

Outline a Comprehensive Attack on Problems and a Comprehensive Plan for Opportunities

General Rules to Remember:

1. *You must spend money/resources to make money.*
2. It is as important to cater to people outside of the county as it is to work with those within the county. Outside money (new money) is what enriches a community.
3. The work of economic development is usually a competitive business. Set a high standard to place Hampshire County above the competition.
4. Plans made without a study of demographics and the reasonably available resources is doomed to failure.
5. The problems we face are all interrelated and require a coordinated, cooperative, broad-based community response.
6. Get the community praying together.

Suggested structure for action

1. Bring the problems to the public's attention and explain how interconnected they are.
2. Make a plan to insure continued work toward your goals; try to implement indicators to show progress toward your goals.
3. Involve all segments of our citizenry from civic groups to businesses to foundations/non-profits to churches. Make a list and contact them all; encourage them to join a working group.
4. Evaluate the problems and assess the needed goals; prioritize them. Set working groups to study different problems and evaluate different resources and become expert in them.
5. Link with knowledgeable outside organizations/individuals.
6. Plan a course of action to attack the most critical problems.
7. Plan a course of action to develop the most effective new opportunities and resources.