty our neighborhoods in Salem County

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Goal #3: To develop youth oriented services

Suggested Strategies:

1. Develop programs focusing on recreation, employment skills, social development activities etc
2. Acquire funding to develop learning resource centers and youth programs
3. Align education with daily skills to improve the quality of life and promote self sufficiency
4. Conduct youth survey, appoint advisory board with strong youth input
5. Tap into current community center programs for youth within housing developments

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Set up learning resource centers by June 2008
2. Complete needs assessment and the youth surveys by February 2008