



National Association of Planning Councils

Initiatives and Interventions Addressing Health and Social Indicators in the United States

National Association of Planning Councils Initiatives Survey Results – for www.socialindicators.com

Initiative title: **Affordable Housing: A Study Report to the Citizens of Jacksonville, Florida**

City and state: **Jacksonville, FLORIDA**

Indicators addressed:

- Housing Affordability
- Population Below Poverty
- Public School Students- 185% or less Poverty – Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Meals
- Section 8 Certificates

Purpose, goals, and outcomes: The study sought to identify how the Jacksonville community could maximize the efforts of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private interests to ensure a sufficient stock of decent, affordable housing, either owned or rented, for very low- to moderate-income families.

Description: A citizen's group met weekly for six months to identify the demand for and supply of housing in Jacksonville, the affordability of housing, the roles of various public and private organizations involved in the development of and administration of affordable housing, regulations and sources of funding for affordable housing, and exemplary programs from other communities. The group developed 14 specific recommendations for action, including the creation of a centralized affordable housing commission to maximize the impact of affordable housing funds. Volunteers worked for three years to advocate for these recommendations, culminating in the creation of the housing commission and implementation of the majority of the other recommendations.

When it began: October 1999

Geographic area covered: The consolidated city/county of Jacksonville/Duval County, Florida

Changes in the community condition as a result of this initiative: Besides the creation of the Affordable Housing Commission, a new \$5 million of a general revenue bond was set aside for affordable housing; Code Enforcement officers more than doubled (from 23 to 47); an improved lien forgiveness policy and a new batch foreclosure process were developed to streamline the conveyance of abandoned or hazardous properties; a new website was created to provide centralized information about affordable housing programs in the area; and state legislation authorized creation of a statewide data clearinghouse for affordable housing.

Organization contact information:

Respondent:	
Name:	Ben Warner, Associate Director
Organization:	Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI)
Address:	2434 Atlantic Blvd. Suite 100
City, state, zip:	Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone number:	(904) 396-3052
Fax number:	(904) 398-1469
Email address:	ben@jcci.org
Web address:	www.jcci.org

Date: December 15, 2003