

2004 YorkCounts Action Plan

30 Ready Solutions identified in the action plan:

- Design and implement a county-wide economic development strategy for York County.
- Develop and implement a unified system of workforce development in York County.
- Establish redevelopment-friendly policies and procedures that will encourage private and public reinvestment in downtown and distressed communities throughout York County.
- Clean up and dress up York County's urban centers and neighborhoods.
- Improve housing stock and increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities.
- Assure adequate utility capacity exists for the 21st century.
- Publicly fund early childhood education for needy children attending accredited centers.
- Ensure equitable and adequate per-student public funding for K-12.
- Establish a county-wide commercial/industrial tax base to support York County public schools.
- Curb brain drain.
- Develop and implement a model for municipalities to utilize as they engage in joint land use planning activities.
- Develop and deliver tools and training to foster responsible, sustainable natural resource and land use planning.
- Provide the appropriate technical assistance resources that can best help facilitate regional collaboration.
- Coordinate an all-county education summit.
- Facilitate opportunities for municipalities and school districts to work together on issues of shared interest.
- Create a York County Council of School Districts.
- Create a County Public Health Department
- Initiate the passage of a County bond issue for land preservation, and set aside funds within the bond issue for a regional municipal planning grant program.
- Encourage mixed income housing and other desired development by exploring the use of zoning, impact fees, tax incentives, and other land use tools.
- Support community-based housing programs with a goal of 100 new or rehabilitated homes over the next five years.
- Support the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the York Housing Authority (YHA) five-year plan.
- Support and promote the Council of Governments (COGS) as a means to improve the quality and diversity in York County.
- Create an environment in public schools that contributes to a diverse experience.
- Create a "hub" resource – such as a 'Center for Diversity Advocacy and Education' -- to build the case to school districts and administrators for diversity education programs.
- Engage community-based programs to create an initiative designed to establish personal relationships between diverse groups of students. Target K-12 teachers, existing youth programs, and faith community groups that can help initiate and foster these kinds of relationships.
- Engage the faith community, including both cleric and lay people, in meaningful dialogue about ways to break down barriers not only between individuals, but also between the different religions and faiths represented in York County.
- Establish a York County Human Relations Commission.
- Encourage County Commissioners to expand their vision and exercise leadership to advance the YorkCounts agenda.
- Build and institutionalize a communication strategy to keep the YorkCounts agenda before the public, influence public opinion, shape policy agendas and motivate voters.
- Continue and strengthen infrastructure to support YorkCounts initiatives.