

HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services Best Practices – Innovative Partnerships Beaumont Housing Authority

Partnerships Prove Successful

In 2006, the Beaumont Housing Authority (BHA) received a \$20 million HOPE VI Revitalization grant to demolish the Magnolia Gardens public housing development. Although this grant was a strong start to city-wide improvement, neighborhood-wide revitalization was needed to attract working families to the area and ensure the HOPE VI project's success. The BHA leveraged an additional \$32 million in funding from the Housing Tax Credit Program and the Hurricane Rita CDBG program to revitalize the North End neighborhood. To supplement this influx of capital, the BHA then partnered with the Texas A&M University's School of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning to develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan to spur investment and redevelopment in the North End and reestablish the neighborhood as a vibrant and growing part of the city.

The Texas A&M students assisted the BHA in creating a neighborhood revitalization plan that included proposals for the development of more efficient bus routes, hiking and bike trails, beautification projects, retail and commercial development proposals and the development of a restaurant district. The students presented their proposals to community leaders and the Beaumont City Council in two separate workshops. The City Council has included several aspects of the neighborhood revitalization plan in its overall Master Infrastructure Improvement Plan and will work with the Beaumont municipal transit system to encourage more direct and efficient transportation routes. The students' work also served as a catalyst for conversations between stakeholders and city officials on how to improve the community. BHA hopes that by the completion of the HOPE VI project in 2011; the neighborhood revitalization will also be complete, resulting in a vibrant, diverse and economically successful community.

For more information on this Best Practice contact:

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