

## Lowell, Massachusetts Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low Income Households
74	Lowell, MA	MA0010	34,922	2	33%	15%	72%

Lowell, Massachusetts has a Round I Enterprise Community (EC) that has, in part, been designated as a Renewal Community (RC), thus Lowell lost its EC status when it received RC designation on January 1, 2002.

The RC Course of Action includes all six required goals and actions, which will be outlined briefly below.

### Improving Local Services

Lowell strives to increase preschool and After School program participants and to increase the number of day care programs. Additional services planned include increasing employment and training services and expanding transportation services for its residents.

### Reducing Crime

Lowell's crime reduction strategy includes an increase in the number and quality of programs designed to improve public safety and crime prevention, maintain and enhance Community Policing policies, increase neighborhood safety and to increase juvenile crime prevention initiatives.

### Reducing Tax Burdens

The City of Lowell continues to build on its record of four consecutive years of ending with positive "Free Cash" whereas both commercial and residential tax rates have decreased while property values have increased. Additionally, Lowell is working toward increasing the use of Tax Incremental Finance Tools annually by 50 %.

### Reducing Government Requirements

Lowell has implemented several initiatives to promote renewal and redevelopment actions. Planned development districts, urban renewal planning areas, comprehensive or one-stop permits and variance/exception policies, and a 24 hour/7 day a week permit filing system all contribute to facilitation of economic development within the RC.

### Soliciting In-kind Donations

The City of Lowell has a history of working with community partners to provide the best opportunities for existing or expanding businesses and community organizations, new commercial projects, and quality of life for community groups, neighborhood organizations and residents. Contributions received include \$600,000 from the Acre Urban Revitalization Plan for neighborhood improvements in 2001.

### Involving Community Partners

Lowell has a close collaboration with partners from the federal, State, local and quasi-public agencies and the private sector whose goal is to increase the overall economic activity and employment growth within the RC. Such examples include Abt Associates, Incorporated, the Enterprise Bank and Trust and the Lowell Development Financial Corporation (LDFC.)