Five Year Assessment of Challenges, Opportunities, and Progress Rebuilding New Orleans

A look at the CDC’s partnership with HUD and the essential community programs that have been implemented since 2006 throughout the Greater New Orleans Area.

STRATEGIC VISION AND MISSION

Dillard University Community Development Corporation recognizes that the future health and vitality of the university is dependent on the viability and physical improvement of its Gentilly Neighborhood. Therefore, Dillard CDC seeks to provide leadership in the revitalization of Gentilly and New Orleans by using the university’s economic, intellectual, social and cultural capital in partnership with other community stakeholders.

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In 2011, we are planning the fifth annual home improvement fair. New Orleans area residents garner invaluable information and meet local businesses who are ready to assist with every aspect of building and homeownership.

- 50 vendors each year
- Seminars including: Pathway to Homeownership, Credit Repair, Home Weatherization
- Guest Speakers
- Average annual attendance: 1,200 people

Dillard University Community Development Corporation (CDC) with the assistance of the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has developed and implemented a number of successful community rebuilding efforts. Dillard University has become the rebuilding resource for the surrounding Gentilly neighborhoods and beyond.
Dillard University International Center for Economic Freedom
Dillard CDC

Through grants provided by HUD, Dillard has provided training and pathways to economic independence and self-sufficiency for low-to-moderate income individuals in the New Orleans areas.

Programs

Programs such as Computer Literacy Training, Job Training, Life Skills and English as a Second Language are helping residents to acquire the skills necessary to obtain good jobs and to become involved in their neighborhoods. More than 200 residents have utilized these programs.

Gentilly Resource Center

Gentilly Resource Center located on the Dillard University campus affords neighbors the opportunity to access various services and information.
Because of HUD grants, the CDC has coordinated with the 10 Gentilly neighborhood associations to develop Community & Personal Development programs that residents have determined are vital to the rebirth our city.

Grant Writing Workshops

Grant Writing Workshops are allowing community residents and non-profit organizations seek out funding for various projects they would like to execute in the community. We are planned our 2011 sessions for this summer. 400 people have participated in these workshops.

Hola Nola!

Basic Spanish lessons. This annual two-week summer class has proved quite popular with our neighbors.
Community Safety Initiatives provide a means to maintain a safe environment for residents, and includes neighborhood policing. Seminars/training sessions are conducted monthly and include:

- Stress Reduction / Conflict Resolution
- Effective Neighborhood Watch
- Fire Prevention and Safety
- Modern Crimes and Issues / Identity Theft
- Reporting Crimes and Suspicious Activity / Calling 911
- First Aid
- Self Defense / Personal Safety Management
- Door and Lock Safety

Lawn Replacement and Maintenance as well as new Neighborhood Signage programs have improved quality of life through beautification. To date, 300 residents have been served.

**Family Health Fairs**

Family Health Fairs provide a dynamic atmosphere for residents to participate in activities and workshops that teach healthy lifestyles. These events typically draw 1,000 participants each year.

**Advanced Metering Infrastructure**

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Pilot Program with Entergy test customer response to the technology, Peak Time Rebate and A/C Load Control Management programs. The scope of the program includes installing up to 7400 AMI smart meters along with some in-home display devices and smart thermostats in qualified ENOI residential, electric customers.
The CDC keeps residents informed about events and rebuilding progress through The Gentilly Clarion.
New Lawns

The Dillard CDC selected 25 homes to be in a program made possible through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered through Dillard's Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DUDSCEJ). The program helped homeowners with an often overlooked home improvement: the front lawn!

The 25 homeowners in the program could actually choose from one of four home improvements: lawn replacement, new windows, sheetrock or mold remediation. Lawn replacement was the most popular project with 23; four homeowners chose hurricane-resistant windows; three residents received sheetrock installation; and one home was treated for mold. Deborah Bates, project specialist for DUDSCEJ says the project is helping homeowners complete the projects that insurance and Road Home did not cover. “So many people have been struggling financially to complete their homes and move back in. Our program has given residents additional help in their rebuilding efforts,” said Bates.

For the lawn replacement project, the existing lawn and topsoil are removed. Then, the soil is tilled before new topsoil and St. Augustine sod are put down. It then becomes the owner’s responsibility to water and care for the lawn. Gloria DeCuir-Robert loves her new lawn.

“It was a final detail that we just could not afford to do at this time. Thanks to the CDC, the Environmental Justice Center and HUD, my family has a lawn that we can be proud of,” said DeCuir-Robert. “I think we’ll plant some flowers soon.” she added.

Nearly two-thirds of these home projects have been completed and all will be finished by the end of the year. The grant also enabled the DUDSCEJ staff to conduct training demonstrations known as Environmentally Safe Renovation and Remodeling Work Practices. They targeted low and moderate income families, the elderly, Dillard’s faculty, staff and nursing students as well as contractors whose clients qualify. A demonstration house was set up for the training to provide hands-on instruction along with a visual tour. Participants learned that the number one concern should be to build a house that is environmentally safe and flood and moisture resistant. The workshops also focused on home maintenance.

All home projects within this program will be completed by the end of 2008. The CDC hopes to obtain additional funding from other sources to have the opportunity to offer similar services to Gentilly residents in the future.
Jobs • Resources • Jobs • Resources • Jobs

Federal Government 101

Thursday, April 14, 2011  10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Dillard University  Professional Schools Building

Events

Students/Staff
Federal Government Career and Internship Fair
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  Atrium
Students will have the chance to meet and interact with government recruiters, and learn about conventional and non-conventional research and training grants available from various national funding agencies.

Small, Women-Owned & Socially/Economically Disadvantaged Business Opportunities
10:30 am - 11:30 am & 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  Rm. 131
Want to learn more about programs and resources available for disadvantaged businesses? Agency representatives will be available to answer questions and provide valuable information to community residents and small business owners.

Doing Business with GSA
11:30 am - 12:30 pm  Rm. 135
Learn about GSA: how and what we buy. Learn where to register in order to do business with GSA and tips about certifications recognized by GSA.

Community Development Grant Opportunities
10:30 am - 11:00 am & 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
John Georges Auditorium  Rm. 115
If you are interested in grants to develop the university campus and/or the community, this workshop will help you identify the right funding opportunities in the Federal Government and key tips on how to apply for grants.

Faculty/Administrators
Federal Grant Opportunities 101
11:30 am - 12:30 pm  Mock Trial Center Rm. 151
Learn about conventional and non-conventional research and training grants available from national funding agencies.

New Orleans Federal Executive Board - HBCU Committee Members

Sponsored by:

Dillard University
Community Development Corporation
Youth Summit has been held for the past three years. Activities include workshops such as Conflict Resolution, Building Self-Esteem, and College Grants & Financial Assistance. Attendance is approximately 1,150 participants each year.
Financial Literacy training focuses on educating youth about financial responsibility. Areas important to youth financial literacy include general knowledge of how the banking system, credit and debit cards, investments basics, the mental game of money and related aspects personal money management. Training provided through a grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additional partners include Regions Bank, Capital One Bank and FDIC.

Physical Fitness & Health Festival is geared toward active lifestyles. Sport such as tennis, basketball, rock-climbing, weight-lifting, and golf are presented to teens by seasoned coaches and instructors. Each year, we see 1,000-plus participants.