

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 1: LACK OF ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP BUSINESSES WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

*Desired Outcome: Griffin Heights fosters entrepreneurship and has a thriving economic base.*

### Strategy ED&RE 1.1: Support the development and incubation of businesses within the neighborhood.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.1.1 :** Develop and implement a microenterprise program; partner with adjacent neighborhoods. Explore emerging markets for entrepreneurship.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.1.2:** Establish an Opportunity Zone Fund and an EB-5 Regional Center.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.1.3:** Develop partnerships with existing providers to create new program/facility in the neighborhood where small businesses can co-locate and share resources.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.1.4:** Seek funding to support and create business development opportunities within the neighborhood and for residents of the neighborhood.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.1.5:** Offer incentives to encourage residents to shop within the neighborhood.



### Strategy ED&RE 1.2: Increase access to entrepreneurship training and small business financing.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.1:** Host informational workshops in the neighborhood that increase residents’ awareness of existing small business development resources, grant writing and financial education.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.2:** Promote the small business support and financing available from the Office of Economic Vitality, FAMU Small Business Development Center, TCC Spark program and other sources by inviting providers to community events/meetings and promoting their services via social media.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.3:** Partner with Lively Technical College to host within the neighborhood a showcase of available job training available at the college.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.4:** Host pop-up events at a Lawrence-Gregory Community Center to connect entrepreneurs with each other, provide coaching opportunities and other entrepreneurial resources.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.5:** Work with early-learning providers to promote in-home childcare as an employment option; help people understand the steps and requirements of establishing a childcare/homebased business.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.2.6:** Monitor progress of the Children’s Services Council and its related funding possibilities that can benefit the neighborhood.

### Strategy ED&RE 1.3: Introduce youth to entrepreneurship through job shadowing, apprenticeships and mentoring.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.1:** Enhance programs at DREAMS Center; involve other churches.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.2 :** Promote trades and vocational training to young people by hosting events that highlight training and entrepreneurial opportunities.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.3 :** Host events that connect youth to local businesses leaders for entrepreneurial coaching and mentoring; highlighting success stories and talents/skills that can be shared.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.4 :** Create a job shadowing program for neighborhood youth to be introduced to varied professions.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.5 :** Create summer programming that focuses on youth entrepreneurship and STEM; use sports, gaming, and social media to engage youth.

**Action Item ED&RE 1.3.6 :** Work with the administrators at local schools to introduce students from the neighborhood to local resources available for youth entrepreneurs.





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## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 2: LIMITED ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES/OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

*Desired Outcome: Residents can easily access services that help them achieve educational goals and find employment that provides a family-sustaining wage.*

**Strategy ED&RE 2.1: Partner with schools to increase student and parental supports and assess ways the neighborhood can support the schools.**

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.1:** Organize a parent support group for neighborhood residents that provides and appropriate training and other resources, including food and fun.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.2:** Hold fund raisers for the special needs of local schools.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.3:** Connect neighborhood home school programs with university and other residents who can contribute/help with tutoring programs.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.4:** Work with school leadership and PTA groups to encourage the schools to have parent/school meetings at different times and places in the neighborhood (ex: community centers).

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.5:** Identify a liaison at local schools to develop information sharing mechanism. Work through school advisory committees in each school.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.6:** Connect with local schools to offer community support in implementing life skills curriculum.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.1.7:** Advocate with the school district for a regular high school diploma program for youth age 18-25 as special diplomas negatively impact youth’s future opportunities.



**Strategy ED&RE 2.2: Increase opportunities for residents to access educational, vocational employment resources.**

**Action Item ED&RE 2.2.1:** Promote the TEMPO program with neighborhood opportunity youth in churches, businesses, apartment complexes and throughout the neighborhood through personal outreach and social media.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.2.2:** Promote existing job training resources in the neighborhood by inviting providers to community events and hosting resource fairs.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.2.3:** Offer holistic and individualized job training classes in in the community for youth and adults that include connections to employment and vocational/higher education resources. Training should include life skills instruction and practice with employment tests.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.2.4:** Develop/enhance tutoring programs through local churches within the neighborhood.

**Strategy ED&RE 2.3: Assess and address barriers to the above services for special populations (ex: opportunity youth and residents returning from incarceration).**

**Action Item ED&RE 2.3.1:** Host events that highlight resources such as the federal bonding program and support from universities; help people get required accreditations.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.3.2:** Identify residents who are willing to visit prisons or re-entry programs and talk to people there about career possibilities including entrepreneurship; partner with the Re-Entry Coalition.

**Action Item ED&RE 2.3.3:** Help returning citizens register to vote and re-establish their drivers’ licenses.





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## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 3: HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS DECLINED.

*Desired Outcome: Owner-occupancy of neighborhood homes increases.*

**Strategy ED&RE 3.1: Connect residents to existing homeownership resources by inviting providers to neighborhood events and promoting their services via social media.**

**Action Item 3.1.1:** Promote resources for homebuying assistance.

**Action Item ED&RE 3.1.2 :** Conduct homeownership and home maintenance workshops in the neighborhood.

**Strategy ED&RE 3.2: Create connections and secure resources that support existing renters within Griffin Heights to become homeowners in the neighborhood.**

**Action Item ED&RE 3.2.1:** Build lists of landlords willing to sell and renters interested in homeownership and connect the two.

**Action Item ED&RE 3.2.2:** Work with credit unions, nonprofit providers and nonprofit developers to create a program that provides homebuyer and home maintenance education, down payment assistance, pre-and post-purchase mentorship and an emergency fund for new homeowners.



## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 4: LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

*Desired Outcome: Residents have access to facilities, services and programming that support emotional, physical and social health.*

**Strategy ED&RE 4.1: Create awareness of and link residents to existing services and resources for physical health and mental health, offering those services within the community when possible.**

**Action Item ED&RE 4.1.1:** Work with service providers, large apartment complexes, churches, etc. to offer additional services and events within the neighborhood and target promotion efforts to the community.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.1.2:** Work with area churches, beauty parlors and barber shops to play a lead role in help to reduce the stigma of accessing mental health services.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.1.3:** Promote resources that support families and children with special needs and disabilities by inviting providers to church groups and neighborhood meetings/events. Encourage community centers to display resource materials.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.1.4:** Provide education to residents on recognizing and managing mental health challenges, understanding the links between mental health and substance use, and the impacts of trauma and poverty. (Ex: Youth Mental First Aid training, the ACES test in schools)

**Strategy ED&RE 4.2: Assess need for new or enhanced recreational facilities/services/programs to address unmet needs.**

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.1:** Re-establish a neighborhood Family Health & Resource Center at the former Bond Community Health Center site located in Springfield Apartments on Joe Louis Street. Look at models like the Community School model at Sabal Palm Elementary.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.2 :** Promote afterschool and recreation opportunities that are currently available to residents in the community through community events, schools, and social media.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.3** Partner with area churches and other nonprofit organizations to offer new or enhanced recreational programs in the neighborhood. (Ex: Sowing Seeds, Sewing Comfort program)

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.4:** Work with area churches to offer locations/opportunities for neighborhood residents to fulfill their required community services.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.5:** Establish a partnership with property owner/managers of large apartment complexes (Griffin Heights Apartment, Springfield Apartments) to revive sports areas and recreational programs.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.6:** Identify enhancements to neighborhood recreational facilities, including identifying space for a children's water feature, and improvements to Riley Park through a neighborhood working group.

**Action Item ED&RE 4.2.7:** Increase programming for seniors at Lawrence Gregory Community Center.





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## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 5: AFFORDABLE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.

*Desired Outcome: Residents have increased access to locations to purchase and grow affordable healthy food*

**Strategy ED&RE 5.1: Increase opportunities to sell, purchase and consume healthy food in the neighborhood.**

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.1:** Advocate for the City/County to purchase 1309 Alabama Street for community food retail or other economic development benefit.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.2:** Increase the number healthy food retail spaces and other food businesses in the neighborhood by connecting entrepreneurs to opportunities to secure capital.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.3:** Find a suitable location for a community garden; partner with universities to help maintain.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.4:** Create intergenerational gardening programs. Work with Tallahassee Food Network to incorporate learnings/model of I Grow garden.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.5:** Identify and assess locations and partners to establish within the neighborhood a farmers market/stand and/or food truck parking areas.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.6:** Host classes on nutrition and healthy cooking for residents.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.7:** Promote access to the KitchenShare program at neighborhood meetings and through social media.

**Action Item ED&RE 5.1.8:** Collaborate with the area churches and other organizers of food distributions in neighborhood to include more fruits and vegetables when available.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERN ED&RE 6: DECREASED SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

*Desired Outcome: Increase in neighborhood events and neighborhood association capacity which provide opportunities for neighbors to develop relationships and advocate for positive change.*

**Strategy ED&RE 6.1: Increase the number of events and activities for neighbors to connect with each other.**

**Action Item ED&RE 6.1.1:** Develop and distribute a quarterly calendar of community events via social media, church bulletins, etc.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.1.2:** Develop a neighborhood sports league to encourage social connection.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.1.3:** Develop and host at least one new collaborative community event per year (Ex: Potluck, yard sale, etc.). Explore hosting a “Longest Table” event in the neighborhood.

**Strategy ED&RE 6.2: Increase the capacity of the neighborhood association.**

**Action Item ED&RE 6.2.1:** Increase membership in the neighborhood association through personal outreach. Recruit at community events.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.2.2:** Establish a youth council to serve as part of the neighborhood association. Provide training and support for youth to foster meaningful involvement.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.2.3:** Establish a social media committee to manage existing/new social media platforms for the neighborhood. Create a Next-Door Neighborhood page.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.2.4:** Establish a representative working group to explore new options for a neighborhood logo and motto.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.2.5:** Create signage to advertise neighborhood association meetings.

**Strategy ED&RE 6.3: Decrease social isolation for seniors.**

**Action Item ED&RE 6.3.1:** Work with area churches to develop a program for youth to assist elderly residents with home maintenance, landscaping, etc.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.3.2:** Promote existing resources for senior recreation and engagement through neighborhood faith groups and other community groups.

**Action Item ED&RE 6.3.3:** Collaborate with elder-serving organizations to develop neighborhood activities designed to foster intergenerational interactions.

