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Reduced Crime Rate Central to Blueprint goals

Public Safety is a critical element of Blueprint for Prosperity. The Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) and First Coast Crime Stoppers on the Gun Bounty component of Operation Safe Streets, an initiative designed to prevent violent crime and reduce the murder rate in Jacksonville. The Gun Bounty program will provide a cash reward to individuals who anonymously provide information that leads to arrests and the confiscation of illegal guns.

Operation Safe Streets targets illegal guns, violent

criminals and geographic areas with disproportionate rates of violent crime. Specific details about the Gun Bounty program will be announced at a press conference in mid-August. This program will have the impact of helping Blueprint reach its long-term benchmark of reducing Duval County's murder rate to equal the Florida rate by 2011.

Blueprint staff and volunteers will also be working to help implement the forthcoming recommendations outlined in JCCI's murder rate study.

Findings from AngelouEconomics report and JCCI study support Blueprint's focus on workforce development

Why is Jacksonville losing its young, educated and talented workers? A yet-to-be released economic development report from AngelouEconomics and a recent JCCI study, "Attracting and Retaining Talent: People and Jobs for the 21st Century," echo the sentiments of many Duval county residents who are asking this question.

Data collected in the Blueprint for Prosperity process revealed that Jacksonville's residents are concerned about attracting and retaining an educated workforce. All of the foundations in the Blueprint - quality of life, education and economic development to name a few - are crucial to Jacksonville's future as a competitor in the global workforce.

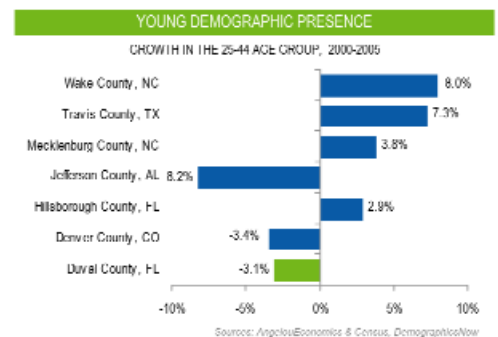
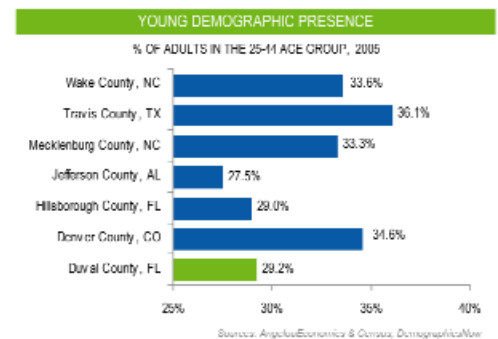
"The economic future of our community lies with developing a talented workforce from within as well as from outside Jacksonville. The foundations in the Blueprint and the JCCI study recommendations (creating a research center, strengthening marketing and branding, and establishing districts/activity clusters) go to the heart of what will most impact this critical element of our growing economy," said Adrienne Conrad, chair of Attracting and Retaining Talent study.

According to the AngelouEconomic study (refer to adjacent graphs), most companies consider the 25-44 age group to be their primary workforce.

"Because research shows that members of this demographic decide what city they want to live in before finding a job, it is essential that Jacksonville makes a significant effort to become a 'talent magnet'

and focus on what young professionals seek out when deciding on a place to live," said Adrienne Cartagena, program manager of the Chamber's young professional program IMPACTjax.

A recent survey of 100 IMPACTjax members indicates that the top six concerns of Jacksonville young professionals are competitive salaries and benefits, diverse entertainment and nightlife, cost of living, public safety, affordable young professional housing, and downtown development- all of which are addressed in the Blueprint for Prosperity plan.



Founding Partners

- City of Jacksonville
- Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
- WorkSource

New Partners

- City of Jacksonville- Agriculture Department
- Drummond Press
- Duval County Democratic Executive Committee
- First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation
- Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc.
- Hipps Group, Inc.
- IBM
- JaxCare, Inc
- Kemet House, Inc.
- King Engineering
- OTAL, Inc.
- PDale Beaman Coaching
- The Fellowship at Arlington
- United Way of Northeast Florida

Total of 131 Partners

To sign up as a Blueprint Partner, please visit our Web site at www.blueprintforprosperity.com or contact Harlan Stallings, the Chamber's Blueprint manager, at 904.366.6618.

Blueprint Partner Spotlight

Blueprint for Prosperity would like to spotlight **Community Connections** for 95 years of responding to the needs of women and families. Community Connections, one of the oldest nonprofits in the North Florida area, has always remained consistent with its goal of helping individuals and families become independent and self-sufficient. "Whether it's the Healthy Families program, the GED and after-school programs or the help we offer to the homeless, we're helping people-some who had no hope-rebuild their lives and become productive members of our community," said Pat Hannon, executive director of Community Connections.

For more information on the programs available at Community Connections, visit www.communityconnectionsjax.org.

Blueprint Partner Orientations

Blueprint staff will conduct orientations to assist Blueprint Partners with developing strategy benchmarks in alignment with the Key Benchmarks. These orientation sessions will be given throughout the year in the Compass Bank room at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, 3 Independent Dr., Jacksonville Fla., 32202. The dates and times of these orientations are as follows:

August 16	1:30 p.m.
September 15	1:30 p.m.
October 12	1:30 p.m.
November 15	1:30 p.m.

To register for these orientations, contact Harlan Stallings at 904.366.6618 or harlan.stallings@myjaxchamber.com.

KEY BENCHMARKS

1. Duval County Residents' Income

- Increase Duval County median household income at a percentage of the United States by 0.5 percent annually beginning in 2007.
- Increase Duval County per capita income as a percentage of the U.S. per capita income by 0.5 percent annually beginning in 2007.

2. Education

- Early Learning - Birth to 5 - Duval's kindergarten readiness rate will exceed 90 percent by 2013.
- Graduation Rate and Achievement Gap - Duval's percentage of students graduating will exceed 90 percent in 2013. Over 90 percent of students will perform at grade level in reading and math by 2013.
- Racial/Ethnic and Economics Gap - Eliminate the racial/ethnic and economics/education achievement gaps and graduation rate gaps by 2013.
- Higher Education - By 2017, 35 percent of Duval's population age 25 and over will have bachelor's degrees or higher and an additional 10 percent will have associate's degrees.

3. Jobs (by place of work in Duval County)

- Earnings per Job - Annually increase average earnings per job 0.5 percent above the U.S. average.
- Job Growth - Increase Duval County annual percentage job growth at a rate above the Florida average (See above-earnings per job has the highest priority).

4. Racial Opportunity And Harmony

- Increase per capita income for all Duval residents while decreasing the gap between Whites and all other racial/ethnic groups by 50 percent by 2020.

5. Poverty Rate

For all Duval County Residents in Poverty

- Reduce Duval poverty to 50 percent of the United States average poverty in 20 years.

For High-Poverty Duval Residents

- Reduce by 1 percent annually the areas where the poverty rate is between 10 percent and 20 percent.
- Reduce by 2 percent annually the percentage of individuals in poverty in every zip code in Duval County where poverty exceeds 20 percent.

6. Family Stability

- Reduce Duval County's infant death rate to Florida rate by 2016.
- Reduce Duval County's birthrate to unwed mothers by 50 percent by 2016.
- Reduce the marriage dissolutions rate in Duval County by 50 percent by 2016.

7. Public Safety

Reduce Duval County's murder rate to equal the Florida rate by 2011.

8. Health Care

The Key Benchmark measurement will be established by the Benchmark team, Quality of Life team and Blueprint Partners adopting and implementing the Quality of Life health care strategy #1.

9. Housing

The Key Benchmark measurement will be established by the Benchmark team, Infrastructure team and Blueprint Partners adopting and implementing the Infrastructure strategies in the Housing section.