

1 AN ACT concerning community revitalization.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Community Self-Revitalization Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) There is a great need for economic revitalization  
9 in many communities throughout this State.

10 (2) Each community has valuable resources at its  
11 fingertips that can be tapped in the revitalization  
12 process.

13 (3) With adequate support and assistance from the State  
14 and other resources, each community can participate in and  
15 shepherd its own economic renewal.

16 (4) Successful redevelopment plans are based on policy  
17 that is responsive to the existing composition and  
18 character of the economically distressed community and  
19 that allows and compels the community to participate in the  
20 redevelopment planning process.

21 (5) A successful redevelopment initiative creates and  
22 maintains a capable and adaptable workforce, has access to  
23 capital, has a sound fiscal base, has adequate

1 infrastructure, has well-managed natural resources, and  
2 has an attractive quality of life.

3 (b) It is the purpose of this legislation to provide a  
4 mechanism for an economically distressed community to use in  
5 its efforts to revitalize the community.

6 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Section:

7 "Community" means a municipality or a county with respect  
8 to the unincorporated areas of a county.

9 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic  
10 Opportunity.

11 "Economically distressed community" means (i) in the case  
12 of a municipality with a population of 25,000 or more, the  
13 municipality is certified by the Department as being in the  
14 highest 10% of all municipalities of 25,000 or more in the  
15 State in its average annual total unemployment rate for the  
16 last completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to  
17 the most recent U.S. census data available or (ii) in the case  
18 of a municipality with a population of less than 25,000 or an  
19 unincorporated area, a municipality or unincorporated area  
20 that is located at least partly in a county that is certified  
21 by the Department as being in the highest 10% of all counties  
22 in its average annual total unemployment rate for the last  
23 completed calendar year and its poverty rate, pursuant to the  
24 most recent U.S. census data available.

1 Section 15. Certification; Board of Economic Advisors.

2 (a) In order to receive the assistance as provided in this  
3 Act, a community shall first, by ordinance passed by its  
4 corporate authorities, request that the Department certify  
5 that it is an economically distressed community. The community  
6 must submit a certified copy of the ordinance to the  
7 Department. After review of the ordinance, if the Department  
8 determines that the community meets the requirements for  
9 certification, the Department may certify the community as an  
10 economically distressed community.

11 (b) A community that is certified by the Department as an  
12 economically distressed community may appoint a Board of  
13 Economic Advisors to create and implement a revitalization plan  
14 for the community. The Board shall consist of 18 members of the  
15 community, appointed by the mayor or the presiding officer of  
16 the county or jointly by the presiding officers of each  
17 municipality and county that have joined to form a community  
18 for the purposes of this Act. The Board members shall be  
19 appointed from the 18 sectors vital to community redevelopment  
20 as follows:

21 (1) A member representing households and families.

22 (2) A member representing religious organizations.

23 (3) A member representing educational institutions.

24 (4) A member representing daycare centers, care  
25 centers for the handicapped, and care centers for the  
26 disadvantaged.

1           (5) A member representing community based  
2 organizations such as neighborhood improvement  
3 associations.

4           (6) A member representing federal and State employment  
5 service systems, skill training centers, and placement  
6 referrals.

7           (7) A member representing Masonic organizations,  
8 fraternities, sororities, and social clubs.

9           (8) A member representing hospitals, nursing homes,  
10 senior citizens, public health agencies, and funeral  
11 homes.

12           (9) A member representing organized sports, parks,  
13 parties, and games of chance.

14           (10) A member representing political parties, clubs,  
15 and affiliations, and election related matters concerning  
16 voter education and participation.

17           (11) A member representing the cultural aspects of the  
18 community, including cultural events, lifestyles,  
19 languages, music, visual and performing arts, and  
20 literature.

21           (12) A member representing police and fire protection  
22 agencies, prisons, weapons systems, and the military  
23 industrial complex.

24           (13) A member representing local businesses.

25           (14) A member representing the retail industry.

26           (15) A member representing the service industry.

1           (16) A member representing the industrial, production,  
2           and manufacturing sectors.

3           (17) A member representing the advertising and  
4           marketing industry.

5           (18) A member representing the technology services  
6           industry.

7           The Board shall meet initially within 30 days of its  
8           appointment, shall select one member as chairperson at its  
9           initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the call of the  
10          chairperson. Members of the Board shall serve without  
11          compensation.

12          (c) The Board shall create a 3-year to 5-year  
13          revitalization plan for the community. The plan shall contain  
14          distinct, measurable objectives for revitalization. The  
15          objectives shall be used to guide ongoing implementation of the  
16          plan and to measure progress during the 3-year to 5-year  
17          period. The Board shall work in a dynamic manner defining goals  
18          for the community based on the strengths and weaknesses of the  
19          individual sectors of the community as presented by each member  
20          of the Board. The Board shall meet periodically and revise the  
21          plan in light of the input from each member of the Board  
22          concerning his or her respective sector of expertise. The  
23          process shall be a community driven revitalization process,  
24          with community-specific data determining the direction and  
25          scope of the revitalization.

1 Section 20. Action by the Board.

2 (a) Organize. The Board shall first assess the needs and  
3 the resources of the community operating from the basic premise  
4 that the family unit is the primary unit of community and that  
5 the demand for goods and services from this residential sector  
6 is the main source of recovery and growth for the redevelopment  
7 of a community. The Board shall inventory community assets,  
8 including the condition of the family with respect to the role  
9 of the family as workers, consumers, and investors. The Board  
10 shall inventory the type and viability of businesses and  
11 industries currently in the community. In compiling the  
12 inventory, the Board shall rely on the input of each Board  
13 member with respect to his or her expertise in a given sector  
14 of the revitalization plan.

15 (b) Revitalize. In implementing the revitalization plan,  
16 the Board shall focus on and build from existing resources in  
17 the community, growing existing businesses rather than luring  
18 business into the community from the outside. The Board shall  
19 also focus on the residents themselves rather than jobs. The  
20 Board shall promote investment in training residents in areas  
21 that will lead to employment and in turn will bring revenue  
22 into the community.

23 (c) Mobilize. The Board shall engage in the dynamic process  
24 of community self-revitalization through a continuous  
25 reassessment of the needs of the community in the  
26 revitalization process. As each goal of the 3-year to 5-year

1 plan is achieved, the Board shall draw from the resources of  
2 its members to establish new goals and implement new strategies  
3 employing the lessons learned in the earlier stages of  
4 revitalization.

5 (d) Advise. The Board shall act as the liaison between the  
6 community and the local, county, and State Government. The  
7 Board shall make use of the resources of these governmental  
8 entities and shall provide counsel to each of these bodies with  
9 respect to economic development.

10 The Board shall also act as a liaison between private  
11 business entities located in the community and the community  
12 itself. The Board shall offer advice and assistance to these  
13 entities when requested and provide incentives and support,  
14 both economic and otherwise, to facilitate expansion and  
15 further investment in the community by the businesses.

16 The Board shall annually submit a report to the General  
17 Assembly and the Governor summarizing the accomplishments of  
18 the community concerning revitalization and the goals of the  
19 community for future revitalization.

20 Section 25. Funding sources. Subject to appropriation, the  
21 Department may make grants to communities that are certified as  
22 economically distressed communities under this Act and that  
23 create a Board of Economic Advisors under this Act for the  
24 operational expenses of the Board. The procedures for grant  
25 application shall be established by the Department by rule.

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2           becoming law.