

## **Summary**

# **A Study on a Mechanism of Recent Innovative Activities Based on the Neighborhood Area in a Declining Urban Area**

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This paper discusses recent innovative activities by community development organizations or agencies working in a Declining Urban Area such as the Englewood community, Woodlawn and Logan Square in Chicago. The initiatives received financial and technical support from Local Initiatives Support Corporation Chicago (LISC). The community movement was also familiar with such mayoral policy initiatives as the 5 Year Housing Plan and the Green Healthy Neighborhood (GHN) Plan.

The restoration and provision of houses are carried out in a four-community area that includes Englewood. The plan includes the drastic step of selling large empty lots for just one dollar. In the GHN area, the overall strategy for housing is to improve the housing area by creating green spaces in the community that are larger than other areas and thus provide a qualitatively better housing experience. Also, in Englewood, due to recent changes in zoning ordinances, a large lot can be sold to the Growing Home project for one dollar in order to convert it into an urban garden that can also be used for vocational training and employment support.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel's five-year housing plan is investing more than \$ 1.3 billion in housing in order to supply 41,000 new homes. The restoration and supply of houses is also planned for the Englewood community. The main housing supplier in Englewood is St. Bernard church. The church supplied homes for first-time buyers and developed an entire street. Englewood successfully introduced the Growing Home project in 2011 and a Whole Foods Store in 2016.

Moreover Woodlawn Community has managed to provide four affordable housing projects and a community resource center in the corridor of Cottage Grove by the nonprofit housing organization Preservation of Affordable Housing (PAHO). There are renovations of individual houses in the area, too. Also Woodlawn community is expecting a grocery store to be built in the neighborhood.

Finally, a completely innovative and community-based project was completed in Logan square. Dell Pickled Coop has gathered 2400 local community members and renovated an old bowling alley to be a Coop-super market. They are strongly connected to the people and neighborhood area and are returning the benefit to the community by employing local people, returning profit to the members, and also collecting donations from customers who do not use plastic bags in order to give it to the community organizations in the area.