

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Department: County Administration
Submitted By: County Administration
Submitted For: Office of Community Revitalization

Motion and Title: Staff recommends a motion to approve: Implementation of the Abundant Community Initiative Pilot Project through the contracting of three neighborhood connectors in the pilot communities of Cabana Colony, Plantation, and San Castle in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Summary: The recommended funding is available in OCR's Community Connect Initiative Budget and will be used to contract with a resident in each of the selected pilot communities as neighborhood connectors to spearhead the project implementation. The neighborhood connector will not be a County employee, and will report to the community leadership group and the OCR Staff. Last year, the OCR was selected to be part of a national neighborhood leadership group sponsored by the Kettering Foundation and the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute to exchange, evaluate and adopt successful initiatives to promote community engagement and build community capacity. This pilot project and the contracting of neighborhood residents for its implementation follow the national model already adopted and successfully implemented by the leadership group throughout the United States and Canada. Based on the lessons learned and the evaluation conducted in partnership with the members of this group, OCR will make a recommendation to the BCC on whether this pilot project could be used as a prototype that can be replicated and applied to other communities in Palm Beach County. The above project was reviewed and recommended for funding by the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT). An agreement with the neighborhood connectors will be brought to the BCC at a future date for approval. Countywide (AH)

Background and Justification: The above project, which is part of OCR's Community Connect Initiative and its ongoing efforts to further engage and help empower residents for civic leadership, was reviewed and recommended for funding by the CCRT. The CCRT is comprised of neighborhood representatives as well as representatives from various County departments and agencies, including: the School District, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO), Community Services, Water Utilities Department, Engineering Department, Department of Economic Sustainability, Code Enforcement, Planning, Zoning and Building Divisions, Parks and Recreation, Fire Rescue, Animal Care and Control, Drowning Prevention, Health Department, and the Solid Waste Authority. Funding is available from the REAP/Community Connect Initiative Funding Account. An agreement with the Neighborhood Connectors will be brought to the BCC at a later date.

Last year, the OCR received a grant from the Knight Foundation to expand its Community Connect Initiative. The grant provided the OCR with a unique opportunity to review, analyze and adopt elements from communities across the nation, which have been successful in developing more connected, inclusive and engaged local communities. As a result, the OCR was able to bring internationally recognized community builders John McKnight and Mike Green, from the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute, part of the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, to provide a 3 day workshop on a growing movement that considers local assets as the primary building blocks of sustainable community development. OCR was invited to join a learning exchange with the Kettering Foundation and representatives from neighborhoods and institutions across the US who, like Palm Beach County, are experimenting with ways to further engage residents and help build community capacity. As a result, the OCR is now part of a Neighborhood Leadership Group formed at the national level to exchange ideas and share best practices as well as tools for mobilizing community assets, connecting and engaging the community, and unlocking the talents of people to help solve problems and build better communities. (Continued on page 3)

1. Letter from John McKnight

Houston L. Tate
OCR Director

12/17/2014
Date


Deputy County Administrator

Date _____

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	<u>20,000</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u><u>20,000</u></u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes X No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund 1401 Dept 366 Unit X089 Object 3401

Reporting Category _____

B. **Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:** Funds will be disbursed form above account and according to agreement.

C. **Departmental Fiscal Review:** *Pat DiGirolamo*

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Susan Neary 12/18/14 12/18 ASD OFMB
Dr. S. Jacobson 12/18/14 Contract Dev. and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Anne Delaney 12-22-14
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

Background and Justification: As part of the grant and as a result of the energy generated through the ABCD workshops and lessons learned from the Kettering Foundation exchange, OCR efforts are currently underway to implement the ACI Pilot Project. The purpose of the pilot project is to demonstrate the viability and potential of the ABCD initiative for neighborhood development in Palm Beach County by utilizing actual neighborhoods, their existing leadership structures and residents. OCR's ACI Pilot Project follows the ACI model adopted by the national leadership group. The model supports grassroots efforts to increase neighborhood wellness by focusing on developing communities from the inside out, identifying and mobilizing assets from within (their skills, abilities and gifts), and connecting them with one another.

The Plantation Community, Cabana Colony, and San Castle are the chosen sites for OCR's ACI Pilot Project and they were selected based on their leadership capacity to move forward with the project implementation. Howard Lawrence, ACI Consultant from the City of Edmonton, Canada, has provided the initial training, and neighborhood connectors are now needed to coordinate and guide the time consuming neighborhood organizing work in each of the selected communities. The OCR is recommending the use of \$20,000 from its Community Connect Initiative account for this purpose. These connectors will be critical in each community to: organize the community work; identify, enlist and mobilize a significant number of block connectors; facilitate and encourage the block connector's conversation process throughout the entire neighborhood; and compile the information from the conversations on behalf of each neighborhood and its leadership.

The OCR will enter into a contract with a resident from each pilot community to complete the pilot project, which will include: guiding the neighborhood organizing process, inventorying the dreams, desires and gifts within the neighborhood, and facilitating the formation of associations within the neighborhood. The neighborhood connector will not be a County employee, and will report to the community leadership group and the OCR Staff. Block Connectors will be recruited to assist the neighborhood connector with the home interviews. Block Connectors will be volunteer positions. The process for selecting the connectors and implementing the project will be the one adopted by the national leadership group.

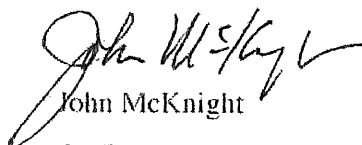
Based on the lessons learned from the Pilot Project and its evaluation during the next learning exchange with the Kettering Foundation, the OCR will make a recommendation to the BCC on whether the pilot projects' experience, training materials and interview questions could be used as a model that could be applied in other communities in Palm Beach County.

December 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

At the Asset Based Community Development Institute at Northwestern University, we have been documenting and supporting the work of a rapidly growing movement, based upon mobilizing the assets in neighborhoods. Unlike many local organizing efforts that focus on issue advocacy, this asset movement organizes local people to become productive problem solvers with their own resources. It recognizes that the skills and knowledge of local residents, combined with the clubs, groups, churches and associations to which they belong, are abundant assets that can take on new community functions. These functions include increased responsibility for youth, safety, health, economy and the environment. This new responsibility is especially important as governments pull back their services.

We are very pleased that the Countywide Community Revitalization Team of Palm Beach County is planning to develop an abundant community initiative based upon the asset mobilization strategy. We are prepared to consult with the implementation staff and to document the progress of their initiative. We also plan to include the staff in the continuing international Abundant Community Learning Initiative that is supported by the Kettering Foundation.


John McKnight

Co-Director

Asset Based Community Development Initiative
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois