

Charleston, South Carolina Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low-Income Households
24	Charleston, SC	SC0017	22,544	7	47%	12%	74%

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

The Charleston RC identified several impediments to development in its nominated area, including dilapidated structures, environmental concerns, lack of training for residents, few community-owned and operated businesses, lack of job opportunities with viable wages, and limited access to transportation. To address these issues, the Charleston RC developed a Course of Action that includes the following strategies, among others:

Increasing the level of efficiency of local services in the RC, which includes the following efforts, among others:

- Neighborhood groups will work directly with the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority to redesign transportation routes and schedules to serve residents both more safely and effectively.
- The Greater Charleston Empowerment Corporation will meet with residents to identify their health care needs to match them with appropriate services.
- The RC Second Chance Lending Program will provide financial assistance to RC businesses that are new, expanding, or facing difficulties obtaining loans.

Reducing, removing, simplifying or streamlining government requirements in the RC, which includes the following efforts, among others:

- The Charleston mayor appointed a Development Expeditor to assist in preparing applications for construction permits and serve as a go-between during the review and approval stages.
- A zoning task force, comprised of members of the public, private and non-profit sectors, is considering recommendations to ease barriers to affordable housing development, including allowing a 25% decrease in the minimum lot area per unit regulations for duplexes and multi-family projects, and allowing a reduction in required on-site parking for affordable housing projects on the peninsula.

Providing State or local surplus real estate within the RC for free or at reduced cost to neighborhood organizations, private companies, or community-development corporations.

Examples of this include the following:

- The City of Charleston will acquire vacant and dilapidated structures and vacant lots and transfer them to nonprofit housing development for selling them to eligible low- and moderate-income homebuyers.
- The City sold Eastside Center for Human Concerns, once a dilapidated eyesore in the Eastside community, to Agape Ministries for \$1 to enable this organization to restore it into a community learning center, training facility, and daycare center.