

## Niagara Falls, New York Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low-Income Households
33	Niagara Falls, NY	NY0026	8,747	2	42%	21%	75%

The City of Niagara Falls has suffered economic decline since manufacturing employment peaked in 1953. The population of the City declined from 100,000 in 1960 to 61,840 in 1990 and has continued to decline. According to the United State Census Bureau, the Buffalo/Niagara region lost a greater share of its population in the 1990's than any other major metropolitan area in the nation. This decline has resulted in a host of problems that seem beyond the resources of the region to alleviate. The result has been continued pervasive poverty in the City and in particular the area covered by the RC area. To help grapple with these problems and begin a stabilizing redevelopment effort, the RC created a Course of Action focusing on these key elements:

### **Increasing the level of efficiency of local services:**

- The Niagara Falls RC will expand day care opportunities, particularly for residents of public housing developments.
- The Niagara County Industrial Development Agency has made a commitment to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to businesses in the RC.
- The Center City Neighborhood Development Corporation will provide first time home-buyer training to residents of the community.

### **Reducing, removing, and simplifying governmental requirements:**

- The City has taken actions to reduce the cumbersome nature of project review. An on-going study by the Buffalo Partnership is analyzing the existing permit/site plan approval process. The City commits to undertake the recommendations of this study aimed at streamlining the city/developer interface.
- In 2000, the City initiated a voluntary compliance program in conjunction with a NYSDEC program on limiting future liability.

### **Involving private entities in Economic Development activities:**

- The Main Street Business Association will assist in marketing the RC designation and benefits.
- The Niagara Falls Empire Zone will provide technical support in terms of marketing, certification and business counseling.
- The Niagara County Industrial Development Agency has made a commitment, valued at \$135,000, to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to RC businesses.

### **Providing free or low-cost surplus property:**

- The City will provide Center City Neighborhood surplus tax foreclosed property at no cost for homeownership programs.
- The City will undertake remediation of a 21-acre site, thus doubling the amount of developable industrial land in that area, and sell the resulting sites at their pre-remediation value.