

## LIVING CITIES INTEGRATION INITIATIVE: NEWARK PROFILE

**TOTAL FUNDING**: \$2.75 MILLION IN GRANTS, \$3 MILLION IN PROGRAM-RELATED INVESTMENTS, \$9 MILLION IN COMMERCIAL DEBT

## **OVERVIEW**

In Newark and other urban communities, low-income residents cannot afford to live in a healthful environment, and the costs of unhealthy living further destabilize families and entrench people in poverty. Newark's Strong Healthy Communities Initiative (SHCI) will address these unequal conditions by using a "social determinants of health" framework to improve the economic and social well-being of targeted low-income communities through systems transformation as well as coordinated investments in housing, education, healthcare and healthy food options. In each neighborhood, the initiative will drive a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy focused on alleviating the environmental conditions that create barriers to the educational and economic advancement of residents.

The initiative will help advance Newark's education reform efforts by contributing to a comprehensive approach to family and community supports. It will bring city government and others to the table to provide economic development and wellness resources needed in the targeted communities. The effort will also expand the city's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) abandoned property rehabilitation efforts and bring the benefits of the regional fresh foods movement to Newark's low-income residents.

## **USE OF FUNDING**

Through the Integration Initiative, Newark is eligible for up to \$15 million in grants, commercial loans and Program-Related Investments (PRIs) to support its efforts. These resources will be used to create a "wellness economy" that improves both the supply of and demand for fresh food, health care, and safe, affordable housing. Through this initiative, Newark will establish a new, high capacity investing entity that can blend private, philanthropic and public capital to develop healthcare facilities and grocery stores and finance rehabilitation of vacant and abandoned properties.

Specifically, the initiative will provide PRIs and commercial debt for pre-development, rehab and construction of up to 100 properties through the Abandoned Properties Program. It also will provide for the creation of at least one full service supermarket and enhancement of small grocers and bodegas, as well as support for the build out and start-up phase of school-based and mobile health centers. Grants will support the development of school-based healthcare facilities, the cleaning and greening of vacant and abandoned lots, fresh foods and fitness programs, community outreach, policy analysis, systems change work, and management and evaluation of the initiative.

## **PARTNERS**

Newark's public, private, philanthropic and non-profit sectors have agreed to work as true partners on the initiative. SHCI is being coordinated by The Center for Collaborative Change and Prudential in partnership with the City of Newark, Newark Public Schools, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in addition to more than 30 partner organizations, including city and state government, nonprofits, businesses, private foundations, and research institutions.