



Olde Holyoke Development Corporation Community Investment Plan Executive Summary

Olde Holyoke Development Corporation is a community development corporation dedicated to improving conditions for low and moderate income residents of the City of Holyoke. In our Community Investment Plan, we created a concept with a significantly expanded vision and set of activities to enhance community engagement, improve tenant stability, and promote family engagement. Ultimately we think this will substantively improve reading proficiency by the end of third grade:

The Learning in Place Initiative.

Our “Learning in Place” initiative focuses on the belief that young families can find good quality of life and access to high-quality early learning resources in our neighborhoods. Done right, we can be a significant change agent in Holyoke’s most challenged neighborhoods, making the entire city a better place for children to grow up and families to flourish. We will implement Learning in Place in the following three actionable and measurable areas:

Neighbor Circles: Based in the four Census Tracts of downtown Holyoke, we will sponsor informal associations of residents that welcome all who care for or love a young child and will purposefully engage with city agencies and providers to improve their neighborhoods.

We will initiate the formation of Neighbor Circles, and provide guidance, resources and outreach needed to make them successful change agents for learning and neighborhood improvement. Our goal is to provide individual residents with social capital, support and connections that enable them to be heard, and thereby effective advocates for themselves and their children.

Housing in Support of Learning: for all residents of our housing portfolio we will provide supportive services for families with children age 8 and younger; Recognize and promote the key domains of reading development: safe, sound and secure housing, physical wellness, nurturing reading and vocalization from birth, partnering with and demanding high quality early educational and school services from early childhood.

We will provide tenant stabilization to encourage and assist families, with the goal of keeping children in place from the start to the end of the school year; and be a catalyst for counseling, self-study and peer support to families, so their children can learn successfully in an urban environment.

Change Agents: we will create and lead collaborative efforts to resolve quality of life issues in our urban environments in partnership with city agencies, non-profits, churches, neighborhood organizations and others.