

1999 Annual Report Executive Summary

Bowling Green Enterprise Community

The Bowling Green Enterprise Community, was officially designated on January 13, 1999, in a ceremony including Lt. Governor Stephen L. Henry, USDA Rural Development State Director Thomas Fern and Ms. Sarah Bell, Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet.

Our Strategic Plan focused on three census tracts, 101, 102, and 103 with fourteen neighborhoods identified containing approximately ninety-nine hundred residents. Historically, the Enterprise Community area has had high levels of : poverty, unemployment, single parent families, predominately female heads-of-household, crime related problems, lower educational levels and/or training skills, poor transportation opportunities, a lack of decent, safe and affordable housing, youth development problems, and fragmented systems for the delivery of services. During the citizen participation process, residents verbally enumerated the various hardships created as a result of living within this economically deprived area.

The City of Bowling Green and the EC Board of Directors view the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community initiative as the first opportunity since the Model Cities Program to address the needs of inner cities and distressed rural areas whose plight has long been ignored. This initiative is truly "grassroots" as our residents work in partnership with neighborhood groups, service provider agencies and local government to assist with the creation of employment opportunities, address social issues, education, transportation and crime related problems. This program is not a "quick fix", instead it has and will continue to develop measurable outcomes for sustained employment and overall improvements in the quality of human life for all Bowling Green EC residents.

Governed by an eleven member Board of Directors, the Bowling Green EC has made tremendous strides in preparing for funds distribution. To date, no funds have been requested, but the Board's intention is to make a funding announcement in April, 2000 covering the first two years appropriations.