

APPENDIX 4

Suggestions for Gathering Information

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Local Government Planning Department

In most cases, information (maps, zoning, roads, comprehensive plan, environmental studies, needs assessments) are available from your local government planning department. Find out where this type of information exists – visit with various individuals – tell them what you are trying to do – ask for their help.

After gathering this information, ask for neighborhood volunteers who are interested in revitalizing your neighborhood. From there, ask or assign volunteers to read the information and be prepared to come back together to share what they have learned with the entire group.

Do a Neighborhood Survey.

Don't forget to ask if one has already been done by the community or local government when you gather information.

Your survey can be conducted by mail-outs using simple easy to read questions where the individual fills in the block. The door to door (face to face) interaction helps to build awareness and cooperation in the neighborhood. Again, check with your local government to see if it may already have a survey. If so, compare your survey results with the previous survey, particularly if they were surveying similar issues.

What kind of survey questions should you ask? Well, here are some examples.

What do residents like about the neighborhood, and what don't they like about the neighborhood?

What can be done to change or do things differently? Anything specific in mind? Ask for examples where possible.

What is the highest priority issue or problem? Who is affected?

Where is it located? What has been done? What can be done? Who can help?

Conduct Interviews.

Interview those who know what is going on in the community, and those who know how to deal with an issue. Often they are people with first-hand experience.

How Others Have Done Surveys.

Appendix 6 includes an example of how the City of Little Rock, Arkansas developed and conducted a series of Neighborhood Surveys in a revitalization initiative.