

Housing Strategy

In order to insure infrastructure, commercial and residential development meets the vision of the neighborhood a set of urban and housing design guidelines (UHDG) are being drafted. The UHDG will go beyond the aesthetic components typically included in these types of documents to include *Healthy Homes*, energy efficiency strategies and guidelines. It is the goal if the UHDG to provide a sustainable approach to redevelopment so that owners and occupants are offered the opportunity to reduce related living expenses and contribute to a healthier, cleaner, greener neighborhood and economy. It is these guidelines that will provide the expectation for ALL development within the neighborhood.

Commitments by Rockford Housing Authority:

RHA will execute a redevelopment strategy for Fairgrounds Valley Public Housing* site that is consistent with the UHDG and RHA de-concentration plan and incorporates green/energy efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption and long-term ownership costs.

RHA will execute a redevelopment strategy for neighborhood scatted site housing* units.

RHA will work, guided by the de-concentration plan, to address the concentration of rental units within the neighborhood.

RHA will support not-for-profit and community development organizations whose mission and vision are focused on housing and supportive services for residents of the neighborhood.

RHA will support and work to align resources for:

- Strategic demolition of blighted housing (and buildings) lacking neighborhood significance or regional heritage
- Strategic infill housing to complement inner-city village developments
- Strategic renovation of existing owner occupied housing
- Strategic renovation of private market rental housing

RHA will implement these Housing strategies in a manner that continues to build neighborhood engagement, capacity and sufficiency.

As identified in the Choice Neighborhood planning meetings and charrettes, RHA will guide housing strategies that provide a multitude of housing options and styles to represent the goals of the community.

To support housing development, RHA will support and align resources to develop economic, commercial and recreational opportunities that increase the quality of life for residents and thereby the desirability of the neighborhood.

RHA will work to strengthen and expand existing homeowner programs such as the Homebuyer's assistance program, Family Self Sufficiency, Section 8 Homeownership program, and others.

It is recognized that while RHA is making these commitments, much of the execution will be carried out by not-for-profit and for profit partners, CHDOs, CDCs, and the over-arching governing board established under the Choice Neighborhoods planning initiative. Several of these partnerships are outlined and included in the Implementation Matrix found in **Appendix XX**.

*RHA is in process of completing a comprehensive needs analysis for public housing replacement, infill housing, housing renovation and stabilization. At the conclusion of the analysis these strategies will be used to create a specific housing plan that represents the needs and desires of public housing, section 8 HVC, and private market rental residents as well as private property owners.