

McDowell County Blueprint for Success

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McDowell County Overview

McDowell County

McDowell County is the southern most county in West Virginia, subjugated by densely forested mountains and hastening rivers. The narrow shaped valleys with slopes of over 16% leave little land for development. It is estimated that 93% of the land in McDowell County is owned by out-of-state companies. Once a part of Tazewell County, Virginia, McDowell County found independence in 1858. Until the early 1980's, McDowell had been one of the largest coal producing areas in our country. The coal mining industry created a dependency on the coal companies for housing, food, clothing, churches, stores etc. When the coal industry began shutting down the deep mines in the early 1980's, and replacing employees with equipment in the remaining mines, McDowell County suffered the loss of more than 80% of the population to other states (from over 120,000 to under 25,000 people). As people left our county, homes became abandoned, businesses closed and the economy dwindled. Sources of economic revenue have not been able to impact the composite rank of McDowell County statistics.

McDowell County Needs Assessment

With 55 being the worst, McDowell County continues to rank 55 out of 55 counties in West Virginia in child well-being according to the WV Kid's Count Data Book (2006). The median family income for the county in 2005 was \$20,946 while the state rate is \$36,484. During 2003, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources reported that they had served 3,443 McDowell County families through the Food Stamp Program. The McDowell County service area is also experiencing an aging population with median age of 40.5 years according to the 2000 U.S. Census. According to a recent article placed in the "Boston Globe", the life expectancy of infants born in McDowell County is lower than that of babies in 34 of the world's developing nations, among them some of the most impoverished.

The poverty rate for families with children headed by female with no husband present is 86.9%. The McDowell Board of Education reports 84.5% of the children qualify for free and reduced meals in our schools. These two statistics give a clearer understanding of the low-income family status in our county. In McDowell County, there are few employment opportunities for individuals and especially for youth. Employment remains in non-union coal mining positions, fast food and department store type jobs that normally pay only minimum wage required by the state. Many of these do not provide health insurance and because of employment an individual usually does not qualify for medical assistance leaving many with failing health issues.

According to the WV County Profiles 2000, health status data comparing McDowell County to the state and the nation include disease rates that are significantly worse than the U.S. rate. Four of them, heart disease, obesity, hypertension, and suicide are ambulatory-care susceptible illnesses. Perhaps, the other causes can be influenced with high-quality primary care and intervention as well.

When looking at the detail of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL), the real tragedies in McDowell are made known. Citizens in this county lose triple the life expectancy because of diseases of the heart than the general population of the U.S. Isolation, low paying jobs, lack of

transportation, limited medical visits, and lack of pharmaceutical support all contribute to the bleak picture surrounding the early intervention and prevention of heart disease. McDowell Countians do not seem to smoke so much, but they lose twice the number of years of potential life to Cerebrovascular Disease as compared to the population of the U.S. The same can be said of diabetes and cancer. All of the above illnesses are acquiescent to treatment on a primary care level.

The minority population per capita is 13% placing McDowell County as the highest per capita minority population in WV. Although the health problems prevail, McDowell Countians are also worse off than most U.S. citizens in terms of having health insurance when intervention would make the difference in ambulatory chronic disease outcomes. The percentage of McDowell Countians that have no health insurance is 16.9%. Add to that the roughly 16% of the population are 65 years of age and older receiving Medicare, many of whom have insufficient prescription coverage, the impact on health status is colossal.

Poverty has been directly linked to drug use and abuse according to the Prevention Resource Center, Marshall University. There are no, YMCA/YWCA, skating rinks or parks, organized community sports (other than little league), or locations for youth to congregate, quality swimming pools, malls, etc. The youth have no formal recreation outside of school sports and the services offered by community centers (i.e. basketball courts in old abandoned schools) that struggle to keep the doors open because of lack of funds and the inability to charge for services. There is one 3-screen theater and a small newly constructed skateboard park. There are two faith-based agencies that offer meeting space for youth. The youth that are not religiously inclined do not attend these activities regularly. The county leaders concentrate on economic development and many communities do not permit youth on their streets with bicycles, skateboards, scooters etc. There are no highways offering bicycle or walking routes beside them.

These issues lead youth to congregate on street corners or in homes of friends, and offers opportunity for the youth to begin unacceptable behaviors. In one community, there has been documentation by City Hall showing that over 10% of the population uses and/or deals oxycontin drugs. Efforts to make change have not been successful and according to our local Sheriff's Office, the county is losing 6-7 individuals per month from drug related deaths. The Department of Health and Human Resources document that more than 80% of the children in custody are there for issues related to drug usage by adults. The communities feel powerless to make changes and have joined with the Health Opportunities for Positive Education Coalition to address strategies for change. According to the Boston Globe article on McDowell County, "the only nighttime action on Welch's main street seemed, on one recent night, to be drug dealers connecting with their customers".

Following is an overview of the statistical data related to human, social, cultural, financial and environmental associated with McDowell County and compared to West Virginia and the United States where data is available. Key issues that are noteworthy is the percentage of adults without health insurance, residents not completing high school, low birth weight babies, per capita annual income, average deposits in local bank, salary levels, grants from the federal government, and average value of homes. The good statistics is that McDowell has the lowest crime rate in the United States, low kindergarten retention rate, and a high percentage of home ownership.

Blueprint Communities Statistical Data Overview

| Item | McDowell | WV | US |
|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| Human Capital | | | |
| <i>Healthy People</i> | | | |
| Adult obesity | 30.4% | 27.7% | 22.8% |
| Adults without health insurance | 35.2% | 22.8% | 18.2% |
| Low birth weight babies | 14.9% | 9.3% | 7.8% |
| <i>School Readiness</i> | | | |
| Preschool enrollment | 32.7% | 43.2% | |
| Number of pre-K and K retained | 3.2% | 12.2% | |
| <i>Educational Attainment and Success</i> | | | |
| Residents not completing high school | 50.0% | 24.8% | 19.6% |
| Graduation rate | 79.9% | 84.6% | |
| College Degree | 5.6% | 14.8% | 24.4% |
| College entrance exams | 32% | 64% | |
| Composite ACT score | 18.2% | 20.6% | |
| <i>Community Safety</i> | | | |
| Overall crime rate – crimes lowest in the nation | 28.98/1000 | | |
| Crimes reported by all law enforcement | 17.46/1000 | | |
| Drug and narcotics related offenses | 2.01/1000 | | |
| Welch Police Narcotic related crimes | 5.38/1000 | | |
| Sex offenders (36) | 1.24% | 1.39% | |
| <i>Family Stability</i> | | | |
| Domestic violence investigation rate | 14.56 | 16.39 | |
| Ratio of marriages to divorces | 1.29 | 1.49 | |
| Confirmed child abuse cases (PAs Office per year) | 500 | | |
| <i>Economic Security</i> | | | |
| Unemployment rate | 7.9% | 4.8% | 5.0% |
| Poverty rate | 32.4% | 18.5% | 12.7% |
| Poverty rate for families with children | 47.5% | | |
| Poverty rate for families with children under 5 | 56.2% | | |
| Poverty rate for families with children headed by female with no husband present | 86.9% | | |
| Per capita annual income | \$10,174 | \$16,477 | \$21,587 |
| Severe burden related to housing costs | 19.2% | 21.3% | 25.8% |
| Universal living wage | \$7.62 | | \$5.15 |
| <i>Citizen Engagement</i> | | | |
| Registered voters | 40.3% | 65.9% | |
| Voters that actually exercise rights to vote | 36.4% | 54.7% | 55.5% |
| Volunteerism – adopt a highway | 8.4/1000 | 13.2/1000 | |
| Volunteerism WV Commission | 11.5/1000 | 9.1/1000 | |
| Social Capital | | | |
| Participation by youth in community activities | 17.1% | 26.7% | |

| Cultural Capital | McDowell | WV | US |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Race</i> | | | |
| Caucasian | 87% | | |
| Black | 12% | | |
| Other | 1% | | |
| Language other than English | 1.4% | | |
| Museums | 3% | | |
| Libraries | 5% | | |
| Employees of Arts, Entertainment or Recreation | 13% | | |
| Financial and Manufactured Capital | | | |
| <i>Financial Investments</i> | | | |
| For profit businesses started within past year | 7.83% | 4.18% | |
| New housing starts | 3/1000 | 32/1000 | 75/1000 |
| <i>Local Financial Resources</i> | | | |
| Average deposits in local banks per capita | \$8,034 | \$12,472 | |
| Total deposits in 10 banks in millions 2004 | \$195 | | |
| Average wage per job. | \$29,582 | \$30,879 | |
| <i>Access to Outside Financial Resources</i> | | | |
| Average per capita transfer receipts unemployment, retirement, social security, disability etc. | \$8,997 | \$6,929 | |
| Salaries and benefits of federal employees | \$11,235 | \$8,364 | |
| Federal grant funds | \$89,553,000 | | |
| <i>Business Diversity</i> | | | |
| Non-farm established in 2004 | #328 | | |
| Business with employees | #326 | | |
| Current for-profit via State Office | #447 | | |
| Current nonprofit | #118 | | |
| Total employment 2004 | #5950 | | |
| Private sector employment | 67% | | |
| Government employment | 33% | | |
| 2000 Census Management and Professional | 22.4% | | |
| <i>Business Diversity continued</i> | | | |
| Service occupations | 18.8% | | |
| Sales & office | 23.6% | | |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry | 0.4% | | |
| Construction, Extraction, Maintenance | 15.7% | | |
| Production, Transportation | 19.1% | | |
| <i>Trends in Employment 1970-2000</i> | | | |
| Loss of jobs from 15302 in 1970 | 50% | | |
| Mining jobs (of total losses) | 99% | | |
| <i>Cultivating Entrepreneurship</i> | | | |

| Item | McDowell | WV | US |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Financial and Manufactured Capital Continued | | | |
| Self Employed | 4.1% | | |
| <i>Community Resident Assets</i> | | | |
| Owner occupied housing 2000 (prior to floods) | 79.8% | | 66.2% |
| Average value of homeowner property | \$29,718 | \$86,995 | \$158,934 |
| Average value of farm land and buildings | \$109,816 | \$231,999 | |
| <i>Community Infrastructure</i> | | | |
| Occupied housing built prior to 1960 | 56.4% | | |
| Built prior to 1940 | 29.8% | | |
| <i>Heating</i> | | | |
| Gas | 9.6% | | |
| Electricity | 43.9% | | |
| Fuel Oil | 18.6% | | |
| Coal | 19.1% | | |
| <i>Housing lacking plumbing</i> | 13.1% | | |
| <i>Workers Commuting</i> | | | |
| Outside the county to work | 15.6% | 20.18% | 3.6% |
| Average travel time to work | 32.6% | 26.2% | |
| Into county to work minus those leaving to work | 103% | | |
| Environmental Capital | | | |
| Surface waters impaired or threatened | 21.66% | 55.1% | |
| DEP REAP grant awards | 0 | | |
| Households with straight pipes for waste into rivers | 67% | | |
| Mandatory recycling | 0 | | |

Current Initiatives in McDowell County

Current Initiatives in McDowell

With the above statistical data, it is crucial to include what is positive in McDowell County. There has been a lot of growth and development over the past few years. The initiatives include:

- 1) McDowell County Economic Development Authority and the County Commission have built the **Stevens Correctional Facility** which is a medium security prison housed in the old Stevens Clinic Hospital building. The facility obtained full inmate capacity of 300 in May 2006 and employed 122 individuals from the county. Two training cycles for corrections was completed prior to placement with on-going training at the Career and Technical Center. The prison is at full capacity as is the original minimum facility at the Courthouse complex.
- 2) McDowell County **landfill** is to open in October for local garbage prior to opening to other areas. The facility will collect 50,000 tons of garbage per month. The facility will offer stations across the county for large items. The facility should provide funds sufficient for placing officers in the county to enforce litter laws.
- 3) The **Indian Ridge Industrial Park** will house the following:
 - a) A Federal Prison – Clark Construction awarded the design-build contract. The facility will house 1200-1500 inmates and employ 300 people. Bluestone Coal Corporation received materials moving activities permission. housing development,
 - b) Commercial spaces,
 - c) Access to a four-lane highway
 - d) Hotels
 - e) Multiple income level housing subdivisions.
- 4) A three-screen **Movie Theater** was built in downtown Welch in 2005 with all the modern amenities and can be used as a conference center.
- 5) **Superior Gas** purchased the 84 Lumber facility near Kimball is in full operation with well drilling etc. and employs in excess of 65 people, mostly McDowell County residents.
- 6) **Wal-Mart** moved into Kimball in 2005 with the assistance of the EDA. It employs many individuals most of whom are residents of McDowell County.
- 7) **Toms Mountain** is being developed by the EDA and will include housing units.
- 8) **Transitional Housing** for domestic violence and homeless women and children is currently full with 40 units. Education, child care, business development, financial stability program, credit counseling
- 9) SAFE Housing and Economic Development (SHED).
- 10) **Starland Heights** multi-family housing and community center with 40 units of which 4 are handicap accessible, waiting list of approximately 45-50.

- 11) **Payne Building** will have 16 units one of which will be handicap accessible, and 3 businesses and one community room waiting list of approximately 40.
- 12) **Oaks Complex** is an elderly housing facility with 16 units, all handicap accessible (waiting list of approximately 15-20).
- 13) **Drewry Apartments** is primarily disabled housing units of 15 (waiting list of approximately 15-20).
- 14) Rehabilitated more than 50 **housing** units.
- 15) Purchased, rehabbed, or constructed 33 **single-family housing** units.
- 16) Pending 23 acres with mixed housing value lots on **Toms Mountain** including rental and single-family.
- 17) HUD Financial Certified **Counseling Agency** for credit counseling.
- 18) The County Commission and EDA has collaboratively worked to open the **Hatfield-McCoy** trail system in McDowell County. This system will link up with Wyoming and Mercer Counties.
- 19) **Travel Beautiful Appalachia Inc.** (TBAI) has assisted in bringing a **KOA camping** area into McDowell County for the Hatfield-McCoy Trail riders etc.
- 20) **Ashland Company Store** is owned and operated by TBAI. The store has been renovated and is open for crafts and foods that are complimentary to McDowell history. The store has a full service restaurant and potential for making food items for marketing.
- 21) Individuals have taken the opening of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail to provide rental **housing units for riders**.
- 22) The Board of Education is building one **high school** and three **elementary/middle** schools.
- 23) Faith-based and nonprofit groups work on **housing rehabilitation projects**. These agencies bring in more than 4000 individuals to work on simple rehabilitation projects throughout the county. The organizations include but are not limited to McDowell Mission, War TEAM Center, Highland Education Project, Mustard Seeds and Mountains, Catholic Community Services, Big Creek People in Action.
- 24) The Redevelopment Authority has rehabilitated **single-family housing** units, developed codes for building and upgrading homes and businesses, is lead on the mitigation process for flood areas in the county.

- 25) McDowell County Health Opportunities for Positive Education (**HOPE**) address *health, youth, at-risk youth and drug* issues within the county. The HOPE Coalition took lead with the WV Tobacco Prevention Program to enforce the Clean Indoor Act in McDowell County. The work with FACES as the Drug-Free Coalition, Partners in Prevention Coalition, Diabetes Coalition and Cancer Coalition.
- 26) Nonprofit and service providers offer a wide variety of *human services* to families.
- 27) Independent coal mine companies have opened up *mines* in the area where larger deep mines closed.
- 28) **Demolition** of abandoned and dilapidated facilities has begun through the Redevelopment Authority, County Commission, and municipalities.
- 29) The City of Welch built a *skateboard park* which opened this summer.
- 30) **DSL** is available in Welch, War, schools, Bradshaw, Berwind, and Newhall.
- 31) An assessment of *parks and green spaces* is complete and ready for presentation demonstrating 36 parks where families have opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities at little or no cost to them. The presentation will be used to market McDowell County for tourism.
- 32) **Fitness centers** have been opened in War, Welch, Gary, and Superior. These include circuit training, equipment, and nutrition programs.
- 33) **Neighborhood Watch** programs have been initiated in many communities to assist in monitoring for crime. These programs have been effective in reducing the number of reports being filed and increasing arrest rates for drugs.
- 34) Because of the systems in place in McDowell County the **flood recovery** of two 100-year floods was accomplished in record time.
- 35) County-wide **Wastewater Treatment Plan** is in place for addressing the 67% of the population dumping sewage into streams and rivers. The Wastewater Treatment Coalition has designed cooperative agreements between municipalities, Public Service Districts, County Commission etc. to address inter-agency protocol for building, extending, maintaining, and managing systems. The Coalition worked to change legislation to allow entities other than banks the opportunity to manage low-interest loans for septic tank installation. Water quality sampling of streams is ongoing through the Coalition to demonstrate how many impaired streams there are in McDowell.
- 36) There is an increase in services offered by health care facilities to include *telemedicine, retinopathy, colorectal screening, etc.*
- 37) Capacity building training of individuals has been ongoing in the county. Twenty-seven individuals were trained in the **Community Collaborative** Tupelo Mississippi model of

community development, 15 individuals in the *Leadership Plenty* Curriculum and most of service providers in the county have received *Family-Centered Practice* Training.

- 38) *Courthouse Restoration* a work in progress at the infancy stage.
- 39) *Houston Coal Company Store* located in Kimball. McARTS and the EDA are working cooperatively to achieve the historical restoration. Funding is being sought. However the *Coal Crafters* art manufacturer for coal figurines using coal dust is up and running in Kimball.
- 40) *Adkins Industrial Park*, formally the mine machine shop in Gary is now leased to Hal-Bow Rebuild and Fabrication with upwards of 10 employees.
- 41) *Blackwolf Links Golf Course* was adopted by EDA in 2003 with restoration of the course ongoing since the flood damage which affected bridges, access, embankments etc. The course is operational as of March 2004.
- 42) *Department of Motor Vehicles* opened in 2003 to benefit the residents of Southern WV. It currently employs 5 full time and 1 part time individuals.
- 43) *Aquaculture* is envisioned for McDowell utilizing the Algoma site. The aquaculture project is a “fee for catching” fish hatchery. The EDA is seeking entrepreneurs to make the project a reality.
- 44) *Loan Program* includes business training and post-loan monitoring for individuals wishing to go into business in McDowell County. Working with the WV Development Office, EDA, Intermediate Relending Program-USD (IRP) individuals can seek loans greater than the current \$15,000 Micro-Loan Program.
- 45) The *Big Creek District Development Corporation* is in the process of revitalizing the City of War by turning the railroad caboose into a welcome center, the jail into a craft store, developing an oral histories studio and making the Big Creek High School into a hotel, restaurant, learning center and tourist site.

There are more initiatives on the horizon for McDowell County as depicted in the strategic plan.

**Blueprint for
Success
Mission
Goals
&
Strategic Plan**

McDowell County Blueprint Community Mission and Goals

The mission of McDowell County Blueprint Communities Team is to become renewed, inspired and modern while maintaining heritage and culture. The Team will offer youth opportunities to become a resource for change and improvements.

Goal 1: To promote the economic independence of families and individuals.

Goal 2: Strengthen communities and the county's capacity to build for their future.

Goal 3: To ensure a desirable quality of life and a safe and healthy living environment.

Goal 4: Create a pro-family system of integrated services to children and families that leads to economic independence.

Goal 5: McDowell County will have access to health insurance and programs for prevention of diseases and premature death.

McDowell County Blueprint for Success

Goal 1: To promote the economic independence of families and individuals.

Need: High unemployment rate, low-wage in existing businesses, \$10,174 per capita income, few fringe benefits, no diversification in employment, 5,950 total employment, anticipated expansion of employment opportunities.

| Strategy | Activities to Accomplish Strategies | Party and Target Dates | Outcomes |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| Reduce the average unemployment rate in McDowell County, so that it does not exceed the state unemployment average by more than one percentage point. | 1. Foster a positive business climate that embraces the importance of its natural, cultural and historic resources. | | McDowell County unemployment rate is reduced by 1% yearly. |
| Decrease the disparity between the median family income in McDowell County and the state and nation as a whole. | 1. Improve the readiness of McDowell County's work force for employment. | | McDowell residents are prepared for employment opportunities. |
| Reduce barriers to economic, social, and psychological self-sufficiency for all McDowell Countians. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the quality of education in McDowell County and provide all children access to equitable earning opportunities. 2. Increase McDowell County's participation in the domestic and international marketplace. 3. Increase the awareness and use of services available through the McDowell County Public Library System. | | McDowell residents have access to economic, social and psychological self-sufficiency. |
| Diversify the economic base of McDowell County. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attract, retain and/or develop agriculture and forestry related industries, compatible with McDowell County's development goals, which create value-added products and which stimulate economic diversity. 2. Establish adult preparation/education programs that focus on cosmetology training, optician training, and dental technician training for McDowell County's youth and adult populations. 3. To transform McDowell's municipal airport into facility for people and goods. | | McDowell County has a diverse economic base. |

McDowell County Blueprint for Sustainability

Goal 2: Strengthen communities and the county’s capacity to build for their future.

Need: Local business issues with new diverse opportunities, inability for local entrepreneurial investment. Mentality of outside assistance is required, reactive rather than proactive attitude, and preparedness to move forward with implementation of community plans.

| Strategy | Activities to Accomplish Strategies | Party and Target Dates | Outcomes |
|--|---|------------------------|---|
| Increase the number of communities in McDowell County involved in strategic planning and management process. | 1. Strengthen the members of the Blueprint Communities to be inclusive of all communities in the county. | | McDowell County is inclusive in its leadership, inviting government, agencies, nonprofits, faith, service, community and consumers to identify strategies for supporting and strengthening its mission. |
| Improve community organizational and leadership capacity. | 1. Solicit grants to incorporate Leadership Plenty curriculum into the county. 2. Provide copies of the County Blueprint Strategic Plan to agencies etc. | | |
| Establish a process that fosters regional/inter-county strategic planning programs and activities. | 1. Increase the membership of the Tri-County Partnership for incorporating treatment facilities into the county. | | |

McDowell County Blueprint for Sustainability

Goal 3: To ensure a desirable quality of life and a safe and healthy living environment.

Need: Approximately 7,480 homes have inadequate wastewater treatment. Community consensus to provide wastewater treatment to homes and business will create a better economic opportunity for the county. The solid waste issues, dilapidated buildings, abandoned structures, unclean yards, absentee land owners. Parks that are underutilized and poorly maintained.

| Strategy | Activities to Accomplish Strategies | Party and Target Dates | Outcomes |
|--|--|------------------------|---|
| <p>Achieve compliance in McDowell County with minimum state and federal requirements which ensure clean air, protection of water quality, and efficient disposal of solid waste to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the region and the quality of life for all citizens and future generations.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design management plans for unincorporated and isolated communities within McDowell County. 2. Design contract options for management entities 3. Address codes as necessary for use of alternative systems. 4. Install demonstration project. 5. Create education signage for demonstration project. 6. Support existing initiatives at the county level for wastewater treatment in communities experiencing economic development. | | <p>McDowell County provides a safe and healthy living environment for children and families that includes housing.</p> |
| <p>Upgrade parks and recreational facilities in McDowell County to increase usage and marketability.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create an assessment tool for identification of spaces. 2. Give the Redevelopment Authority opportunity to identify existing flood green spaces. 3. Give the Economic Development Authority and County Commission opportunity to identify anticipated green spaces and park areas for industrial sites. 4. Provide an assessment and photograph documentation of the county for identifying existing or potential parks. 5. Compile a master list of assessment documents. 6. Recruit volunteers to assist with planning and improvements as necessary. 7. Create a mass media campaign demonstrating the sites and educating the public on the ability to utilize recreational facilities within the county. 8. Provide documentation to the County Commission for placement of a county recreation | | <p>McDowell County residents have access to recreational opportunities that are in or close to their communities, affordable, and of high standards in equipment.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| | <p>coordinator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Assist with solicitation of funding for said coordinator. 10. Assist with inclusion of communities where facilities exist for recruitment of volunteers to chaperone recreational activities. 11. Create a committee to identify youth groups willing to get involved with planning. 12. Identify youth in community outside organized groups that may be interested in working on the planning. 13. Research information on parks, estimated expenses, equipment etc. 14. Make recommendations to the County Commission and municipalities for improvements. 15. Determine a weighted prioritization structure for identifying which areas should be turned into a park, if there are enough already etc. 16. Research and implement health disparities programs for minority population areas. | | |
| Increase the number of McDowell County families who live in standard, affordable housing including but not limited to disabled, domestic violence victims and elderly. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify potential lots for building single and multi-family units. 2. Maintain a system for obtaining housing that includes elderly, disabled, and victims of violence. 3. Assist in the complete the implementation phase of the Wastewater Treatment Coalition plan for McDowell. | | McDowell residents have access to affordable housing without discrimination of handicap, elderly, or victims of violence. |
| Establish a balanced approach to natural resource conservation, management and utilization for agricultural, forestry and other economic development activities in McDowell County. | | | |
| Establish an | 1. Identify sub-standard housing | | McDowell County will |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>environmental blight abatement program that will improve the aesthetic appeal and make available land for re-development activities throughout McDowell County.</p> | <p>sites for rehabilitation or demolition.</p> <p>2. Identify apartment buildings for rehabilitation.</p> | | <p>be aesthetically appealing to its residents and visitors while maintaining and preserving cultural locations.</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

McDowell County Blueprint for Sustainability

Goal 4: Create a pro-family system of integrated services to children and families that leads to economic independence.

Need: Agencies do not have unified systems of assessment and intake, families are not a part of their plan for assistance.

| Strategy | Activities to Accomplish Strategies | Party and Target Dates | Outcomes |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| <p>Support the Family Resource Network that will ensure that the comprehensive needs of children and families are being met through an integrated system of service delivery.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a system of service delivery to children and families that is family focused, integrated, and preventive. 2. Ensure that relevant approaches to the resolution of problems for children and families are developmental, flexible, outcomes oriented, and sensitive to culture, race and gender. 3. Remove and/or relax the number of restrictive rules/regulatory requirements that squelch the quick response to family needs. 4. Design and distribute foster and adoption brochures, posters, press releases, public service announcements, etc. 5. Provide information on foster and adoptive care opportunities to agencies and individuals living in McDowell. | | <p>Families in McDowell will have access to a comprehensive system of care that is family centered, integrated and preventive.</p> |
| <p>Foster a positive and productive environment which embraces the importance of children and families to McDowell County's future.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify youth that are interested and willing to become a part of the Team. 2. Educate the youth on their role in McDowell County. 3. Provide opportunity for youth input in decision making in the county. 4. Provide opportunity for youth work teams to expand strategies for change. 5. Identify programs that encourage youth to break the cycle of littering, abuse, illiteracy, etc. | | <p>Youth in McDowell County are pro-active in their contribution to the future.</p> |

McDowell County Blueprint for Sustainability

Goal 5: McDowell County will have access to health insurance and programs for prevention of diseases and premature death.

Need: McDowell ranks in the top three counties for prevalence of deaths due to heart disease, diabetes, intentional injuries including suicide and homicide, chronic liver disease, HIV, sudden infant death syndrome, and coronary obstructive pulmonary disease. The years of potential life loss is 13.3. In 1999, McDowell County was ranked number 4 in the worst counties for obesity.

| Strategy | Activities to Accomplish Strategies | Responsible Party and Target Dates | Outcomes |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Increase access to affordable health care for families and individuals in McDowell County. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase awareness of the CHIP program. | | All eligible children have CHIP coverage. All families have access to affordable health care. |
| Reduce preventable illness, disability, and premature death by increasing public awareness of lifestyle risk factors that impact on chronic diseases and unintentional injuries for McDowell County. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite providers to participate in the HOPE Coalition. 2. Maintain networking opportunities through the HOPE Coalition for service providers and agencies working to address drug prevention issues. 3. Recruit youth for development of the Strategic Prevention Framework for McDowell County. 4. Secure funding for the Drug Free Community Support Program and its initiatives. 5. Invite multiple disciplines to attend the HOPE Coalition meetings. 6. Provide support for initiatives of the HOPE Coalition including health issues, youth initiatives, at-risk youth issues, and ATOD issues. 7. Provide community forums where individuals can address gaps in services related to health issues. | | Premature death rates are reduced in McDowell. The years of potential life are increased for residents in McDowell County. Risk factors are reduced and protective factors are increased for healthy lifestyles in McDowell County. McDowell County residents have the information and support necessary to make quality choices to prevent poor health, child abuse, and alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse. |

**McDowell
Redevelopment
Authority**

Plan Overview

**For Flooded
Communities**

| Project Name | Location | Acquisition | Clearance | Demolition | Rehabilitation | Sewage | Water | New Construction | Facility Loading | Roadway Access | Industry | Recreation Fac | Building | Highway | Building | Distance |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------|--------|-------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|---------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Mile Branch | 2 1/2 miles south of laeger on #80 | x | x | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | 7 miles of #80 near Bradshaw |
| Dry Fork | 3.2 miles south of laeger on #80 | x | x | x | | x | x | | x | x | x | | x | x | x | 6 miles of #80 near Bradshaw |
| Raysal Bottom | 1/2 mile east of Bradshaw | x | x | | | x | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | on/off ramp several miles away |
| Raysal Dev | Raysal unincorporated | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | between English and Bartley | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | x | | | | |
| Yukon Dip | Rt 83, 1.1 miles west of Yukon | x | x | | | x | x | x | x | | | | | x | x | near Express Highway |
| Shaft Hollow | 3 miles north of War off 16 | x | x | | | x | | | x | | | | x | | x | |
| Caretta | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Straight | Caretta - 5 miles north of War on 16 | x | | | | | | | | | | x | | | | |
| Excelsior | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bottom | Within City of War | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | |
| Six | 1 mile from Coalwood | x | x | | | x | | | | | | x | | | | |
| | 1 mile from Rt 16 and 9 and | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rift Bottom | Berwind | x | x | | | x | x | | x | | | | | | | x |
| Berwind | 4 miles from 16 and 9 and Berwind | x | x | | | x | | | x | | | | | | | x |
| Coalwood | Rt 16 | x | | | x | x | x | | | x | | x | x | | | |
| Jacobs Fork | Rt 16 - 6 miles from War | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | x | | | | | | |
| Bishop Store | 1/4 mile from state line Rt 16 | x | x | | | x | | | | | | x | | | | |
| Newhall Sc. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bott | Rt 16 - 7 miles from War | x | | | x | x | | | | x | | x | | | | |
| Pageton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bottom | Pageton Rt 161 | x | x | x | x | x | | | | x | | | | | | |
| Anawalt | Anawalt | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy Huff | Rt 52 and 52/1 - 1.5 south laeger | x | x | | | x | | | | x | | | | | | |
| Wilmore Dam | 1200' south of 52; 4.4 south laeger | x | x | | | | | | | | | x | | | | |
| Spice Creek | 7 miles west of Welch | x | x | | | x | x | | x | x | | | | x | x | 2 miles east Coalfield Exp |
| Maitland | 52 South of Welch | x | x | | | x | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Maitland #2 | 4 miles from Welch | x | x | | | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kimball | Kimball | x | x | x | | | | | | | | x | | | | |
| Bottom Creek | 1 mile south of Kimball | x | x | | | x | | | x | x | | | | | | x |
| Big Four | 52 - 5 miles from Welch | x | x | x | | x | x | x | | x | | | | | | x |
| Vivian Bottom | Rt 52 - 6 miles south of Kimball | x | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | x |
| Landgraff | Rt 52 - 5 miles north of Northfork | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northfork | Northfork | x | x | x | | | | | | | | x | | | | |
| Switchback | 52 South | x | x | | | x | x | | x | x | | | | | | x |

Blueprint Communities

Next Steps

September – December, 2007

1. Complete three planning sessions with Blueprint Communities Team members and others interested to complete the strategic plan including the following:
 - a. Human services
 - b. Economic development.
 - c. Housing
 - d. Health initiatives
 - e. Safety
2. Compile these findings into the current plan and initiatives list.

January, 2008

1. Have documents printed in a format that can be expanded and edited.

February, 2008

1. Host a county presentation to showcase the work of the Team, distribute the plans, and encourage additional individual and agency partnerships to implement the plan.
2. Provide opportunity for presentation display at the McDowell Day at the Legislature.