A common perception among tourists, potential businesses and industries, and citizens is that a clean community is a safe community. Thus, keeping the community clean and beautiful is key for economic development initiatives. Recognizing the crucial role of county and city code enforcement personnel in monitoring and improving the community’s overall physical appearance, the Clayton Archway Executive Committee established a code enforcement work group. During the first year, the code enforcement work group established three major goals: 

1. Training for code enforcement officers,
2. Development of a resource guide for code violators, and
3. Coordination of services.

Code enforcement officers representing every jurisdiction were surveyed to determine their training needs. Based on the survey results, the Archway Partnership worked with the University of Georgia Fanning Institute and the Clayton County Sheriff’s Department to provide two training workshops: “Recognizing Dangerous Situations” and “Conflict Resolution Strategies”. Additional training was provided to code enforcement officers through the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement conferences, conducted by faculty in UGA’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government. These conferences allow code enforcement officers to learn about best management practices.

Efforts to develop a resource guide and to determine the best approach to coordinate services, along with sharing information to improve overall effectiveness, are still underway.