



QCT Feasibility Study: a mixed-methods approach

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Henrico - A Great Place to Live, Work, and Play.



In the Stacker magazine article of best places to live in America, Henrico had two locations that made the list from the western area of the county. Short Pump and Innsbrook were listed respectively which are practically next to each other. Purposeful development was coordinated to grow these communities over the past thirty years.

The Fairfield and Varina Districts can benefit from similar housing stock and commercial office space to leverage the high-speed data center access in the White Oak Technology Park.

Problem Statement



In Henrico, there are several QCTs (Qualified Census Tracts) that need additional resources to improve the quality of life for the citizens in these areas, particularly the most vulnerable populations. (i.e. children and young adults from 18 to 24).

QCT Research



A study or research report must be documented with the challenges and ailments that are barriers for these citizens to realize the best opportunities Henrico has to offer by analyzing entry into the workforce and transitioning families out of the cycle of perpetual poverty.

Pandemic Funding



The global pandemic was a major setback for many municipalities across the state and the country. The Biden Administration sent billions of dollars to the states to keep them afloat during a time of economic uncertainty. These funds could have made a generational impact similar to the funding of programs of the Great Society in the 1960s.

The Henrico County government received \$64 million in funding through ARPA which was allocated to water and sewer projects. The HCPS school system received amounts for ESSER I and ESSER II \$45.1 million, ESSER III \$78.32 million, CARES Act \$8.8 million equaling over \$132 million.

New Role of Government



The role of government services has evolved from the basics from years past. The fundamentals of core services, such as taxation, finance, courts, public safety, public works, and public utilities. Social services and Mental Health of citizens has become more of a prominent need for citizens in all demographic areas.

Government is different from business in that it can't choose its customers. At some point, every citizen will need to utilize governmental services beyond basic services to improve their individual quality of life or business. The pandemic highlighted that the most vulnerable have the least opportunity to thrive due to multiple social, educational, and financial barriers.

Public Private Partnerships



- Local Governments can benefit from project-based initiatives that make long-term community impact without tying new employees to the books.
- Thornton for Henrico seeks to cultivate solutions based on the data gathered in the QCTs.
- Data-driven initiatives can transform vulnerable communities and improve the quality of life while simultaneously providing a return on the investment of future redirected tax dollars..

Opportunities

In government, there are always problems to solve which can be handled from an administrative or political aspect. However, municipalities do not always have champions internally that can impact the greatest number of citizens.

- Reduce the number of vulnerable citizens with a coordinated effort by governmental agencies, the nonprofit sector, and the business community.
- Improve the outcomes of underrepresented contracting groups for business development.
- Increase the number of citizens that benefit from training beyond the traditional K-12 system.

Great News



Thornton for Henrico believes that the challenges before us that have been generational in nature can be solved. By reimagining service delivery and implementing some of the proposed projects in the form of feasibility studies and pilot programs, we can accomplish many great things for our citizens.

For our government, you may ask the question “What is the win or benefit for the county?”, the answer is that perpetual resources that have been overallocated can be redirected to additional proactive services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

Proposed Solution

- Conduct a new QCT Feasibility Study or analyze existing/similar study conducted with regression analysis of the instrument.
- Assure rigor and trustworthiness in the data. The assessments have to be conducted with a random sample of the residents that include vulnerable populations: foster children, homeless, domestic violence, re-entry services, individuals with disabilities, and senior citizens.
- After the research has been conducted, a multiagency coordination approach has to be implemented in order to solve the perceived and real issues based on the quantitative and qualitative data.