

The Northside Initiative

The most ambitious redevelopment effort in the City's history

A comprehensive effort to fundamentally transform Northside community, the Northside Initiative represents an unprecedented collaboration of public, private, civic, educational, and philanthropic institutions in Spartanburg. The Northside Initiative will result in a completely revitalized, mixed-income, mixed-use neighborhood attractive to families and businesses located close to downtown and served by a mix of highly rated educational opportunities, recreational amenities and responsive and engaged social services.

Who is involved?

Investors in the Northside Development Corp, a non-profit land bank, include: the City of Spartanburg, Mary Black Foundation, Spartanburg Community Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Wofford College, and private citizens.

Other partners include: Spartanburg Housing Authority (SHA), USC Upstate, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Spartanburg County School District 7, Woodward Funeral Home, Integral Solutions, City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department, Spartanburg County, United Way of the Piedmont, private businesses, and the residents of the Northside.

What has happened so far?

- More than 2 years of institutional and community meetings
- \$25 million investment by the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine for its Carolinas Campus
- Spartanburg named "Network Member" of nationally renowned community revitalization organization Purpose Built Communities, one of only nine such community projects nationwide
- Creation of Northside Development Corporation (\$2.5

million in commitments)

- Secured \$900,000 for new Community Food Hub, to be located on Howard Street
- Cleveland Academy of Leadership becomes first 205-day elementary school in South Carolina
- City pledges commitment to build new T.K. Gregg Recreation Center in Northside by 2017
- Spartanburg Housing Authority commits \$700,000 to a "Model Block" redevelopment effort on Brawley Street
- Northside Initiative one of just 17 projects selected for \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant by Department of Housing and Urban Development

What is next?

In what was a very unconventional approach, local citizens, public and private institutions were willing to take on the risk and uncertainty associated with this endeavor. More than \$4 million has been committed.

While substantial public and private funding has been raised and tremendous progress is being made, additional resources are needed to move forward with the acquisition of strategic development sites, support of educational initiatives, and to fund other "first in" projects. During the next 9-18 months, intensive physical land use and revitalization planning work will be undertaken. That planning work, funded by the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, will position the Northside for a possible a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant.

To be successful in obtaining an implementation grant, the Northside must distinguish itself from other applications, and the effort must be moving forward independently of a successful implementation grant.

