



For Immediate Release

**LISC JACKSONVILLE TO BEGIN EPIC COMMUNITIES WORK WITH CHALLENGE GRANTS FROM
JESSIE BALL DUPONT FUND AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Jacksonville, FL (April 28, 2011) --- LISC Jacksonville, the nonprofit that provides financing, technical expertise, and advocates for community development corporations, will receive a \$900,000 challenge grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and The Community Foundation in Jacksonville for its *EPIC Communities* initiative. EPIC stands for Empower People Inspire Change. It grows out of the proven national model of neighborhood revitalization launched by national LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) entitled *Building Sustainable Communities*. This comprehensive strategy engages residents to reimagine and reinvent their neighborhoods to create lasting change.

The pilot areas for *EPIC Communities* are Jacksonville's Northside and Eastside urban centers.

Nina Waters, President of The Community Foundation in Jacksonville, and Sherry Magill, President of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, have challenged Jacksonville to raise an additional \$2 million to fully fund the *EPIC Communities* initiative.

"We are pleased that both The Community Foundation and Jessie Ball duPont Fund, organizations that were instrumental in bringing LISC to Jacksonville, are supporting this project to bring neighborhoods back to economic viability," said J.F. Bryan, IV, LISC Jacksonville Board Chair.

Building EPIC Communities involves a five-point goal that will:

1. Expand investment in housing and other real estate
2. Increase family income and wealth
3. Stimulate economic development
4. Improve access to quality education
5. Support healthy environments and lifestyles

"We welcomed the opportunity to serve neighborhoods housing development needs through our partners for the past 12 years. We're excited about this new approach and the opportunity to continue to physically enhance neighborhoods and to augment this work with elements that make for healthy, vibrant neighborhoods," added Janet Owens, Executive Director of LISC Jacksonville.



“Successful neighborhoods provide jobs, retail, affordable housing, healthy environments and quality education.”

Since coming to Northeast Florida, LISC Jacksonville has helped its partner community development corporations build, renovate or acquire 1,520 homes and apartments, created 3,157 jobs, leveraged \$148.2 million from a total investment of \$41.9 million.

About LISC

LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help nonprofit community development corporations revitalize distressed neighborhoods in 30 major cities and in rural communities across the United States. Since 1980, LISC has raised more than \$11.1 billion to build or rehab more than 277,000 affordable homes and develop 44 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide. LISC support has leveraged \$33.9 billion in total development activity. For more information, visit www.lisc.org.

For more information about LISC Jacksonville, log on to www.liscjacksonville.org.