



# Community A-Teams

*Setting Our State and Local Agenda*

# Local Organizing, Statewide Results

- ▶ To increase the influence of housing and community development advocates, the Network organizes geographically-based Advocacy Teams, or “A-Teams.”
- ▶ Since their launch in 2006, these A-Teams have quickly become the backbone of successful advocacy and organizing efforts at the local, state and federal level.
- ▶ Working all over the state, these Network members and allies participate in a range of activities that support neighborhood and citywide grassroots campaigns and advance our statewide and Federal issue agenda

# Engaging the Community

## A-Teams Organize by

- ▶ Assembling and attending meetings with elected and appointed officials at the local, state and federal level;
- ▶ Participating in Network advocacy events, i.e. rallies, legislative days; bus tours;
- ▶ Recruiting and engaging others to work on the A-Team agenda;
- ▶ Registering, educating and mobilizing voters around housing and community development issues; and,
- ▶ Attending planning meetings and training sessions



# Identifying Local Issues

- ▶ Key Policies: What are our local policy priorities?
- ▶ How do these issues tie into the Network's statewide and federal policy priorities?





## Who Are Our Allies?

- ▶ Identify local, county, and state elected officials who can help
- ▶ Find venues and organizations, who can help provide resources



# Invite Elected Officials To Hear Concerns

- ▶ Our advocacy is a two-way street
- ▶ Invite officials to talk about their issues and to hear ours



# Legislative Day

- ▶ The annual Legislative Day is our lobby day. We spend the day at the State House, attend important committee meetings, and schedule meetings with legislators.



# Celebrate Victories

WHEN WE SUCCEED IN OUR  
ADVOCACY, OUR A-TEAMS  
GAIN POLICY CREDIBILITY  
AND POLITICAL CAPITAL





# Join Us!

- ▶ Join an A-Team! Contact:
- ▶ Matthew Hersh, [mhersh@hcdnnj.org](mailto:mhersh@hcdnnj.org)
- ▶ Arnold Cohen, [acohen@hcdnnj.org](mailto:acohen@hcdnnj.org)

