

# Utica Neighborhood Associations



The HomeOwnershipCenter (HOC) mission is to see Revitalization and Growth of Neighborhoods. HOC envisions thriving communities by encouraging homeownership with education, financially responsible, and empowered individuals to create safe, stable, and prosperous neighborhoods.

## *The HomeOwnershipCenter & Neighborhood Associations*

The Association of Block Coalitions was formed in 1994 with technical assistance from NeighborWorks® America and the UNHS HomeOwnershipCenter to connect residents with various community organizations, available resources, and training opportunities.

- **Neighborhood Associations are resident led; the HomeOwnershipCenter does not own or run these groups.**
- **HOC staff only attend meetings to offer best practice information and provide resources.**



## *Best Practices*

The following are some basic building blocks for creating and maintaining a solid foundation for your neighborhood association. The following are meant to be a sample, not all-inclusive.

- **Clear Goals and Objectives** provide a road map for associations and give them purpose. Realistic and attainable goals promote communication and provide members with direction.
- **Written Operating Procedures** ensure continuity from year to year, especially when leaders change. Your association should have written operating procedures and policies like bylaws.
- **Democratic Process** so all members have a voice in choosing the leaders of the group to assist with the development and direction of the association. Voting is typically anonymous.
- **Solid Leadership** should be non-political (*e.g., not elected officials, political party heads, campaign managers or candidates for public office*), have the ability to build consensus, encourage neighbor involvement, and maximize local talent. Look for individuals who have vision, want the group to succeed, can communicate well with others, and are accountable.
- **Committees** can research problems and identify solutions. They can operate continually or temporarily in order to address immediate concerns, short-term issues, and long-term goals.
- **Neighbor Input and Involvement** is vital for active associations to promote a self-help tradition, bring together resources, participate in group training, and empower residents.