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Budget cuts mean end for LexLinc
Organization was instrumental in helping thousands in wake of welfare reform

LEXINGTON, Ky. - June 28, 2010 - The state's shaky budget situation has claimed another victim—LexLinc, a public-private partnership created to empower Lexington's underserved neighborhoods and families. The board of directors voted to dissolve the corporation effective at the end of the summer. State budget cuts created a void in public funding necessary to continue operations.

LexLinc was founded in 1998 as a partnership among local citizens, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Department of Social Services of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to address welfare reform.

In recent weeks, the organization's leaders learned that, due to necessary budget cuts, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services must discontinue its grants to LexLinc. LexLinc lost city funding in 2008. With the combined loss of public sector support, LexLinc's ability to address its mission is virtually impossible.

"We understand that the city and state have made difficult but necessary budget decisions over the past several years," said Wanda Bertram, executive director of LexLinc. "We are grateful for their partnership through LexLinc and look to them to continue the collaborative spirit that LexLinc has nurtured in our community."

LexLinc will follow through on current commitments to the community; including raising funds for and coordinating the 2010 Neighborhood Back-to-School Rallies that serve 8,000 children.

"We are saddened to take this course of action, but are proud to have helped so many families," Bertram said. During its 12-year history, LexLinc has successfully managed and incubated many initiatives to help Lexington neighborhoods and families in need. Those projects include:

- Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project
- Lexington Neighborhood Back-to-School Rallies
- Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative
- LexLinc Community Development Federal Credit Union
- Welfare Reform Initiatives
- Success by 6[®]
- Race, Community and Child Welfare Initiative
- Citizens' Leadership Academy
- LexLinc Provider Cabinet
- Family Safety Task Force/Friends of Children
- Ultimate Home Visit Immersion Program
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Prevent Child Abuse Month
- 2003 Community Assessment

For its work, LexLinc was honored in 2008 with the Martin Luther King Unity Award. This recognition by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity is given to organizations or individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty in unifying the community in the spirit of Dr. King.

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