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Strategic Alliances Progress

Organizations throughout our community are currently working together to help implement several first-year priority Blueprint strategies. The unique benefit of this process is that some of these leaders are collaborating ideas for the first time on these important community issues.

Tentative benchmarks have been developed for several of these strategies and additional organizations are being asked to participate where appropriate. Each alliance member will determine benchmarks and action steps for their own organizations that are in alignment with the Alliance Benchmarks and Action Steps.

The Question of Funding

A common question that individuals representing potential Blueprint Partner organizations ask is, "Where will the funding come from for Partners to implement the strategies?" While that is certainly a relevant question, we do not want concerns about funding to prevent organizations from moving forward with the Blueprint process.

funding can be addressed through a variety of sources including appealing to current funding sources for additional funding using the Blueprint as justification for the request; partnering with other organizations to utilize alternate funding sources; working with Blueprint Partners who are themselves funding sources; and where applicable, using existing funding in a more targeted manner.

Once each organization's benchmarks are established,

Blueprint Partner Spotlight

Blueprint for Prosperity would like to spotlight Cornerstone, the economic development arm of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, for its continued commitment to address Key Benchmark No. 3 of the Blueprint for Prosperity plan by helping to bring over a thousand new high-wage jobs with the announcement of Fidelity Investments and Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire coming to the region.

Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest providers of financial services, announced plans to open a Customer Contact Center in Jacksonville. Pending approval of local and state incentives, Fidelity plans to have the new center operational by the end of this year to support customer service for its retail brokerage division, Fidelity Personal Investments.

The new center would ultimately employ 1,200 over the next four years with an average annual wage that well exceeds 115% of the state average wage. The company anticipates leasing space with additional capital investment of approximately \$27.25 million to refurbish the space to accommodate the company's

short-term needs and allow for future expansion opportunities.

"This is quite an achievement and a significant gain for Jacksonville. Having Fidelity Investments choose to expand its successful business here will have a very positive impact on our economy," said Mayor John Peyton. "The creation of 1,200 new jobs in our local workforce will have a considerable and lasting impact and clearly aligns with my goals of bringing quality jobs to our city and raising per capita income in our community."

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire also announced plans to invest approximately \$44 million in a one million square foot, state-of-the-art distribution center at Cecil Commerce Center North. The project will create about 250 new jobs within 36 months of completion of the facility, resulting in an expected annual payroll of approximately \$9.5 million. The project will also indirectly result in the creation of approximately 220 new jobs in the transportation and maritime sectors at JAXPORT with salaries of approximately \$42,000 annually.

Founding Partners

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

New Partners

- Baytree Communications Systems, Inc.
- City of Jacksonville - Jacksonville Economic Development Commission
- Community Connections of Jacksonville
- Cornerstone Regional Development Partnership
- Education Station - Supplemental Education Services
- Everbank of Florida
- First Impression Business Solutions
- Giddens Security Corporation
- Holland & Knight LLP
- Jacksonville Job Corps Center
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office - Community Affairs Division
- Junior Achievement
- Khmer (Cambodian) Community Services of Florida, Inc.
- Miller Electric Company
- Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida
- Teaching Point

Total of 117 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.

Implementing the Blueprint

Thousands of citizens have stepped up to the challenge to help create the Blueprint. Accountability now lies with each of us to implement the Blueprint strategies as Blueprint Partners.

As Blueprint Partners, organizations can make significant contributions toward improving our schools, developing our economy, raising our quality of life, eliminating racial barriers, upgrading our infrastructure and making our leadership more effective.

To become a Blueprint Partner, please complete the Partner form located at www.blueprintforprosperity.com. The next step is to attend a Partner orientation and complete a Strategy Adoption form specifying the strategies you will help implement.

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:

July 11	1:30 p.m.
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.