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TIOGA UNITED, INC. WILL SPEARHEAD EFFORT IN PUTTING THE ONCE RED-LINED TIOGA COMMUNITY (PHILADELPHIA), A BLUEPRINT COMMUNITY, BACK ON THE MAP

PHILADELPHIA, PA, December 8, 2005 – The Tioga United Blueprint Community Team held a planning meeting today to discuss their strategic plan and the next phase of the initiative launched by Governor Rendell on August 9, 2005. They were among one

As a Blueprint Community, the Tioga United team will receive comprehensive training, tools necessary to develop a community vision, technical assistance, funding opportunities for hometown revitalization and a timeline to see the plans from beginning to implementation.

Also, this training is recognized by the state's major housing and community development funders (program partners). As a result, Tioga United may gain access to additional funding from state and federal resources to implement their plans once training in Blueprint Communities is complete. The FHLBank will target its housing and community development resources, affordable housing grants and loans to small businesses to participants in the Blueprint Communities initiative.

The team attended the first (of four) leadership and community development conference in September, which was followed by a housing development training session in October that was aimed at attracting and sparking the interest of stakeholders. Team members will attend the final two days of training this month.

The initiative emphasizes a team approach to community development. Each participating team is comprised of a banker, developer, community representative, local elected official and two additional representatives.