

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

REQUIREMENT. The Workable Program requires clear evidence that the community provides and continues to expand, opportunities for citizens, especially those who are poor and members of minority groups, to participate in all phases of the related HUD-assisted renewal and housing programs. The particular organizational means for community involvement is left to the discretion of each community, but the community must demonstrate in its Workable Program submission that it provides clear and direct access to decision making, relevant and timely information, and necessary technical assistance to participating groups and individuals in programs covered.

1. (a) Identify the groups participating in the HUD-assisted programs related to the Workable Program and in the community's program to expand the supply of low- and moderate-income housing.

(1) Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal (Encl. 1)

There are three major functions of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal which are directly related to Atlanta's Workable Program and to the community's program to expand the supply of low and moderate income housing:

The first of these three functions, informational services, constitutes a dynamic informational clearinghouse operation based on the receipt of general and technical information from various speakers at CACUR meetings. This information is then passed on to a large body of community organizations and leaders through "The Renewer", the official newsletter of CACUR. The July 1968, newsletter related comments by Cecil Alexander, Housing Resources Committee Chairman to CACUR Executive Committee, pointing out that a "Real Need for Low Income Housing is Seen in All Sections of Atlanta." (Continued on page 18a.)

(b) Describe the type of groups (e.g. civic, neighborhood, housing) that are participating, and the constituency represented (e.g. poor, middle-class, Negro, public housing residents).

Re 1 (a) above.

(1) Generally selected from prominent leading citizens in Atlanta, both White and Negro, in business, education, religious and civic fields.

U. R. Project Committees - appointed by the Housing Authority from residents, property owners and businessmen of the area.

PAC Committee - Residents of area, both White and Negro, elected by citizens of the particular area.

West End Businessmen's Association - Composed of prominent businessmen in South-West Atlanta (mostly White) interested primarily in the future of the West End Urban Renewal Project.
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Secondly, CACUR members act as program analysts by reviewing and commenting on many of the existing and new programs which are of interest to the Committee and the community as a whole. Feedback from the Committee to the City of Atlanta, Atlanta Housing Authority and responsible federal agencies provides an excellent opportunity for these agencies to "feel the pulse" of the community.

The third function of CACUR which is of particular interest here is citizen participation. This function is overlapping in that it is the one function universally inherent in all committee efforts. Recently, during an Aldermanic Planning and Development Committee meeting, one Alderman pointed out a "stalemate" situation in the citizen participation aspects of the NASH-BANS (Vine City) neighborhood. The CACUR Director volunteered the services of CACUR to help with that problem by establishing an associate advisory committee, as had been done in two past urban renewal projects. Since that time, CACUR members, especially President Noah Langdale, Jr., have worked diligently to contribute to the development of the PAC Committee in Vine City. These are but three major functions of CACUR producing a host of activities related to the effective planning and development of a Workable Program and public and private housing program aimed at creating a viable community.

- a. Project Committee for each Urban Renewal Project
- b. PAC Committee for each NDP area
- c. West End Businessmen's Association
(Each of these has a designated representative for liaison with CACUR.)

(2) Housing Resources Committee - Mayor's Office (Encl. 2)

With eight Working Panels (Subcommittees)
The HRC is charged with promoting and coordinating the Low-income Housing Program within the City Limits of Atlanta. It is not a planning agency. For specific Functions of HRC, see attached. (Encl. 3)
The members all serve without compensation.

(3) Model Cities Executive Board (Consists of 7 members appointed by the Mayor, including 2 members of the Board of Aldermen, and a representative elected by the citizens in each of the six Model Cities Neighborhoods; Mayor is Chairman) (Encl. 4)

Six Neighborhood Committees elected by citizens of each Neighborhood in the Model Cities area.

(4) Public Housing Project Committees - selected by residents from residents of each major Public Housing Project.

(5) Urban Observatory

The January 1, 1969 issue of the Atlanta Journal referred to the Urban Observatory with headline reading "Atlanta: Biggest College Lab in Georgia". That headline succinctly sums up the concept of the Urban Observatory. The basic purpose of the Urban Observatory in Atlanta is (Continued on page 18b.)

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to liberate the academic resources of the city so that they may study and analyze urban problems in such a way that their work can be of direct value to the public officials of the metropolitan area. The Observatory is designed to foster a partnership between the public officials of the metropolitan area, especially the Mayor of Atlanta, and local colleges and universities. This kind of a partnership can provide a tremendous potential to meet the serious problems of Atlanta with innovative and practical approaches to solutions. The guidance for the Urban Observatory will come from an advisory council which is made up of public officials representing the various governments in the metropolitan area. This council will be especially responsible for the progress of the Observatory. The two major administrative positions in the Observatory organization consist of the Director of the Urban Observatory to be housed in the Urban Life Department at Georgia State College, and City Urban Observatory Coordinator to be housed in the office of the Mayor of Atlanta. One of the basic functional aspects of the Urban Observatory concept is research. Two priority research and development programs for the Observatory during its first year of operation will be housing and citizen participation in community projects. It was the opinion of those responsible for the operation of the Observatories, located in six cities throughout the United States, that citizen participation is a key issue in the development of sound community rehabilitation programs. The research for the Observatory will be conducted by the faculties of the participating schools. Inter-university research teams, interdisciplinary in makeup, will use dynamic data banks to facilitate and expedite their research. The Observatory concept may well be the key to unlock that door which has too long held back insights into the solution of major urban problems.

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(2) Nominated by Chairman and Co-Chairmen (and appointed by the Mayor) primarily from leaders in the Community (approximately 50-50 White and Negro) who have exhibited talents for and interest in the functions of the particular Panel on which they serve.

(3) Explained in 1 (a), (3) above.

(4) Explained in 1 (a), (4) above.

(c) Describe what particular HUD-assisted programs and projects such groups are participating in.

Re 1 (a) above.

- (1) Urban Renewal, Public Housing in Urban Renewal projects, Federal assisted rehabilitation (FHA Section 115 Grants and Section 312 Loans), 221 (h), Model Cities and NDP area projects.
- (2) All Federal assisted housing programs, as related to the particular group.
- (3) Model Cities program - all phases.
- (4) Low Rent Public Housing.

(d) Describe efforts to achieve coordination among citizen participation structures located in the same area or having similar program interests.

Mass meetings called of residents and property owners of areas affected and applicable programs are explained. Nominating committees are usually appointed and subsequent meetings held to elect representatives. In some instances, such as Model Cities, regular conventions have been held. In other areas for example, Vine City, coordination and progress has been virtually impossible until most recently, due to disruptive practices of habitual protestors, some of whom reside outside the area, but who have deliberately tried to disrupt all meetings and prohibit any progress.

2. Describe the arrangements or working relationships set up to provide groups and individuals opportunities for access to and participation in decision-making in the applicable HUD-assisted programs.

Public Meetings, Public Hearings, Civic Association and Service Club meetings are announced, publicized and advertised, when required by law. Any citizen may be heard and all are encouraged to attend meetings and make their views known. Inclusion of neighborhood selected representatives in project committees. Refusal of City officials to establish policies and make decisions without first giving local residents an opportunity to be heard and to participate in matters which are of general interest to them. Attendance of appropriate knowledgeable City representatives at such meetings.

The Housing Authority Commission members have been holding meetings at night in respective Public Housing projects to hear complaints and recommendations of Public Housing residents for improving morale and participating in policy making in administration of Public Housing projects. (Continued on page 20a.)

3. Describe the steps which have been taken in regard to the applicable programs to provide participating groups and individuals sufficient information and technical assistance.

Repeat meetings in all affected areas; explanations by competent representatives of appropriate City Departments to neighborhood residents, civic groups and service clubs serving the areas affected and inviting their ideas, suggestions and active participation. Typical example of efforts being made to provide information and technical assistance through the local PAC organization is illustrated in attached pamphlets, "Edgewood in Action" and "Bedford-Pine Community Newsletter" (Encl. 6). Typical efforts being made to inform other interested groups on Urban Renewal, through special tours and presentations, is illustrated by attached communication, (Encl. 7).

In addition, the full membership of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Urban Renewal meets quarterly and the Executive Committee meets monthly and as needed to review the overall Urban Renewal (Continued on page 20a.)

4. Describe the nature and range of issues relating to the applicable programs with which participating groups and individuals have dealt; the recommendations subsequently made; and the specific results and accomplishments of the participation.

All phases and activities of Model Cities, with special effort not to make decisions on any phase of the numerous activities, without first presenting the matters to neighborhood committees and getting action of the Executive Board. This is highly democratic but is time consuming and does not promote speed and efficiency in accomplishment. (Continued on page 20a.)

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For overall approach of Atlanta's efforts and specific steps taken to increase communications between neighborhoods and City Hall, to acquaint neighborhoods with the city's services and to encourage persons in low income neighborhoods to bring their problems to attention of proper officials and to provide them the opportunity of participating in decision making in applicable HUD assisted programs, see attached pamphlet, "City Hall and Neighborhood Residents - the Atlanta approach - experience report 110", (Encl. 5).

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Program, receive timely reports and explanations from experts in the various applicable programs and projects pertaining to Urban Renewal and to initiate and follow through on action appropriate for citizen participation in the various elements of Urban Renewal.

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In Urban Renewal Projects and NDP areas, recommendations of local representative groups are habitually sought and considered in most policy determinations.

In zoning matters pertaining to many HUD assisted programs and projects the majority voice of citizens of the area is normally adhered to, so much so that rezoning to accomodate HUD assisted housing projects has been severely curtailed, to the extent of seriously threatening accomplishments of the low income housing program, to meet current and future needs.

NOTE: (a) The requirement in HUD's letter of October 15, 1968, to Mayor Allen indicating certain deficiencies for correction during the recertification period, under Citizen Participation, that "Minutes of meetings of the Subcommittee on Minority Housing, should be forwarded with the next request for recertification" is not considered applicable now in view of the intensive and highly organized and completely integrated citizen participation in all phases of the Model Cities program, and the increase emphasis on active participation by U. R. and Project Area Committees in all phases of other HUD assisted program activities.

(b) The creation of CACUR, during the early days of Urban Renewal and the FHA 221 d(2) program in Atlanta, completely changed the climate in Atlanta from definite hostility to one of comprehension, generally favorable acceptance and cooperation. The continued activity of this influential and representative group in the Urban
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Renewal program has been very instrumental in maintaining a favorable climate in Atlanta for Federal assisted programs.

(c) The creation of the Housing Resources Committee, November 15, 1966, at a critical period in the early stages of Atlanta's accelerated low and moderate income housing program, has resulted in getting the City's entire announced goal of 16,800 units for a five year program, in the pipe line within the first $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of the program as follows:

Completed	4,839	units
Under Construction	7,256	units
In Planning	7,903	units
Total In Sight	19,998	units
Plus Leasing Program for Public Housing	<u>1,015</u>	units
GRAND TOTAL	21,013	units