

## Rochester, New York Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low-Income Households
45	Rochester, NY	NY0021	74,967	7	40%	16%	76%

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

The City of Rochester is the urban center of Monroe County, located in upstate western New York. The City, and in particular, the Rochester RC, have experienced increasing economic and general distress over the past several years. Between 1980 and 1990, Rochester's population declined by more than 4% while Monroe County gained an additional 22,000 persons. This reflects the continued out-migration of residents to surrounding towns and suburbs. To combat high unemployment and poverty in the RC as well as a high percentage of households with low-income levels, the Rochester RC has developed a Course of Action focusing on the following strategies:

### **Improving local services**, highlights of which are as follows:

- Monroe County Department of Social Services recently relocated approximately 60% of their Temporary Assistance Division, along with Child Protective Services and Health Department services to an old Bausch and Lomb building on St. Paul Street in downtown Rochester. The new location is more accessible to clients due to location and busing routes.
- The Work & Learn Center is a program operated jointly by Monroe Community College and the Monroe County Department of Social Services. The Center provides comprehensive assessment, education options, short-term training and employment services to TANF recipients to enable them to become economically independent.

### **Reducing Crime**, highlights of which are as follows:

- In July 2001, Rochester began the anti-violence detail, which is a citywide (including the RC) full-scale detail involving foot and bike patrol, full uniform saturation and pro-active zero-tolerance enforcement in certain areas.
- Also stated in 2001 and on-going is the Downtown Entertainment District Detail, which is an overtime-funded uniform detail conducted on weekends to address violence in the Central Entertainment Downtown district.

### **Reducing government requirements**, highlights of which are as follows:

- Continue to permit a wide variety of home-based businesses throughout all the residential districts of the City of Rochester.
- Established an on-line service for obtaining electrical permits and permitting faxing in permit applications and pay fees through an escrow account.

### **Involving Community partners**, highlights of which are as follows:

- Leveraging HUD Section 108/EDI grant and loan funds with commitments from local organizations such as the M&T Bank, the Genessee Corporation and the New York State Job Development Authority to save the 122-year-old Genessee Brewery.
- The City of Rochester and the Rochester Economic Development Corporation, working together with the local community, developed a 70,000 square foot shopping center.