

protect

improve

collective

action



**PHAR**

Public Housing  
Association  
of Residents

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#### Enforcement

- I. Means policy and how to improve it  
How to bring policy issues home, and  
Making policy issues meaningful to residents and others
- II. Need to think strategically as to how best to achieve the objective, may mean  
Working with and engaging the PHA  
Working with and engaging the City  
Working with and engaging local politicians  
Working with other partners
- III. Form partnerships and working with coalitions  
With other residents or other resident organizations  
With other organizations—such as Legal Aid; other community groups;  
Habitat, etc.  
Create or expand existing coalitions or create new coalitions
- IV. Develop local leaders so as to increase the level of knowledge and  
understanding among residents.
  - A. Develop an internship program
  - B. Use the available public housing funding of \$25/unit/year to train  
residents and others.
- V. Join national groups to get information and take advantage of their contacts  
and expertise
- VI. Network: Make local contacts with
  - A. Local schools and universities
  - B. City Planning Departments
  - C. Others
- VII. Facilitate opportunities to get everyone to hear and obtain the same  
information at the same time

Things that PHAR has worked on that apply these techniques.

1. HOPE VI and relocation issues (HOPE VI is a grant program of HUD designed to revitalize public housing)
  - A. What came out of that advocacy was
    - 1). Resident Bill of Rights for Public Housing  
<http://cvillehousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Residents-Bill-of-Rights.pdf>
  - B. Strategies that we used
    - 1). Reached out to residents in Richmond VA who were dealing with similar issue
    - 2). Reached out to partners locally, legal aid
    - 3). Got the City involved first, as it was easier for them to address the issues---City counsel interested as well as City planning department
    - 4). Followed up with the PHA to endorse the same policies
2. Earned Income Disregard advocacy
3. Section 3 enforcement (Section 3 is an employment and training obligation that is attached to most HUD funds that provides a preference in employment and training opportunities for individuals who are low, very low and extremely low income and a preference for Section 3 businesses , which are owned by low, very-low and extremely low income or who hire such individuals)
  - A. Determining the problem in Charlottesville
    - 1) Section 3 jobs, training and economic opportunities not getting to PH residents and other extremely low income individuals
    - 2) City and PHA not coordinating efforts on Section 3 obligations on PHA funding and CDBG funding
    - 3) Some of the problem was that many non-profits serving the same population and serving the same people, how to streamline that and avoid duplication and reach out to other families
      - a. Working to figure out how to minimize the duplication especially on grants provided by the city with CDBG funding
    - 4) Get PHA to recognize that staff training ought to include residents (point out that it may assist with Section 3 obligation and Resident Advisory Board (RAB) training obligation of PHA)
    - 5) Relating Section 3 to the earned income disregard.
    - 6) Develop a Section 3 policy and get it in writing
4. Barriers to success

- A. To translate the larger long-term policy issues into issues that residents also recognized as important
- B. Residents are interested in the issues that affect them everyday, such as maintenance and rents and good customer service
- C. Lack of resources
- D. Other