

AKRON, OH
Enterprise Community

City Population: 223,019

EC Population: 49,920

EC Size: 13.4 square miles

Poverty Rate: 25% (17 out of 22 tracts exceed 35%)

Unemployment Rate: 18.1%

Education: 40.6% over age 25 does not have a high school diploma

OVERVIEW

Akron, Ohio, is a city whose economy and employment have long been tied to the success of the rubber industry. Akron has spent considerable effort in rebounding from the decline as the "Rubber Capital of the World" to become known as the "Polymer Valley". The high-tech world of research, development, and application of polymers, is centered in Akron.

The Akron Enterprise Community (EC) includes the City's downtown area, the University of Akron area, the high poverty areas downtown on the near North, South and West sides of the City, and the South Arlington Street corridor on the East side extending from East Market Street South to the Fulton Municipal Airport area.

The Strategic plan targets the high poverty areas and is organized to do the following:

- * Create broad economic self-sufficiency;
- * Create healthy neighborhood environments;
- * Provide support systems to meet the need of families;
- * Provide opportunities for life-long learning;
- * Re-establish a safe and caring community; and
- * Improve housing programs in the community.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Examples of key activities include:

Job Training: The University of Akron will offer a Polymer Training Program for residents to teach and train polymer processing and current technology. Creation of a Polymer Support Teaching Factory will also be developed for small to mid-size companies in the EC. The University will also provide Entrepreneurial Enrichment and Training Programs for EC residents.

Small Business Support: The Akron Regional Development Board (ARDB) will support capital programs for business development needs to create a broader base of economic self-sufficiency. The Minority Incubator will assist the development and growth of minority-owned office and service businesses to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

Entrepreneurship Opportunity: The University of Akron will provide entrepreneurial training to interested residents and present owners of small and mid-size companies in need of development assistance. The Minority Business Assistance Program, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Development will also help businesses and entrepreneurs develop business plans, set up accounting systems, and resolve other business development issues. With the expansion of businesses, residents will be encouraged to achieve the skills necessary for upcoming job opportunities.

Community Health Care: The Akron Health Department, SUMMA Medical Center, Akron General Medical Center and Children's Hospital are collaborating with Akron Community Health Resources to support a medical facility in the area that will provide basic health services. Children's Hospital will focus its immunization efforts on families with small children. The Adult Health Clinic will provide immunizations and improve on health maintenance with emphasis on prevention programs.

Support Families: By establishing Family Support Centers in schools to provide employment and training information, educational programs, social service and gang prevention counseling to tie parents with community, Akron will ensure that basic family needs will be met.

Public Safety: Expand community oriented policing and prevention by instituting the block watch program, crime watch program, enforcement of curfews, police in schools, and weed and seed programs.

Housing: By expanding home ownership opportunities, developing new and rehabilitating existing affordable rental units, Akron will improve housing programs in the community.

Education: Implementation of an Ohio Family and Child First initiative will improve the way social, health and education services to children and their families. The Tech Prep Program and K-12 school-to-work coincides with school-to-work objectives. The computer lab and mobile training lab have integrated technology into classrooms. To enhance school readiness, school achievement, lifelong learning and skills to succeed in the work place, the expansion of and the establishment of new programs in concert with Akron 2000

school reform will ensure that neighborhoods would remain stable.

MAJOR PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITMENTS

Local Resources:	\$184,279
Economic Development	\$44,070
Housing	\$12,820
Child Care	\$12,975
Education	\$ 4,425
Community Policing	\$27,610
Preventative Health Care	\$29,145
Home Ownership	\$53,234
State Resources:	\$1,800,000
(Department of Development)	
Roadway Development Funds	\$300,000
412 Funds Industrial Inducement Account	\$200,000
Regional 166 Funds - Business Loans	\$500,000
Ohio Industrial Training Program	\$500,000
HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$300,000

MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENTS

University of Akron	\$ 897,900
Entrepreneurial Training	\$ 49,300
Polymer Training Facility	\$648,600
Entrepreneurial Enrichment	\$200,000
Summit County Metroparks, Canal Redevelopment	\$ 1,000,000
Private/State/City Foundations, Inventure Place	\$38,000,000
SUMMA, Children's Hospital, AGMC, Akron Health Department, Akron Community Health Resources (Planning and Development)	\$ 90,000

Cooperative Fund of New England

Location: Hartford, CT
Award: \$250,000 (\$200,000 Capital Grant and \$50,000 Technical Assistance)
Type: Business Loan Fund
Contact: Rebecca Dunn - (910) 395-6008

The Cooperative Fund of New England (CFNE) raises capital from a diverse range of foundations, community groups, religious organizations, individuals, and other funders for the purpose of financing worker-owned businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit cooperatives serving low-income communities. CFNE fills a key financing gap because it makes small loans and provides needed technical expertise to cooperatively-owned ventures. With the help of the CDFI Fund, CFNE will be able to expand its lending and build organizational capacity.

Delaware Valley Community Reinvestment Fund

Location: Philadelphia, PA
Award: \$2,500,000 Capital Grant
Type: Business Loan Fund
Contact: Jeremy Nowak - (215) 925-1130

Founded in 1985 by community development activists, religious community investors, and financial services experts, Delaware Valley Community Reinvestment Fund is a regional community development financial institution that serves the Philadelphia metropolitan area with a focus on the most distressed neighborhoods of Philadelphia and Chester, Pennsylvania and Camden, New Jersey. Delaware Valley is a national leader in developing innovative, market driven strategies to stabilize low-income communities. The \$2,500,000 capital grant from the CDFI Fund will enable Delaware Valley to expand its small business and housing finance activities, raise new debt capital, and finance projects with high community impact.

Enterprise Community Fund

Location: Akron, OH
Award: \$230,000 (\$50,000 Capital Grant, \$150,000 Loan and \$30,000 Technical Assistance)
Type: Microenterprise Fund
Contact: Grady P. Appleton - (330) 773-6838

Enterprise Community Fund (ECF), a non-profit business loan fund, makes working capital loans to small and micro-businesses in the distressed neighborhoods of the Akron Enterprise Community. ECF also provides businesses with much needed technical assistance. The CDFI Fund's award will be used by ECF to expand its lending for small amounts of working capital that banks have been unwilling to finance. With the help of the CDFI Fund investment, this awardee seeks to promote more stable businesses and expand job opportunities for low-income individuals in the Akron Enterprise Community.

1998 CDFI Core Program

as of 7/1/98

**Progress Report
Akron, Ohio, Enterprise Community**

"Especially in areas relating to education and its effect on contributing to the sustainable development and progress of the community, we are very happy with our success . . . Training-related activities have been progressing slower than anticipated, while the other community-related support programs have been progressing on a satisfactory pace."

Jerry Egan

EC Coordinator

Executive Summary

The Akron Enterprise Community (EC) continued amassing partners in activities to promote economic self-sufficiency and provide safe and healthy neighborhoods. During this reporting period, lending programs attracted new businesses to the community and placed EC residents into jobs. In the area of sustainable community development, several new housing projects were initiated or completed, and improvements were made to existing infrastructure and parks. Emphasis was placed on reducing and preventing crime and providing access to health care. Much of the success of the EC involves the collaboration that has taken place, resulting in increased communication and cooperation among several partners in developing activities within the community, and increasing leveraging of resources. Two notable successes were in education: the school-based multi-service centers and the middle school technology preparation program, both of which focus upon integrating nontraditional activities into the public schools to empower EC residents and students.

Strategic Vision for Change: Summary of Strategic Plan

With a population of 49,920 comprising 21 percent of Akron's total, the EC encompasses an area of 13.5 square miles. It includes the downtown; the University of Akron area ringing downtown on the near north, south and west sides of the city; and the South Arlington Street corridor on the east side extending from East Market Street south to the Fulton Municipal Airport. The EC is characterized by high poverty and unemployment rates, with a population that has low attainment of education and job skills.

The strategic vision of the Akron EC is to establish a thriving community in which the residents can lead secure, productive lives; the businesses can be successful; and the neighborhood institutions will support and enrich the community. The plan is organized around five primary goals:

- creating economic self-sufficiency
- providing support for families
- providing opportunities for lifelong learning
- improving neighborhood housing programs
- reestablishing a safe and caring neighborhood

The Akron Enterprise Community is a collaborative effort directed toward supporting entrepreneurial initiative, expanding businesses, providing opportunities for residents to achieve the skills necessary for job opportunities, and developing a safe, economically healthy and supportive community. Through partnerships with the city, local and regional businesses, the local public schools, the police, the human services department, nonprofit organizations and state partners, the EC developed activities focused on the training and placement of EC residents into employment, encouraging the development of new businesses in the community, improving housing conditions, reducing crime, improving existing infrastructure, providing health care, increasing commercial development in the community and sharply focusing attention on retooling the public schools as a primary mechanism for assisting both residents and students.

The EC intends to develop new activities as well as continue activities aimed at providing economic opportunity and improving all other aspects of the community. Primary emphasis will remain on assisting businesses, creating jobs, providing housing opportunities, improving education, and ensuring safe and healthy neighborhoods.

Federal, state and local resources will be combined to fund a variety of activities aimed at meeting goals and re-invigorating the EC community. The strategy emphasizes a unifying vision that integrates economic, human and physical development. **Workforce development** will build job skills and place unemployed residents of the EC into neighborhood and regional employment opportunities; it also will entail recruitment of high school students for job training and placement, particularly in polymer-related occupations. There will be **businesses assisted** through education, technical assistance and accessible financing for business development. The EC program will provide incentives to businesses located in

the zone to hire residents. Activities will be developed to meet the affordable **housing** needs of residents, including initiatives to expand homeownership opportunities; provide rehabilitation funds; bring deteriorated residential structures up to code; and demolish blighted structures. In the area of **public safety**, community policing will help reduce violence and criminal activity by EC youth, and the public will be educated on crime prevention and the use of problem-solving resources. **Infrastructure** improvements will upgrade existing public facilities and the physical features of the community, including parks, streets, parking areas, bridges, and sidewalks. Funding will be targeted toward **health** prevention and maintenance and key initiatives for expanding **human services**. The strategy will emphasize the importance of **education** at all levels and the transformation of the public schools into multi-centers to provide a variety of services and activities to families and youth.

Summary of Governance

The Akron EC is governed by the Enterprise Community Network. The Network is composed of 26 members, including six neighborhood residents and community leaders from a broad spectrum of backgrounds.

The Network meets on the second Friday morning of every other month. In an effort to increase community representation, the Network agreed in March 1997 to expand community representation from five to 11 members. These new members were appointed in May 1997. The city is in the process of establishing resident advisory committees in each neighborhood to enhance community participation, and to better gauge community needs.

Progress on Proposed Activities

Economic Opportunity

With the high unemployment rate and poverty rate of the EC, the emphasis has been on encouraging the economic self-sufficiency of the residents through new business development and job training linked to employment. EC activities have focused on addressing the need for small business capital and developing a broader range of training and educational opportunities for EC residents.

Workforce Development: The EC focused on three major activities, all targeted toward job training and recruitment, in the area of workforce development during the 1996/1997 reporting year. A **Workforce**

Training Program was established through the Private Industry Council (PIC) to develop job-linked training programs for EC residents. The major activity involved introducing high school seniors to manufacturing occupations through mentoring arrangements. The **Polymer Internship Certification Program**, created by the University of Akron, continued its student internships for manufacturing job placement to support the area's polymer businesses. Fifteen high school students from the EC were recruited into the program during this reporting period, which was its second year. The university utilized \$31,418 in EC funds for the internship program and \$270,301 toward the Polymer Training Center, which provides training, product development and marketing assistance to the industry. An **unemployment outreach** initiative was begun by PIC, JOBS, and the Ohio Business and Employment Service, to provide unemployed EC residents with occupational skills training and placement. As of June 1997, 96 EC residents had received training, and PIC worked closely with JOBS to place 20 EC residents.

The **State Enterprise Zone Job Creation Tax Credit**, providing a tax incentive to area businesses that hire EC residents, began in June 1996, and agreements were reached with seven local businesses to hire 62 EC residents. **Communities of Opportunity**, an effort of the state and local departments of human services to provide wage subsidies to employers who hire AFDC recipients, placed three people in employment; however, the program has been discontinued.

Businesses Assisted: Eight tenants of the **Akron Industrial Incubator** were provided technical assistance during this reporting period. One consultant was hired to assist in the project. The incubator offers below-market rent payments, no building maintenance and sharing of technical services among tenants. Supported by \$6,000 in EC funds, the University of Akron continued its **Entrepreneurial Training Program** for EC residents and businesses by holding two ten-week programs addressing the retail/service sector and the manufacturing industrial sector. Ten persons attended the fall 1996 program, and 12 enrolled the spring 1997 series. The **Safe Harbor Minority Incubator** is a minority business development center created to house new and existing service oriented businesses and to help them grow and succeed. Three businesses entered the incubator, with one business graduating. Ten jobs were created; \$130,000 in EC funds have been provided to this activity.

Access to Capital: Several local banks provided accessible financing to EC businesses, including new businesses unable to obtain conventional financing. One initiative is the **SBA Lowdoc Loan Program**, which provides streamlined financing to EC businesses. Five local banks committed to participate, with

each offering up to \$1 million in loan principal to the program. In the reporting period, the EC focused on increasing the use of the program through marketing and outreach. Nine loans were provided to EC businesses, totaling \$638,000 in loan volume and creating 34 jobs. The East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), the City of Akron, and seven banks developed a local **Enterprise Community Fund** to assist young or new businesses that are unable to obtain conventional financing with capital needs. Four loans were approved by the banks, for a total of \$91,000 and eight new jobs.

The **Revolving Loan Program**, established by area banks in conjunction with the city, became operational by the end of the program year. This initiative was processing three loans for EC business. Two **Capital Access Plus Program** loans totaling \$50,000 resulted in ongoing business development in the EC area and the retention of six jobs. The promotion of the Akron Regional Development Board as a **One Stop Capital Shop** for financing options to EC businesses continued. Financing was arranged to assist 10 businesses, resulting in the creation of 78 new jobs and the retention of 12 jobs in the EC. A **Micro-Lending Program** became operational during this program period and provided loans to ten start-up businesses. First Merit Bank of Akron provided a \$100,000 line of credit to the program.

Sustainable Community Development

The EC's vision for sustainable community development focuses on creating safe and healthy neighborhood environments. The strategy involves ensuring that the infrastructure and other public facilities are maintained and repaired, blighted and unsafe conditions are removed from the community and residents are provided jobs, affordable housing, access to health care and quality education.

Housing: In the past year, the city and other partners collaborated to create housing opportunities for EC residents who live within the community, with activity by nonprofit developers being especially substantial. Two groups -- EANDC and the Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation -- undertook a **rehabilitation project** that renovated 24 homes in the EC, using \$140,000 in federal funds, \$50,000 in state and local funds, and \$60,000 in private funds. The effort also provided five jobs for EC residents. Also during the most recent reporting period, the **Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation** sold ten new homes and began construction on another five, utilizing \$710,000 in state and local funding sources. **West Akron Homes Limited Partnership** constructed 34 homes and rehabilitated an additional three homes in the EC, through 3.8 million in state and local funding.

Additional affordable housing activities were completed in the EC this year. **Habitat for Humanity** completed the construction of five homes and began building two additional homes. Approximately 200 hours in sweat equity were contributed by the families purchasing the homes, and \$150,000 in local funds were leveraged for construction. EANDC used Low Income Housing Tax Credit financing totaling \$1.7 million to construct 25 new homes and rehabilitate five others in the **Akron Homes II Project**. Charter One Bank provided the mortgage and construction funds totaling \$2.2 million; the Ohio Department of Development allocated \$300,000 in state HOME funds toward the project; and the city contributed \$300,000 in local HOME funds. **HOPE 3** -- a partnership of local CHDOs in the Akron area, with EANDC serving as the umbrella organization -- involves the acquisition and rehabilitation of homes owned by the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). During this reporting period, five homes were acquired, rehabilitated, and sold to first-time homebuyers. Funding to acquire and rehabilitate the properties was provided by the Ohio Department of Development (\$150,000 in HOME funds), Bank One (\$150,000) and EANDC.

The city's **Neighborhood Housing Petition Program** targets small areas, ranging in size from 20 to 90 structures, that petition for mandatory housing code enforcement. In turn, eligible residents are provided with access to housing rehabilitation assistance from the city. During this reporting period, 57 EC homes were brought into code compliance, and a total of \$478,000 in CDBG funds were used to provide grants, loans, deferred loans and technical assistance to these EC homeowners to rehabilitate their properties. Through the **Waiver Demonstration Program** -- a joint effort of the Akron Health Department and the Akron Department of Planning -- blighted structures are demolished. Between July 1, 1996 and June 30, 1997, the city assisted in razing 92 garages, 24 residential structures and five commercial structures in the EC using \$116,960 in local CDBG funds. The **Minor and Emergency Home Repair Program** provided 46 EC homeowners with assistance in the form of grants, loans and deferred trusts, utilizing a total of \$86,894 in CDBG funds. The City of Akron and Charter One Bank are developing a new **Homeownership Program** to provide construction financing for 15 homes in the EC and acquisition and rehabilitation financing to homeowners. The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority rehabilitated 482 public housing units, using \$9.2 million in Comprehensive Grant Funds during the reporting period.

Public Safety: Through local government funds (\$450,000 from Akron Public School budget and \$300,000 from Akron Police Department Operating Budget), the **Youth Violence Reduction** program was developed to reduce the expulsions from school for acts of violence. During the current reporting

period, police were assigned to patrol four EC middle schools and one high school, as well as to patrol neighborhoods during the late night hours and in key locations during the day. Conflict management training continued for all teachers, with peer mediation used for 40 students in 14 EC schools, and peer mediation training for 32 teachers and 363 students in six schools.

The **Special Drug Enforcement Activity** directs police efforts to high-drug activity throughout Akron, focusing on increased drug raids, arrests, and closings of neighborhood crack houses. Citizen-generated complaints and police surveillance resulted in 374 houses raided, with 100 of them boarded up and 28 razed during this reporting period. Sixty percent of these structures are located in the EC. In the EC, police officers conducted a **Drug Awareness Resistance Education Program (DARE)** for 1,100 youth in nine schools, a gun safety program for both primary and secondary schools within the EC, and continuation of an ongoing crime-watch block club. Six new EC crime-watch groups were formed. A federal Law Enforcement Block Grant provided \$280,000 for **Community Policing Districts**, with officers assigned in the EC to establish contact with residents, attend community meetings, identify neighborhood trouble spots, and assess the availability of resources to prevent crime. Eight officers were trained and assigned, six more began training; and three officers were assigned to the Gang Unit in high-youth-crime areas, especially in the EC. Through **Ounce of Prevention**, a youth referral system for EC middle schools, more than 75 agencies, organizations and citizen groups were surveyed on needs and resources. Information collected is being assessed to propose mechanisms and collaborative agreements to access services and assistance for youth at risk. Approximately \$60,000 in EC funds were provided to this activity.

Infrastructure: Ohio-Erie Canal Redevelopment, intended to beautify the EC as well as attract visitors to the downtown, progressed with rehabilitation of the waterway and adjacent areas. A total of \$3.3 million in tax increment financing and Ohio Department of Natural Resources funds were used to acquire and rehabilitate the canal park. Plans near completion for development of three-mile **Bike and Hike Trail** within the EC; during this reporting period, \$374,117 in local government funds was used to complete the design work. **Park improvements** were completed at 16 sites in the EC, at a total expenditure of \$1 million of local government capital budget funding. Through **Keep Akron Beautiful Flowerscape Projects**, public lands were prepared and planted with colorful annuals and foundation plants at 22 sites in the summers of 1996 and 1997.

Human Services: Multi-Service Centers -- where EC residents can access a broad array of educational programs, social services, employment and training programs, and gang prevention counseling -- opened in six schools, delivering services to children and their families during the school day. A total of \$117,116 in EC funds has been spent to date on this activity.

Family Day Care Training is a joint effort of the City of Akron and the Summit County Department of Human Services to recruit and train EC residents as at-home child-care providers or center workers. The effort meets three important needs of the EC: providing employment to EC residents, developing businesses within the EC, and providing day-care services. As of June 1997, one at-home provider had been certified and certification of another was pending; ten children from four families received services. Approximately \$200 in EC funds were used toward this initiative for supplies.

Investments

From the beginning of the EC program through the end of the most recent program year (June 30, 1997), the Akron EC had committed about one-third of its EC grant. The total investment leveraged in the EC area was estimated at almost \$261 million.

Funds leveraged (as of June 30, 1997)

EZ/EC funds committed	\$927,614
EZ/EC funds spent	no information provided
Private funds leveraged	\$104,734,242
State government funds leveraged	\$20,545,822
Local Government Funds Leveraged	\$94,868,106
HUD Funds Leveraged	\$27,815,832
Other Federal Funds Leveraged	\$12,942,940

To date, 1,293 jobs were created, of which 627 were filled by EC residents. These positions include: clerk, laborer, small business owner, and various jobs in manufacturing. An additional 885 new seasonal jobs were created at the baseball stadium. A total of 5,410 jobs have been retained.

Conclusion

prenatal patients, hosted two parent support group meetings, and administered 16 developmental assessments. Funding of \$306,000 was provided by six area health systems, hospitals and foundations. A **primary care health facility** in the EC was established by various local community sources to provide pediatric and adult services to under-served residents. With renovations completed by the summer of 1996, the facility provided medical care to 972 persons in its first year and will serve more than 3,000 individuals annually. Funding for the center during this reporting period was provided from \$350,000 in local community sources. The Akron Health Department continued a **systematic inspection** of the EC for deteriorated structures that pose a health risk. During this reporting period, the health department surveyed 11,902 houses, cited 491 garages, tagged 954 automobiles, and referred 232 trash conditions.

Education: The **Tech Prep Program** was developed in conjunction with the University of Akron Community and Technical College, the Akron Public Schools, and local businesses. Offering an innovative alternative to the traditional education paths of college preparatory or vocational education, it graduated 23 high school students during the reporting period. Seven of the graduates are now enrolled at the University of Akron and another 15 are employed in local businesses. This program is supported by \$150,000 in EC funds.

Middle School Career Preparation is intended to introduce eighth-grade students to machinery/engineering technology and business technology, coupled with career planning. Initiated in four middle schools in the EC, the first phase of the Career Prep project was successfully completed in June 1997 by 425 students. In addition, several teachers participated in two local employment seminars and visited 13 businesses during the year, while 165 students visited businesses in groups and 13 students participated in individual job shadowing experience. More than \$385,000 in local public school funding has been allocated to this activity.

In other education activities, the **Urban Enterprise Education Program**, supported by \$50,000 in EC funds, trained 47 teachers to provide economics and business awareness education to students in the EC area. Additionally, the city is working with the Akron Summit Community Action Agency to identify all eligible EC children for participation in **Head Start**. A needs assessment was completed and outreach is currently being conducted in the EC area. To date, 416 children are enrolled part-time in the program, another 40 children are participating full-time, and 12 attend the program during the evening.

Public facility improvements in the EC included remodeling of the courthouse (\$905,000 in local government funds), and minor rehabilitation of the municipal building and municipal airport (\$549,224 in local funds). **Neighborhood development area improvements** to the Mason Park Neighborhood Development Area and Crouse Development Area included sidewalk, curb and street reconstruction, and sewer and water main repair, through \$1.3 million in city funds. Elsewhere in the EC, local government funds reconstructed 1.6 miles of sidewalks and curbs, 0.6 miles of sewer lines, 2.6 miles of water mains, and four miles of the storm sewer system.

Using state and local transportation funds, other **roadway improvements** included: widening and reconstruction of 1.5 miles of the West Market Street, rehabilitation of residential, collector and arterial streets, and rehabilitation of the expressway and interstate highway system in the EC, including landscaping and U.S. Route 224 improvements. The city conducted major concrete repairs to the Cascade Plaza **parking deck**, and preventive maintenance to several other parking decks. Finally, two recently developed major facilities in the EC contributed to both revitalization and employment. At the state-of-the-art **J.S. Knight Convention Center**, more than 100 events were held during this reporting period, creating 22 permanent and 25 part-time jobs in the EC. Construction of **Canal Park** -- a \$30 million AA minor league baseball stadium involving city general obligation funds, state funds and private investors -- was completed in January 1997 and hosted its first game in April. Employing 15 full-time employees and 167 to 200 part-time, the facility has spurred economic activity, improved the physical environment, and attracted thousands of people to the EC and downtown.

Health: Generations, a disease prevention initiative of the Centers for Disease Control, began implementation in EC neighborhoods. The program is designed to reduce health risk for up to 500 adults by focusing on nutrition, exercise, enhanced screening, and healthy lifestyles. During the current reporting period, the Akron Health Department utilized \$30,000 in EC funds to administer 326 health risk appraisals, conduct 47 health promotion interventions focusing on blood pressure, heart health, cholesterol and physical activity for 4,096 people in the EC, participate in nine health events at schools and community centers in the EC, provide more than 40 screenings at community sites for various health risks, and initiate blood pressure control initiative designed to train lay health advisors for screening and follow-up.

The **Life Link Program** hires neighborhood residents to target young pregnant women and assist the women with prenatal and postnatal care. During the current reporting period, the program enrolled 150

Key contact information

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Media Coverage/Special Recognition, Etc.

- (1) "Pride and hope rebounding in West Akron neighborhood," Beacon Journal, unknown date.
- (2) "Akron EC Expands Middle Career Prep," City of Akron Press Release, March 21, 1997.
- (3) "City Breaks Ground For More New Homes," City of Akron Press Release, November 6, 1996.
- (4) "Construction begun on West Akron Homes," Plain Dealer Reporter, date unknown.
- (5) "Key committed to Akron Enterprise Community," Neighbors, December 1996.
- (6) "Project HAPPEN Honored for "Sweep" of 12,000 Properties," Plain Deal Reporter, November 30, 1996.
- (7) "Employers offered tax credit for young workers," Beacon Journal, November 23, 1996.
- (8) "Removing the roadblocks to learning," Beacon Journal, June 10, 1996.
- (9) "Principal uses a bit of enterprise," Beacon Journal, June 10, 1996.
- (10) "Akron EC Fund Established," City of Akron press release, April 21, 1997.

Key Demographic Data

**Akron, Ohio Enterprise Community
City of Akron, Ohio**

Population

49,920 people (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census);
19,614 households (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)
223,019 people (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census);
90,119 households (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)

Geography

urban; 13.50 square miles (source: briefing materials)
neighborhoods and north, south, east, west boundaries: downtown, University of Akron area ringing downtown on the near north, south, west sides of the city, and the south Arlington Street corridor on the east side extending from East Market Street south to the Fulton Municipal Airport (source: briefing materials);

Poverty Rate (% of persons below poverty level)

34.8% (source: briefing materials)
16.5% (source: briefing materials)

Unemployment Rate

18.1% (source: briefing materials, Labor Market Information Division, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services)
8.5% (source: briefing material, Labor Market Information Division, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services)

Education for people 25+

48,175 people with high school degrees or GEDs; 27,489 people attended some college; 6,309 people have Associates degree; 13,811 people have bachelors degree; and 7,179 people have graduate degree (source: 1990 U.S. Census data)
16-19 year olds not in school or working
443 persons 16-19 years age are unemployed or not in school (source: 1990 U.S. Census data)

Female-headed households with children

24% (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)
16.6% (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)

Race/ethnicity

28,809 whites (57.5%); 19,824 blacks (39.5%); 410 Hispanics (.8%); 929 Asians (1.9%); 169 Other (.3%)
(source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)
164,493 whites (73.4%); 54,656 blacks (24.4%); 1,601 Hispanics (.7%); 2,701 Asians (1.2%); and 566 Other (.3%) (source: briefing materials, 1990 Census)

Other special demographic characteristics/other important relevant information/perspectives

Median household income: \$11,493 (source: briefing materials)
Median household income: \$22,279 (source: briefing materials)