



Contact:
Shannon M. Carey
Director of External Affairs
404.522.2637 x48
scarey@andpi.org

235 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 2000 – 20th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.andpi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organizations sign trilateral agreement

Regional housing data center taking shape

(Atlanta, Georgia) How many two-bedroom condominiums in Decatur are available under the price of \$200,000? Which job centers have a deficit in housing based upon the number of people they employ? Which metro Atlanta counties produce the least amount of affordable housing? If you can't answer those questions, you are not alone.

Despite a booming housing market, our region has no single clearinghouse of housing data that would support decision-making by developers, planners, advocates, and others in the housing industry. But thanks to a partnership between Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc (ANDP), Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and support from Georgia State University, help is on the way.

Housing advocates, including ANDP, agree that Atlanta already has a housing production problem for the majority of wage earners who are paid \$40,000 a year and less. And, according to the ARC, the region is expecting more than two million additional residents by 2030. Without better information, how can Atlanta be assured that an appropriate mix of housing will be built to meet its burgeoning need? In the 2004 report, *Making the Case for Mixed Income and Mixed Use Communities*, ANDP's Mixed Income Communities Initiative (MICI) placed the creation of a "regional housing resource center" at the top of its list of recommendations.

"After considerable deliberations about the way in which data will be collected, stored and shared, we have arrived at an understanding of how best to proceed with the creation of The Regional Housing Resource Center (RHRC)," noted MICI director M. von Nkosi. "While much collaborative work is still to be completed, we know that our work will result in much needed data that will be viewed as unbiased and reliable."

Examples of data to be collected include: housing type, location; housing cost, income; job-housing imbalance; land use; poverty; race/ethnicity; tax base; transportation and workforce housing, and more. Equally important to how and what data is collected is the question of how

the data will be disseminated. The collected data will be presented online in multiple formats.

Initially, the website will provide raw data and specialized reports from data collected over specified periods of time. Included in the planning stage is the production of an annual report card that will attempt to assess the region's ability to address its housing needs. In the second phase, the website will be more interactive – allowing the end user to create custom data maps. And the third and final stage will be real time data streamed using increasingly popular XML technologies.

All parties involved in the partnership have agreed to jointly develop the methods and procedures necessary to secure relevant housing data for research purposes in a transparent and non-arbitrary manner.

ANDP's role in the partnership will be to continue to serve as a catalyst for the creation of RHRC, work with the other partners to secure grant funding and provide grants management reporting. ARC will be the responsible coordinating agency for data traffic and day-to-day data management and (with assistance from ANDP and DCA) provide annual program reports on the work of RHRC. DCA will, in addition to the joint activities outlined above, be responsible for working with the RHRC as a pilot regional housing data center, as a model for a statewide center or for the development of similar centers for other regions in the state.

Georgia State University has also been tapped as a consultant to help with backend functioning of the web interface for RHRC. The web interface is currently in beta testing and will be launched in early July 2006.

“This is a critically important milestone for the region as we grapple with the current lack of real-time data necessary to assess the region's housing needs. We are very thankful for the continued involvement and support of key partners like ARC, DCA and GSU,” concludes Ray Kuniansky, Jr., chief operating officer of ANDP.

ANDP is a private, non-profit organization created in 1991 to promote the concept and implement the development of mixed income communities that result in an equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the metropolitan Atlanta region. The organization makes housing happen through rehabilitation and new development, through providing capital to affordable housing developers and through well thought out advocacy and education.

Visit ANDP at www.andpi.org

###