

Executive Summary

Over the past six months the City of Mullens Blueprint Community Team has been working hard with the Blueprint Communities Sponsors, our coach, and the many City of Mullens volunteers to develop a citizen-driven community development plan. The community decided they were much more interested in action as opposed to a longer term planning effort. So, the team set out to develop an 18-month plan that will not sit on a shelf, but be a living document that will be used to focus the energies of the community and to achieve our common goals.

The City of Mullens, with its rich coal mining and railroad heritage, is nestled in steep mountains and fast flowing rivers of Southern West Virginia. Mullens has seen a decline in the economy and the community over the past 30 years, first due to the loss of coal mining and railroad jobs, and more recently, due to the devastating flood of 2001.

The City of Mullens Blueprint Communities team, with training from the Blueprint Communities Program and the assistance of a consultant, set out on a journey to create a community development plan. The team held two town hall meetings where more than 100 people participated in the planning process. The creation of the community development plan started and ended with the community.

The community identified four areas of interest and four goals. The two guiding principles that drove the development of the goals and strategies were the desires of the community and the 18-month time frame.

The four primary areas of interest are beautification, housing, youth programs, and economic development:

- **Beautification Goal** - Complete three community beautification projects;
- **Housing Goal** - Implement a housing improvement process in the City of Mullens;
- **Youth Goal** - Design and implement safe and sustainable youth programs that appeal to residents and tourists;
- **Economic Development Goal** - Develop a community-wide business plan conducive to attracting new business and helping existing business to grow/increase the numbers of new jobs.