

Neighborhood Programs to Improve Resident Jobs and Incomes.

THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF NEIGHBORHOODS.

Typically, neighborhoods are not associated with the economic well-being of the residents. Whether the neighborhood is a single family community, an apartment complex or a condominium, the neighborhood association can improve resident employment and income opportunities.

However, the times are changing. More people work from home. More people start and run businesses from their residence. More home occupations are practiced. Neighborhood activities, regulations, infrastructure and buildings now directly affect businesses, jobs and family incomes.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMY.

The city and the neighborhood association can make plans that promote employment in the neighborhood environment. Remember the “complete” neighborhood includes the dwellings and the neighborhood park, school and shopping district.

As jobs become detached from offices and specific locations, new places are serving as places of employment. Most of these places where people work depend on high-speed broadband internet service.

Internet access in residential areas and neighborhood schools, parks and shops enable people to have home occupations, small start-up businesses and “working from home” opportunities. The neighborhood association can be an activist organization for improving the economic conditions of its residents.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

The instances of people working outside an office or established work environment are growing. The instances of people working from home, the neighborhood school, library, coffee shop and park bench are growing. This trend can be facilitated by plans, infrastructure, regulations and facilities reflected in a plan co-produced by the neighborhood association and the city.

- 1. Infrastructure.** The provision of high-speed broadband internet service is essential.
- 2. Facilities.** Places for people to informally work using their computers and phones accommodates workers choosing not to commute to offices or other employment venues. Places for informal meetings are also important. Hence the need for restaurants, coffee shops, branch libraries, community centers and parks.
- 3. Regulations.** Home occupations are a growing part of the economy. Service and professional occupations, assembly and light manufacturing activities are being provided from or near home. Activities that do not disturb neighbors, streets and schools can be the subject of permitting regulations.

Workforce Development. Neighborhood associations can also be involved in helping residents develop knowledge and skills necessary for employment and advancement. The neighborhood school or community center is a great place for workforce skill development along with wellness and safety training.

