North Omaha 2025

Closing the Wealth Gap: Taking Solutions to SCALE

Special Update for 11th Annual Empowerment Rebuilding the Village Conference
Updated Trends, Progress, Remaining Gaps and Next Steps:
Collaboration, Alignment, Equity & Strategic Investments

2017 State of African-Americans and State of North Omaha Report

Published on Friday, May 18, 2018

(Created by these founding partners and hundreds of collaborative organizations with the input of 7,000+ residents)
“It’s time to Rise Up and Rebuild the Village” was the theme on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 24th and Lake. Since that time, over 500 hundred organizations and thousands of residents have participated. Measurable progress has occurred with more work ahead to close the economic and quality of life gaps in our community.

Beginning in June 2006, the Empowerment Network hosted meetings, summits and focus groups with residents and leaders to identify key issues and solutions. The first large leadership meeting was held in September 2006 when 70 leaders convened and agreed to work together. The first State of African-Americans and North Omaha was held in December of 2006. The initial meetings started with three and grew to over 300. After nearly a year of working together on the initial plan, a formal launch was held.

The Network also hosted youth summits and small group meetings with teens, successful students, gang members, ex-offenders, single mothers, parents and grandparents. The primary purpose was to gain resident and stakeholder input on issues, solutions, and priorities. This strategy continues today. The Empowerment Network made a commitment to hold monthly meetings with the community to provide updates, answer questions, provide opportunities for engagement, and periodically assess priorities and make adjustments to strategies. The annual meeting now includes reports from the Mayor, City Council, Douglas County, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Police Department, other community partners and neighborhood associations. In December 2013, the Transformation 2025 goals were outlined to accelerate the pace of rebuilding and transforming the city, with special emphasis on North Omaha and South Omaha. Transformation 2025 was officially launched in May 2014 at the Empowerment Network’s Conference with 10 year goals and annual benchmarks. A comprehensive scorecard is updated each year by participating organizations and businesses.

Initially designed and launched by African-Americans and North Omaha residents, the Empowerment Network Collaboration now includes people of all races across the city, county, region and nation. Over 500 organizations and thousands of individuals have participated. The Network model is now recognized regionally and nationally. National groups are traveling to Omaha to learn more about how they can do similar work in their own cities. National leaders consistently visit Omaha as partners on the journey.
Grassroots Meetings Lead to Strategy, Policy and Implementation
Summits, Conferences, Meetings and Outreach Produce Action!

How the Empowerment Network, WORKS
The Empowerment Network team serves as catalysts, conveners, facilitators, strategists and advocates. In partnership with the community, the Network has identified priorities, goals and benchmarks. The Network is focused on connecting, communicating and collaborating to create positive change. In addition, the Network generates and presents research and trends; partners with the community to advocate on issues important to African-Americans, North Omaha residents and citizens of the Greater Omaha area; and, works to raise funds to implement initiatives prioritized by neighborhoods and stakeholders. The model relies heavily on the work of community partners and residents. The collaborative approach supports each person doing what they do best!

OBJECTIVES...Build Community Wealth and Ownership
1. Generate Multiple Incomes and Increase Business Ownership
2. Create Home Owners and Thriving Mixed-Income Neighborhoods
3. Build Safe, Strong and Healthy Families
4. Prepare Children for Success in College, Careers and Life

HOW WE REACH THE GOALS...
1. Engagement
2. Education
3. Empowerment
4. Excellence

WHAT WE DO...Facilitate and Drive Positive Change
1. Connect & Convene
2. Communicate and Share Data/Trends/Solutions/Progress
3. Collaborate, Align and Strategically Reinvest
4. Create Positive Change through Capacity-building & Leadership Development

North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan Comes to Life...Major Development in each area
A PLAN FOR NORTH OMAHA & BEYOND!

North Omaha 2025 Goals:
Working together to transform Omaha into a great city, thriving and prosperous, in every zip code and neighborhood.

5,000 Connected to Living Wage+ Jobs & Careers
2,000 Annual Jobs for Youth & Young Adults
250 New and/or Expanded Businesses with employees
95%+ Graduation Rate/Prepared for College & Careers
2,500 New and/or Improved Housing Units
50% Participating in Neighborhood Associations/Orgs.
80% Safer and Healthier Community
2,500+ Families – Lifted out of Poverty
250,000 Annual Visitors to the N.O. Village Zone
50-65%+ Voting in Local and National Elections

Goals and strategies developed with the input of over 3,500+ residents and leaders & 3,500+ youth and young adults. Annual benchmarks have been established. The goals and strategies are reviewed and updated each year with your input!
Transformation 2025/North Omaha 2025: Closing the Wealth Gap
(Partial list of organizations working towards the North Omaha 2025 Revitalization goals as of May 2018)

Employment

Entrepreneurship

Education

Housing, Neighborhoods & Transportation

Violence Prevention and Justice

Health and Healthy Families

Arts, Culture and Media

Philanthropic and Funding Supports

Collaboration & Capacity-Building

For more information: www.empoweromaha.com
North Omaha 2025: Community-based Plan

Creating Economic Self-Sufficiency in North Omaha and Beyond: Accelerate the Pace of Progress
Facilitated by the Empowerment Network in collaboration w/ Pastors & Faith Leaders, Neighborhoods, Non-Profits, Businesses, Elected Officials & others

Update June 9, 2017 (The Plan includes input and engagement with over 7,000 youth and adults)

Vision: Work together to transform Omaha into a great city - healthy, wealthy, thriving and prosperous - in every zip code and neighborhood. This part of the Transformation 2025 plans focuses on North Omaha–68111, 68110 & 68104. (Other zip codes of focus in Midtown and South Omaha have been identified. Will seek confirmation from partners.)

Goals:
1. Omaha will lead the nation in employment, entrepreneurship, education and quality of life
2. Close long-standing economic gaps - historically based on racial & geographic segregation

Objectives:
1. Build community wealth through multiple streams of income and business ownership
2. Increase home ownership and build thriving mixed-income neighborhoods
3. Create strong families including access to insurance, quality healthcare & healthy foods
4. Prepare children for success in school, careers and life through cradle to career strategies

Key Economic Benefits:
1. Create New Jobs: Construction Jobs and Permanent Jobs
2. Create New and Expanded Businesses and Generate Tax Revenues
3. Prepare Omaha Workforce for Current & Future Jobs/Close the Skills Gap
4. Increase Economic Impact (Growth/Consumer Spending)
5. Increase Tourism
6. Improve Services to Residents (Roads, Parks, etc)
7. Reduce Social Costs and Individual Tax Payer Burden

Areas of Focus:
1. Personal Responsibility and Collective Works
2. Corridor Revitalization - Entrepreneurship, Contracting and Business Districts
3. Employment - Jobs, Job Training and Careers
4. Education and Youth Development – Cradle to Career
5. Housing, Streets and Transportation – Create Home Owners & Thriving Neighborhoods
6. Safety and Justice – Reduce Violence and Address Justice Reform
7. Health and Healthy Families – Create Strong and Healthy Families

Key Principles:
1. Individual and Family Engagement
2. Leadership Engagement, Accessibility and Accountability
3. Comprehensive Collaboration, Alignment and Strategic Investments
4. Bi-partisan (Non-partisan)
5. Focus on Return on Investment (Social and Economic Impact)
6. Shared Decision-making Structure (Residents & Stakeholders engaged at every level)
7. Build engagement (all ages) and increase ownership and wealth in the community
8. Build on the strengths and assets of the community; respectful even when we disagree
9. Build on and respect the cultural and historic legacies of the area
10. Lift up and benefit current residents first and then new residents; include better outreach

(Created by these founding partners and hundreds of collaborative organizations and thousands of residents)

For more information: www.empoweromaha.com
North Omaha 2025: Personal Responsibility

Empowerment Network in collaboration w/ Pastors & Faith Leaders, Neighborhoods, Non-Profits, Businesses, Elected Officials & others

Key Areas of Focus for North Omaha 2025:

2. Corridor Revitalization - Entrepreneurship, Contracting and Business Districts
3. Employment - Jobs, Job Training and Careers
4. Education and Youth Development – Cradle to Career Education
5. Housing, Streets and Transportation – Home Owners & Thriving Neighborhoods
6. Safety and Justice – Violence Reduction and Justice Reform
7. Health and Healthy Families – Strong and Healthy Families

1 It Starts with Each Person and Family Doing Their Part! Take the Empowerment Challenge!

1. Faith
(Live our Faith)
- Actively discover your purpose & use your gifts, talents and strengths.
- Actively participate and support your church/worship center with your time, talents and treasure.

2. Education
(Prepare our Children)
- Participate actively in your child’s education. Attend parent/teacher conf./school board. Volunteer at a school
- Become a Mentor/Coach! Get connected with the 100 Black Men, Midlands Mentoring or others.
- www.mmpomaha.org  www.100blackmenomaha.org  www.bbbsomaha.org  www.p4k.org/

3. Health
(Protect our Health)
- Get insurance. Establish a relationship w/ identified medical & dental providers and get an annual medical, dental and behavioral health check-up or screening. Support stores with fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Get informed about health/life insurance/learn about school-based health centers: charlesdrewhcomaha.org

4. Healthy Families
(Strengthen our Families)
- Increase the quantity and quality of time spent with families. Get married. Reduce television time.
- Assist families in need. Volunteer with and contribute to effective organizations that serve families.

5. Economics
(Build our Wealth)
- Identify your strengths. Read/Study. Attend career/leadership development events. Manage your finances.
- Support black-owned businesses, North Omaha businesses & others that support community efforts and employ African-Americans, North Omaha residents, and low income citizens.

6. Crime Prevention
(Love our Neighbor)
- Partner w/ your worship center, nghbrhood, police & organization to help prevent & reduce crime & violence.
- Take the Omaha 360 Challenge: Pledge for Peace  www.empoweromaha.com

7. Peace & Justice
(Stand for Justice)
- Become aware of policies and how the justice system works. Support prison, justice and reentry reform.
- Join the NAACP and other civil rights/justice efforts.  www.omahanaacp.org
- Become a member of Urban League, Malcolm X & other organizations.  www.urbanleagueneb.org

8. Neighborhoods
(Own our Homes)
- Attend homeownership classes. Become a homeowner. Join your neighborhood assoc./actively participate.
- Contact Family Housing Advisory Services at 402-934-6603  www.fhasinc.org
- North Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (NONA) at 402-457-7848  www.nonaomaha.org

9. Voting/Politics
(Raise our Vote)
- Register to vote. Vote early, encourage others to vote and take someone with you.
- Call/contact your elected officials to support legislation that positively impacts your community.

10. Environment
(Clean our Neighborhoods)
- Advocate to address lead, walking paths, recreational areas, parks and environmental justice issues.

11. Technology
(Cross the Divide)
- Work to make sure that children in your home & community have access to computers & the internet.
- Partner w/ schools, libraries, youth development & community-based organizations to improve access.

12. Media
(Own our Communications)
- Support positive African-American and North Omaha media outlets.
- Voice your concerns to media that present inaccurate and unbalanced coverage.
- Contact the media to let them know you want positive news covered in your community.

13. Arts & Culture
(Embrace our True Culture)
- Support and attend cultural arts, activities, events, organizations and venues.
North Omaha 2025: Collective Strategies

Creating Economic Self-Sufficiency in North Omaha and Beyond: Accelerate the Pace of Progress
Facilitated by the Empowerment Network in collaboration w/ Pastors & Faith Leaders, Neighborhoods, Non-Profits, Businesses, Elected Officials & others

SUMMARY OUTLINE: Updated June 9, 2017  (The Plan includes input and engagement with over 7,000 youth and adults)

Entrepreneurship, Contracting and Business Districts: Revitalize Strategic Corridors

1. Revitalize key strategic corridors and targeted neighborhoods in North Omaha:
   • North 24th, with focus on 24th & Lake (24th Street Corridor – South to North)  
     (build and connect economic engines for Arts, Culture, Entertainment & Business)
   • North 30th, with focus on 30th & Parker (30th Street Corridor – North to Midtown)
   • Ames Street Corridor (16th Street to 72nd Street)
   • Malcolm X/Adams Park

2. Launch and expand small businesses with support of entrepreneurship centers and hubs
3. Facilitate training and mentoring for small businesses, with focus on residents
4. Create/expand access to credit & capital including specific funds; grow small & med.-sized businesses
5. Train and assist contractors within the area to successfully compete and achieve development projects/business; address businesses concerning inclusivity, diversity, promotions and wages

Employment and Job Training: Create Jobs and Sustainable, Higher Wage Employment

1. Link unemployed and underemployed residents in targeted geographic areas to current work opportunities across the metro (address barriers to job attainment, including transportation)
2. Bridge the gap of open jobs and future in demand industries with a targeted, expanded, and subsidized (paid) job training programs; equip current residents with the necessary skills to achieve employment
3. Use incentives and development funds to recruit, launch, develop and expand businesses with higher wage jobs/innovation-based jobs in North Omaha
4. Increase employment, summer and year round internships, for youth and young adults (Summer Employment Program is city-wide)
5. Facilitate career advancement opportunities in public and private companies; focus on connecting underemployed residents to emerging and sustainable higher wage careers that match their skills and interest; address the wage gap; encourage employers to hire local residents and ex-offenders

Education & Youth Development: Improve Educational Outcomes - Cradle to Career

1. Invest in early childhood education to ensure youth are prepared for success in kindergarten – support quality home, center and school-based approaches
2. Improve family & community engagement through integrated learning supports for parents & students
3. Create excellence and equity in every neighborhood school and increase investments & alignment in high poverty schools – elementary, middle schools and high schools – holistic cradle to career approach
4. Increase the percentage of students graduating from high school prepared for careers and college
5. Create & expand strategies to increase the % of students entering and completing post secondary
6. Build strong relationships & provide tailored programs for sub-groups; high-risk & disadvantaged

Housing, Neighborhoods & Transportation : Create Home Owners and Thriving Neighborhoods

1. Improve financial literacy & well-being; increase home ownership & create strong neighborhoods
2. Build and expand mixed-income neighborhoods; include access to affordable housing throughout the city
3. Address housing stability of vulnerable populations: veterans, foster youth, homeless, ex-offenders & others
4. Invest to address dilapidated homes, vacant lots, absentee landlords, demolition and rehab of homes
5. Improve streets and multi-modal transportation  (connection to work, school, shopping and services…)

Safety/Violence Prevention and Justice/Prison/Reentry Reform: Reduce Violence & Incarceration

1. Continue to expand and invest in proactive and effective violence prevention and intervention programs for youth and adults
2. Expand effective community policing, accountability & justice efforts; address hot spots & remove illegal guns
3. Assess and expand successful reentry programs; collaborate on employment, housing & support services
4. Assess and expand alternatives to detention and incarceration including juvenile justice reform
5. Address disproportionate justice system involvement and incarceration

Strong Families and Access to Health Care & Healthy Foods: Create Strong & Healthy Families

1. Increase healthy relationships & marriages and enhance parenting skills
2. Address the STD/HIV crisis/epidemic and reduce teen pregnancy
3. Expand access to insurance and healthcare (physical and mental)
4. Address mental & behavioral health including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Trauma in Kids and Adults) and violence as public health issue
5. Increase access to healthy foods; enhance food security; food preparation training/educ.
6. Reduce health disparities; increase physical exercise and reduce obesity
Key Trends and Remaining Gaps 2017: African-American

**% of African-Americans in Omaha with a Bachelor Degree increased from 16% to 22.5%**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-10</td>
<td>16.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-11</td>
<td>16.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-12</td>
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<td>21.5</td>
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<td>2012-16</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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There has been a measurable increase, but a significant gap remains by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>37.1</td>
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</table>

**African-American Unemployment in Omaha has decreased from 17.2% to 8.9%**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-10</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-11</td>
<td>17.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-12</td>
<td>15.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-13</td>
<td>15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-14</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-15</td>
<td>10.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-16</td>
<td>8.9</td>
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</table>

There has been a measurable decrease, but a significant gap remains by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**African-American Home Ownership has declined from 39% to 35%, following a national trend**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-10</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-11</td>
<td>38.6</td>
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<td>2008-12</td>
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<td>2009-13</td>
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<td>2010-14</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-16</td>
<td>35.0</td>
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</tbody>
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There has been a measurable decrease and a significant gap remains by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>70.6</td>
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**African-American Household Incomes in Omaha have started to increase the past three years.**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-11</td>
<td>$39,563</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-12</td>
<td>$39,133</td>
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<td>2009-13</td>
<td>$38,138</td>
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<td>$37,647</td>
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<td>$30,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-16</td>
<td>$30,328</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There has been a measurable increase, but a significant gap remains by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>$30,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>$44,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>$64,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Trends and Remaining Gaps 2017: African-American

African-American Reading Proficiency in OPS has increased measurably; as much as 28% 

The African-American high school graduation rate in OPS has increased from 55% to 78%.

African-American Unemployment is now lower than the national average: Ranked 2nd Best!

While still much too high, African-American poverty rates have declined 31.5% to 25.4%

While African-Americans have a higher percent in poverty, there are 55,404 whites in poverty

One of the most positive signs, increase in black ownership. Yet, only 200 have employees.
Key Trends and Remaining Gaps 2017: North Omaha

Unemployment Rate
Concentrated Unemployment

City-wide Omaha: Homicides & Gun Assault Victims
Source: OPD Preliminary 2006-2017
- Homicides
- Gun Assault Victims

Northeast Precinct: Homicides & Gun Assault Victims
Source: OPD Preliminary 2006-2017
- Homicides
- Gun Assault Victims

Progress is Possible!
North Omaha Development Plan and North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan

A. Create a new front door to North Omaha at Cumming Street.
B. Embrace the North Freeway corridor as new entrance to North Omaha.
C. Develop 16th Street as a new green edge and open space amenity.
D. Create a new heart for North Omaha at 24th/Lake Street.
E. Celebrate the Malcolm X Memorial Birthplace and International Center as a nationally-significant destination.
F. Celebrate Adams Park as a major neighborhood amenity.
G. Create a new cultural spine along Lake Street and 24th Street.
H. Enhancing existing bridge connections between East and West Village.
I. Connect north to 30th/Ames Metro South commercial district, Fort Omaha, and Prospect Hill Cemetery.
J. Build new affordable and market rate infill housing with a diversity of housing types.
North Omaha 2025

Phase II of the North Omaha Village Revitalization Plan
Creating a Healthy, Wealthy, Thriving and Prosperous Community

The North Omaha 2025 Community-based Plan & Overview incorporates community input, ideas and solutions from 3,500+ adults and 3,500+ youth and young adults through polling, research, door-to-door outreach and neighborhood events.

Recommendations are also incorporated from the original Empowerment Covenant & Plan (introduced on April 27, 2007), North Omaha Village Revitalization Master Plan (approved by the City of Omaha in 2011), Transformation 2025 Plan (introduced in May 2014), Omaha 360 Collaborative, Cradle to Career Education Summits, Economic Summits, Neighborhood Association meetings, Promise Zone Planning, Pastors and Faith Leader Meetings, Leadership Conferences, Community Summits and September 2016 – November 2017 Village Community Meetings for additional input.

Additional details, strategies, goals, benchmarks and actions are connected to each of these components. The plan is updated each year with on-going community engagement.

If you would like to stay connected and engaged, please join the Empowerment Network mailing list by sending an email to info@empoweromaha.com

11th Annual State of African-Americans and State of North Omaha

The contents of this document reflect the work of hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals. Most are engaged as collaborative partners through a collective works process. Others are aligning their work with these efforts. Some are doing their part by working more independently. We honor and celebrate every organization and individual working to improve our community. Hundreds of additional organizations, programs and efforts are not identified, but are doing great things in the community. If you or your organization would like to be included in future documents, please contact the Empowerment Network. And, if you would rather not have your organization included in the document, please contact the Network.

The input, recommendations and suggestions of over 3,500 residents and leaders and over 3,500 youth and young adults, compiled through surveys and polls conducted at conferences, summits, forums, community meetings, outreach events and other small and large group sessions are summarized in this document as needs, issues and priorities. The community recommendations are then integrated with national best practices and key elements of successful movements to form the basis of the comprehensive and collaborative strategies. Thank you to the Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Police Dept., Douglas County, City of Omaha, and community partners for assisting with gathering information for the report. And, special thanks to OEDC and UNO for their assistance with ACS, North Omaha demographics and maps on unemployment and poverty.