



7th District City of Richmond
Summary Report
2012

★ RICHMOND MEMORIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION ★

Faithful to a Legacy of Caring

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Overview

The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (RMHF) engaged Performance Management Group at Virginia Commonwealth University (PMG) to develop a community asset inventory documenting community resources and interventions. These assets include, but are not limited to, schools, libraries, health and wellness facilities, parks, places of worship, and neighborhood associations. In thriving communities, members leverage assets and engage with each other to develop and implement a common vision for the neighborhood. Relationships built among these resources provide the glue for innovative collaborations on a systemic level. These partnerships strengthen the entire community and promote sustainability.

The Community Inventory provides descriptive and integrated documentation of East End programs, services, and partnerships in the areas of Arts and Culture, Community-based Initiatives, Education, Faith-based, Health and Wellness, Housing and Community Development, Multi-service Providers, Philanthropic and Volunteer Organizations, Public Safety, and Recreation. Every attempt has been made to have the Inventory be inclusive. The information included represents a snapshot in time and any omissions are genuinely unintentional.

Geographic Focus Area

The City of Richmond has an area of 62 square miles, according to 2010 U.S. Census data its population is 204,214, and is comprised of nine unique Council districts. The City's median annual household income is \$42,800 for a family of four, the current poverty rate is 22%, and over one-third of Richmond's children under the age of 18 live in poverty¹.

The focus area for this Community Asset Inventory is Council District 7 in the City of Richmond's East End. This historic area is home to St. John's Church, the historic Robinson Theater, and the Virginia Holocaust Museum. It contains four public housing communities (over 50% of the residents in public housing are under the age of 18) and seven Richmond public schools. The total population is 21,038, the poverty rate is estimated to be 29.1%, and the annual household income in 2005-2009 is \$28,000² for a family of four in this defined area.

In contrast, a district of similar size and considered to be a "thriving" area in Richmond has the following demographic characteristics: total population is 23,341, the poverty rate is estimated to be 8%, and the median household income is \$82,000³. There are many factors historical and current which have created the statistical differences between these neighboring communities.

¹ City of Richmond Mayor's Office, Mayor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (2011). *Mayor's redistricting advisory committee final report*. Retrieved from website: <http://www.richmondgov.com/content/CommissionAntiPoverty/documents/RedistrictingPresentation070611.pdf>.

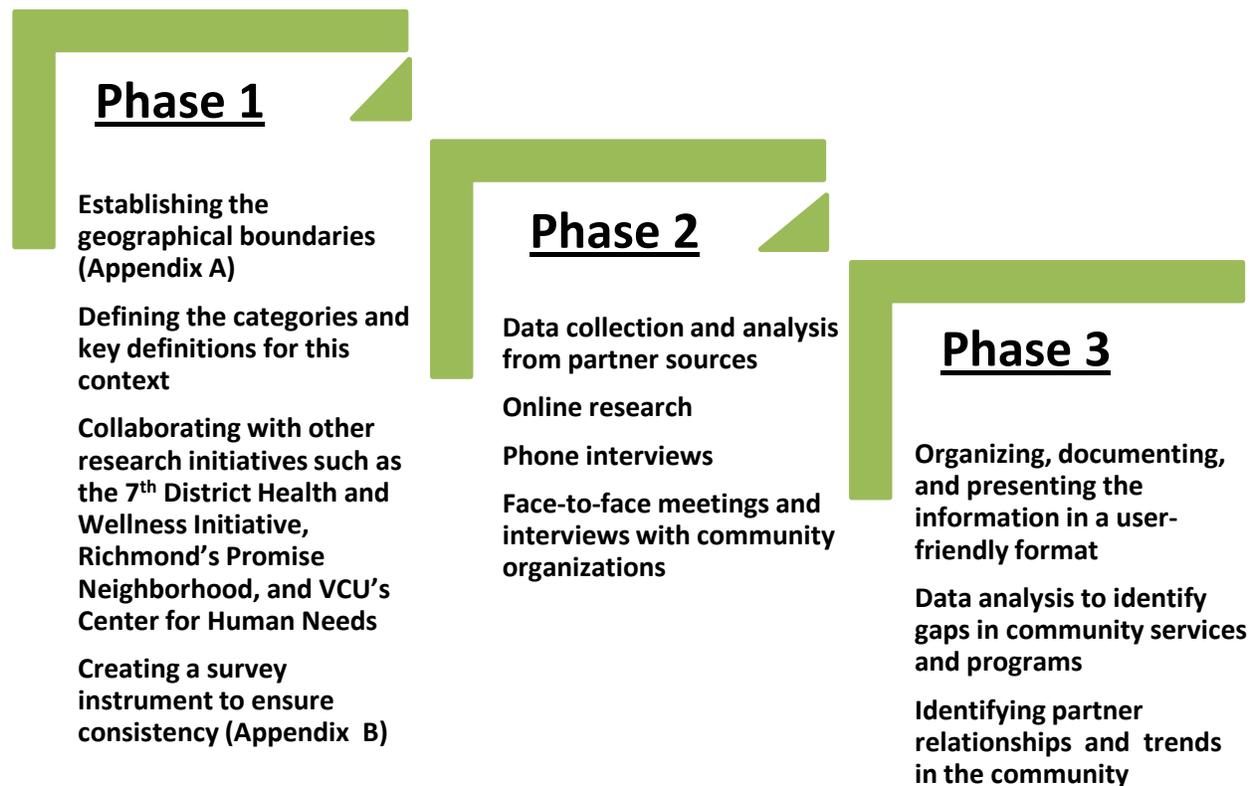
² U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Decennial Census figures* (2010): n.pag. *American Community Survey*. Web. 25 Feb 2012. <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Decennial Census figures* (2010): n.pag. *American Community Survey*. Web. 25 Feb 2012. <<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>>.

Approach

PMG’s methodology is derived from an “asset-based” approach. Rather than identifying the needs or deficiencies in an area, asset identification methods spotlight the strengths a community already possesses⁴. This inventory contains assets specifically identified through research for this document which included (but was not limited to) interviews with community members and organizations through this process.

The East End Community Asset Inventory was created in three phases.



Data Summary and Analysis

The Community Asset Inventory identified a total of 128 organizations, agencies, faith-based groups, and community initiatives across ten categories, each providing services, resources and/or volunteers to the 7th District. Every attempt has been made to have the Inventory be inclusive. The information included represents a snapshot in time and any omissions are genuinely unintentional.

⁴Asset-based community development institute.(n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.abcdinstitute.org>.

Category Descriptions

The categories listed below provide the foundational elements for a thriving community. It is with this understanding the organizations were identified and organized into the following groupings:

<p>Arts & Culture</p> 	<p>Classes and programs in theatre, voice, visual arts, creative writing and venues supporting the arts.</p>
<p>Community-based Initiatives</p> 	<p>7th District or East End focused collaborative efforts or studies which include representation and participation from assets currently listed in the inventory.</p>
<p>Education</p> 	<p>All elementary, middle and high schools, public and private, also includes services and classes for GED, and higher education entry support.</p>
<p>Faith-based</p> 	<p>Organizations geographically located in the 7th District originating from various faith traditions all providing resources and outreach in the geographic focus area. Note: This list does not include all faith based organizations in the 7th District</p>
<p>Health & Wellness</p> 	<p>Organizations engaged in health screenings, disease prevention and treatment, fitness and nutrition instruction and providing access to healthy and nutritious foods and the development of community gardens.</p>
<p>Housing & Community Development</p> 	<p>Organizations providing support for access to affordable housing, public housing, and homeowner sustainability, civic, neighborhood, and business associations.</p>
<p>Multi-service</p> 	<p>Includes government agencies and organizations providing intergenerational programming and services.</p>
<p>Philanthropic & Volunteer Organizations</p> 	<p>Foundations, corporations, volunteer and faith based organizations located geographically <u>outside</u> the 7th District.</p>
<p>Public Safety</p> 	<p>Police, fire, and emergency service agencies providing public safety response, education, support, and outreach.</p>
<p>Recreation</p> 	<p>Listing of parks, pools, and recreation centers with program descriptions.</p>

Observations

During the development of the inventory several themes emerged regarding the strengths and opportunities for focus and growth among the resources currently available in the geographic focus area:

Community Strengths

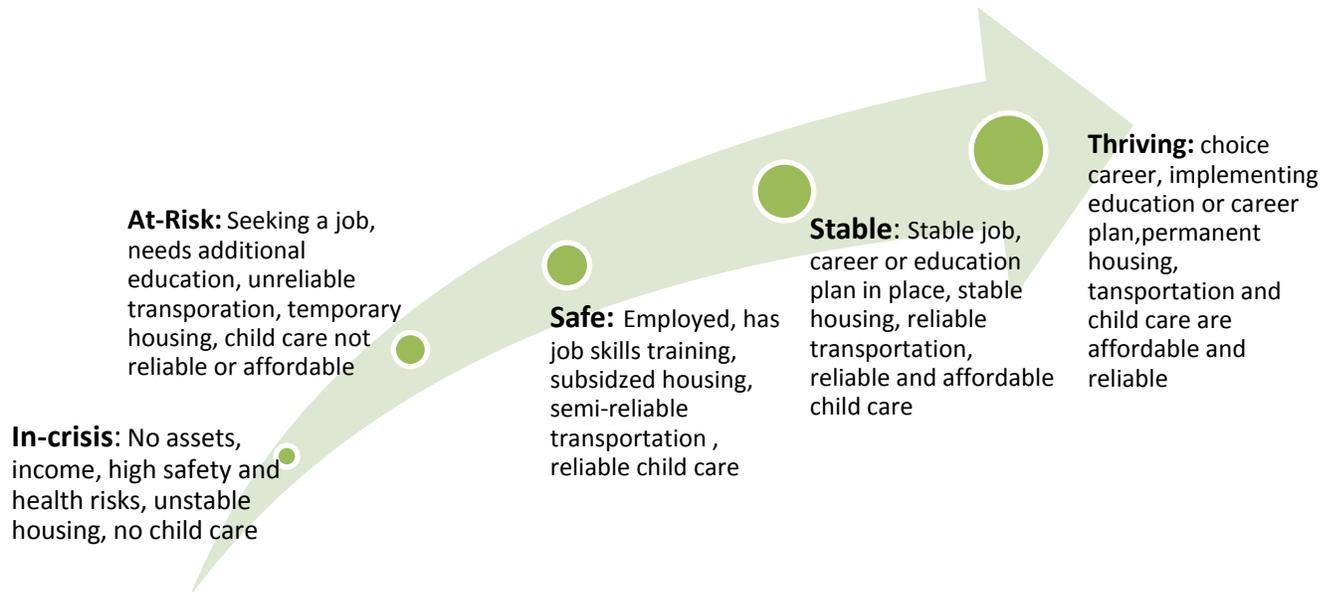
- An intricate network of formal and informal partnerships exists within the 7th District to assist residents and include the public school system, government agencies, faith-based organizations and the corporate and non-profit sectors.
- There is significant programming and support provided for children at the elementary school level in grades K-5. It is through these programs that service providers are able to reach parents and engage the family unit.
- Faith-based organizations are prevalent throughout the District and proactively provide resources and services.
- There are diverse options located in the community for educational enrichment, entertainment, recreation, and worship.
- Philanthropic and volunteer-based organizations proactively and consistently engage in the community.
- Community residents of all ages have access to comprehensive healthcare resources located in the community.
- Information, education and support resources are available to assist residents in the area of housing and community development
- Faith congregations provide exposure to the arts through programming in dance, music, and theater productions.
- There are collaborative initiatives with emphasis on health and wellness and education currently underway in the initial stages of creating a positive collective impact.

Opportunities for Focus & Growth

- Currently programs and interventions focus on the very basic needs of "in-crisis" or "at risk" populations.
- There are no formal workforce development /training organizations located in the 7th District.
- There is limited access to formal educational support programs and enrichment opportunities for the majority of 6th-12th grade students.
- There is very limited access to convenient, affordable, and comprehensive public transportation.
- There is very limited access to convenient and affordable shopping options for nutritious foods.
- There are no significant opportunities for employment within the community.
- Four public housing communities within the 7th District create a concentration of poverty.
- There is limited access to technology across the community creating a significant digital divide.
- The majority of residents ages 18-25 do not pursue educational opportunities past high school diploma/G.E.D.
- The majority of K-12th grade youth have limited access to enrichment and exposure opportunities outside their immediate communities .

Moving Forward

The ability for organizations and partners to deliver integrated education, training, and supportive services is a key component to promoting individual and family self-sufficiency. The graphic below briefly describes the continuum of the need community members travel through to support a thriving neighborhood.



The Path to Self-Sufficiency (Adapted from the ABCD-FSA-NECF Model)

In the 7th District, a majority of the identified organizations and programs are currently addressing needs in the following states: In-crisis, At-risk, or Safe. There is a gap in services and comprehensive approaches helping community members move from Safe to Stable and from Stable to Thriving.

The complex nature of most social problems contradicts the idea that any single program or organization, however well managed and funded, can single-handedly create lasting large-scale change. The current community-asset networks in this district work somewhat independently and this impacts the ability to provide the integrated strategies required to promote community-wide transformation. This inventory provides a base of understanding of the current work being done in the 7th District. Utilizing this information to develop effective strategies to leverage existing resources is very important in promoting sustainable change in the East End community. The following suggestions and observations may be useful going forward:

1. Effective and lasting impact requires the community to establish the following: a common agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and the presence of a backbone organization⁵. Community members should provide an opportunity to host a facilitated session with representation from the organizations listed in each of the 10 categories. This session can be structured to gather feedback about the provided inventory and identify areas for collaboration with a structured approach to achieve a collective impact in resource delivery.
2. Strategic partnerships among providers of key services are the foundation for weaving disparate supports into a comprehensive package that impact an individual's ability to increase their capacity. If community stakeholders intend to support individuals and families along the entire continuum to self-sufficiency, organizations must revisit and assess their service mix, partnerships, and organizational structure.
3. A multitude of programs and services exist for children pre-K through 5th grade yet there are limited formal educational support programs and enrichment opportunities for the majority of 6th-12th grade students. This is an opportunity for organizations to review their service mix and assess if they could expand resources to this population.
4. The majority of residents ages 18-25 do not pursue educational opportunities past high school or G.E.D. completion. Additionally, there are limited workforce development programs or organizations targeting the residents in the 7th District. This is a significant service gap and may be an opportunity to expand current efforts through strategic partnerships and additional resources.
5. Other opportunities for service expansion could be focused on the lack of employers in the community, providing affordable and convenient transportation, expanding the safe sidewalks and pedestrian areas, and increasing access to technology and affordable and nutritional food sources.

⁵ Hanleybrown, F., Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2012). Channeling change: Making collective impact work. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

Thriving Community East End Asset Inventory Interview Form

Name of the Organization:

Contact Information:

Mission of the organization:

Program(s) description(s):

Location of Programming/Services:

Population(s) being served:

Cost to program participants:

What are your current funding sources?

What are your plans for sustaining your efforts?

Who are your partners? What service/support do they provide?