

**Program:**

The Good Neighbor Program

**The Issue**

The mass movement across the nation's bustling metropolitan cities to dismantle its housing projects exposed two critical issues: the reality of concentrated poverty amongst urban populations and the absence of a plan to house these now displaced families.

**Background**

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence, housed in College of Education at Georgia State University has the unique opportunity of location in the heart of Atlanta, one of the nation's largest cities, and access to urban populations and diverse resources. These factors work in perfect harmony to provide a solution to the issue at hand while furthering the mission and goals of the center.

**The Purpose**

Partnered with the Atlanta Housing Authority, The Good Neighbor Program focuses on educating families who currently live in urban, low-income communities on issues related to their transition to mixed-income communities.

**The Solution**

The Good Neighbor Program trains its participants in five modules, educating them on everything from crime prevention to the advantages of lifelong learning. Graduate Research Assistants serve as Professional Fellows while the sponsored programs provide a way for students to partner with those already working within their chosen profession. The Center primarily uses College of Education Graduate Researchers from the Educational Policy Studies and Counseling Psychology departments to train parents in the program.

Occasionally, graduates from other disciplines such as sociology are recruited to provide specialized workshops. Participation in these community-based programs not only provides an extraordinary opportunity for its community participants, but a signature academic experience for its professionals in training.