



Westside
Future Fund



Power of Storytelling
on the Westside"

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund

Friday, May 15, 2020

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Westside
Future Fund

VISION

A community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

MISSION

To advance a compassionate approach to neighborhood revitalization that creates a diverse, mixed-income community, improves the quality of life for current and future residents and elevates the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.

VALUES

Do with the Community, not to the Community

We know that residents are the real experts on the challenges in their community. Therefore, we learn from residents and involve them in all we do.

Be Compassionate

We meet residents where they are in a spirit of empathy and respect.

Have Integrity in Everything

We stand behind all we say and do. We are open, honest, and courageous.

Be Creative

We bring high energy and fresh ideas to tackling the long-standing challenges on the Westside. We're dedicated to trying different approaches to get different results.

Deliver Results

We're committed to driving transformation in the long term, with a focus on measurable outcomes today.



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Westside Future Fund

OUR VISION: A COMMUNITY DR. KING WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME

Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit formed by Atlanta’s public, private and philanthropic partners who believe in the future of Atlanta’s Westside and are committed to helping Historic Westside neighborhoods revitalize and develop into a community Dr. King would be proud to call home

English Avenue • Vine City • Ashview Heights* • Atlanta University Center

Community Retention

- We’re laser-focused on affordable housing.
- We risk losing residents as market forces take over as the area’s fortunes improve.
- We want current residents to remain in their beloved neighborhoods for years to come, even as market forces raise housing and rental prices as well as taxes.
- We’re raising funds as quickly as possible to buy real estate that will remain deeply affordable.
- So far, we have more than 300 units under control that will serve low-income residents, such as the working poor and seniors living on a fixed income, of which we are very proud.
- Much more is needed, we need everyone’s help.

Role of the Westside Future Fund

With its grounding in community retention and its compassionate approach to revitalization, Westside Future Fund is focused on creating a diverse mixed-income community, improving quality of life, and elevating and celebrating the Historic Westside’s unique history and culture. We are driving a collective effort focused on our four impact strategies with many different impact partners.

Impact Areas



SAFETY AND SECURITY



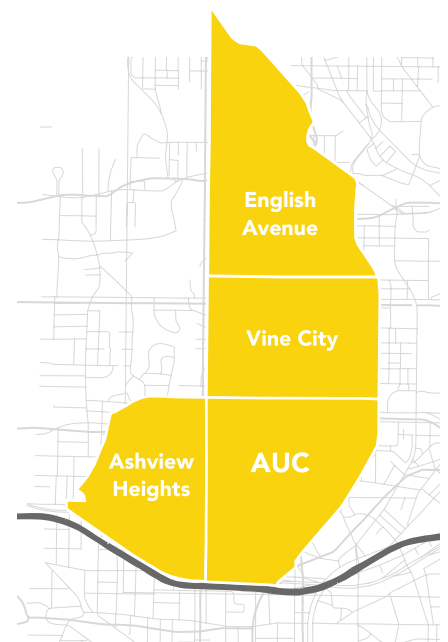
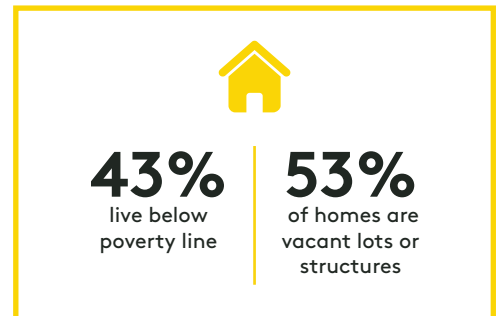
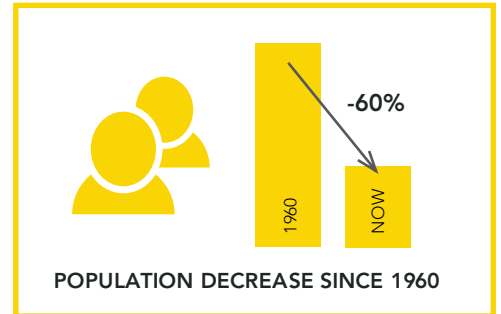
QUALITY, MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES (COMMUNITY RETENTION)



CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS



* Includes Just Us and Historic Booker T. Washington neighborhoods

Our Impact

In addition to amplifying and accelerating the work of our impact partners, we also advance our mission through the development and implementation of several plans, programs and collaborations, including:

Home on the Westside

Westside Future Fund's signature community retention initiative, designed to help residents access high-quality, affordable housing options. WFF uses a set of community retention guidelines as a consistent way to offer preference to legacy residents and those who have a connection to the Historic Westside, putting them first in line for rental and home purchase opportunities.

Boosting Washington Cluster Schools

Our partnership with Atlanta Public Schools is helping improve student outcomes with a unique model of support for the Washington cluster. Starting in 2017 with Hollis Innovation Academy in Vine City, Westside Future Fund has delivered fundraising and governance support and wraparound services to improve school performance and enable students to thrive.

Westside Volunteer Corps

Established to create opportunities for individuals from throughout Atlanta to join forces with Westside residents in the revitalization of the historic Westside. Through a variety of volunteer projects, the Corps works to strengthen community nonprofits and expand their impact with a consistent injection of human capital (i.e. volunteers).

Anti-Displacement Tax Fund

An initiative that will pay qualifying homeowners' property tax increases in the English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center communities. The program is designed to help ensure that current homeowners are not displaced due to rising property taxes.

Transform Westside Summit

Twice-monthly "town hall" meetings created to foster connection, collaboration and communication amongst community members around revitalization efforts.

Land-Use Framework Plan

A design and implementation strategy — created in partnership with the City's Department of Planning & Community Development — to revitalize the Westside, building on the good work and extensive community feedback put into previous plans by city officials, partners and community residents.

How to Get Involved



LEARN

Check out our website to learn more.

westsidefuturefund.org



ENGAGE

Attend a Transform Westside Summit or join our Westside Volunteer Corps.

westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps



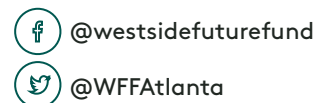
GIVE

Already convinced? Great! Donate to our efforts.

westsidefuturefund.org/donate



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A Dedicated Team



John Ahmann
President and CEO



Jaren Abedania
VP of Real Estate



Suzanne Allman
Controller



Rachel Carey
VP of Project
Financing



Justin Carr
Director of
Strategy and Impact



Brenda Dalton
Chief Operating
Officer



Sonia Dawson
Special Assistant to
the President & CEO



Lee Harrop
VP of Real Estate
Development



Amy Hoilman
Manager of
Accounting



Raquel Hudson
Director of Westside
Volunteer Corps



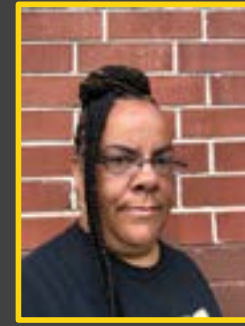
Deidre Strickland
Development
Manager



Joan Vernon
Director of Neighborhood
Engagement



Christal Walker
Staff Accountant



Robyn Washington
Development
Coordinator



Elizabeth Wilkes
Program
Coordinator



Cristel Williams
Chief
Development
Officer



Agenda

7:15AM – 7:30AM
Welcome
Summit Program Review

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

COVID-19 Updates

Craig Lucie
Storyteller
Lucie Content

7:30AM – 7:45AM
Opening Devotion

Keitra Bates
Founder
Marddy's Shared Kitchen & Marketplace

7:45AM – 7:50AM
VIDEO UPDATE:
Sister's Action Team

Makeda Johnson
Vine City Resident and Founder
Sister's Action Team

7:50AM – 7:55AM
VIDEO FEATURE:
Small Business Loans Discussion

Joe Arnold
Senior Vice President
Not-for-Profit & Government Banking
Division Manager
Truist

Gayle Cabrera
Senior Vice President
Business Banking Leader
Truist

7:55AM – 8:25AM
LIVE SKYPE PANEL:
Small Businesses on the Westside

Venessa Harrison
President
AT&T Georgia

Jay Bailey
President & CEO
Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

8:25AM – 8:55AM
Q&A

All viewers can submit questions via social media channels

Also featuring special profiles of





Nathan Jones and Harriett Williams
Co-Founder and Director of Operations
Village Micro Fund

Leonard Adams
Founder
Quest Communities

8:55AM
Closing Remarks

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM
Summit Adjourns

 @westsidefuturefund
 @WFFAtlanta
 @westsidefuturefund
 westsidefuturefund.org

Our Featured Participants

John Ahmann

President & CEO, Westside Future Fund

For more than 25 years, John Ahmann has been driven by the determination to improve the way communities and institutions function in Atlanta. From his early days working in Washington, D.C. to his positions with private, governmental, and organizational entities in the Atlanta area — including his eight years as an elected school board official in Decatur — he has focused his energy on solving the big problems whose resolutions can ultimately change Atlanta's trajectory. He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders and managing initiatives through to fruition, and has had a hand in some of the region's most important public policy initiatives and cross-sector collaborations. Along the way, John has built a vast network of individuals who are impacting Atlanta and its future.

John is a native son. He was born at Grady Hospital in Atlanta in 1965, was one of Paideia School's first graduates in 1983, and earned his BA in Political Science from Emory University in 1987. After having moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for Representative Pat Williams of Montana and then Congressman Ben Jones of Georgia, he entered Yale School of Public Private Management in 1991 and graduated with seven letters of recognition in 1993.

Within months after returning to Atlanta, John was hired by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games as the Program Coordinator of Government Relations. He was soon promoted to Manager of Federal and State Government Relations where he worked with officials from four federal government offices, including the White House. Following the 1996 Olympic Games, John worked at Edington & Wade, a public affairs firm, and then Georgia's Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism (GDITT, now the Department of Economic Development), where he led and managed strategic planning teams. From there he moved into GDITT's newly created position of Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Research.

In 2000, John was hired by the Metro Atlanta Chamber to serve as its Senior Vice President of Community Development. There he oversaw the Chamber's initiatives regarding transportation, education, arts and culture, the environment, and legislative affairs. In 2003, John bought the majority interest in a local public affairs firm, and in 2006 he established Ahmann, Inc. While in private practice in 2004, John began his engagement as the outsourced Executive Director of the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP), a group of top CEOs and university presidents that advises and supports the mayor on priorities critical to Atlanta's economic vitality. While with ACP, he was heavily involved in launching the Atlanta Beltline, the acquisition of the Martin Luther King Jr. Personal Collection, the 2015 Renew Atlanta Bond Program, and ACP's Westside Redevelopment Task Force that led to the launch of the Westside Future Fund. John is currently the President & CEO of the Westside Future Fund.

John has also been an elected public servant. He won his race for the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education in 2003, was re-elected in 2007 without opposition, and served until 2011. John was the first Paideia School alumni invited to join the Paideia School's Board of Trustees where he served for four years.

John's unwavering commitment to Atlanta and deep knowledge of specific areas such as education, economic development, infrastructure and local fiscal policy make him a unique presence in Atlanta's change landscape. He is honored to serve the board of Westside Future Fund as its President & CEO.

Our Featured Participants

Craig Lucie

Storyteller, Lucie Content

Craig Lucie started Lucie Content to shine a **light** on the positive things happening in our world and to share compelling stories that resonate with your audience. He has two decades of news experience with multiple EMMY nominations and has won an EMMY for Best News Anchor. He has also received several AP Awards for his reporting and contributed reports to newscasts that have won the prestigious Edward R. Murrow awards. The Georgia Association of Broadcasters also recognized him as the best on-air personality in the state, and the Atlanta Business Chronicle named him as one of the 40 Under 40 recipients. Craig has appeared on ABC's World News Tonight, CNN, MSNBC, FOX News and HLN. He was recently one of a few journalists invited to have dinner with President Donald Trump in the State Dining Room of The White House while covering a State of the Union Address.

Craig is chairman of the board for the Top Dogg K-9 Foundation which trains service dogs and gives them to our veterans free of charge. For the past few years, Craig has also donated his time at benefits for the Aga Kahn Foundation, March of Dimes, Trees Atlanta, The American Diabetes Association, The Covington Police Fuzz Run, 21st Century Leaders, The Atlanta Broadcast Advertising Club, The Atlanta Press Club to name a few.

Craig has mentored hundreds of college students during his time while anchoring and reporting at WSB, WESH-TV in Orlando, KTBC-TV in Austin, Texas and KZTV in Corpus Christi, Texas. Craig helped them land their first jobs in journalism and loves sharing his knowledge with students to help them craft their stories to keep an audience intrigued.

Craig has reported LIVE during numerous breaking national stories. He was on the ground in Boston shortly after the marathon bombings bringing LIVE reports to Georgia viewers. He also reported LIVE from the floor of The Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and from the Capitol for The Presidential Inauguration.

Craig graduated from Southern Methodist University majoring in Broadcast Journalism and minoring in Spanish. He also studied abroad in Madrid, Spain. Craig sits on the Atlanta SMU Alumni Board and the SMU Steering Committee which recently helped the school make history by raising more than \$1 billion dollars for their Second Century Campaign. Craig is a member of The ONE Group Class, which consists of young professionals helping raise awareness for the JDRF Georgia Chapter.

He is married to his college sweetheart and enjoys spending time with his wife, two kids and dog by exploring Georgia.

Keitra Bates

Founder, Marddy's Shared Kitchen and Marketplace

Keitra Bates is the founder of Marddy's Shared Kitchen and Marketplace.

Marddy's mission is to preserve and promote the Culinary Culture of underserved, vulnerable and rapidly gentrifying commu-

Skip to page 17 to read more about Marddy's.

nities. This stems from her personal love of traditional foods and belief in entrepreneurship.

She lives on the Westside of Atlanta with her husband and 5 children.

Our Featured Participants

D. Makeda Johnson

Vine City Resident and Founder, Sister's Action Team

D. Makeda Johnson is a legacy resident of the Historic Vine City and English Avenue Communities where she has lived and worked for nearly three decades. She is a mother, artist, and ordained minister, whose firm belief in the establishment of the authentic holistic Beloved Community, where revitalization efforts address the needs of not only brick and mortar and includes intentional actions that are inclusively designed to enhance and empower human capital (God's People). Her passion has translated into a ministry of community service.

Makeda is known for successful implementation of programs that empower youth, women, children, entrepreneurs and community development initiatives. She is the Director and Founder of Sisters Action Team, Inc. (SAT) Women Empowerment Network: a community-based organization that advocates for the needs of women, children and families in housing, health, education and economic development. SAT focuses on spiritual connectivity, physical wellness and emotional balance. In this endeavor she has held various leadership roles and provided innovative visionary leadership.

Makeda has worked tirelessly to provide tools and resources that empower and inspire hope, vision and personal transformation for the reduction of social economic disparities found within undeserved Urban communities. Inspired by her personal motto, "We must not only build

edifice we must simultaneously assist in the empowerment of our residence to ensure that they too are a part of community revitalization efforts" MJ. Her visionary leadership skills and commitment to service is reflected in the numerous neighborhood organizations and community advisory boards that she has been elected to serve on throughout her residency. Her leadership includes but is not limited to: a two-term president of Centennial Place Elementary School PTA, served a total of ten terms as the Chair (8) and Vice chair (2) of Neighborhood Planning Unit - L, Vice Chair of Vine City Civic Association, MLK/Ashby Merchant Association Vice Chair, Chair Westside Neighborhood Tax Allocation District, Co-founder/Publisher of Historic Westside News, and Chair of Neighborhood Union Health Center Community Advisory Board.

Makeda is the recipient of numerous awards, among them Georgia State Department of Human Resources Live Healthy Georgia BARR award, BET/CDC award for the outstanding community-based organization, Atlanta City Council Proclamation, Georgia State Proclamation, Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness Exemplary Leadership Awards, and Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club. She holds an AA in Social Psychology/Urban Studies, BS in Organizational Leadership, and MA in Human Services.

Our Featured Participants

Joe Arnold

Senior Vice President, Not-for-Profit & Government Banking Division Manager, Truist

Joe Arnold is Senior Vice President and team leader of Truist's Not-For-Profit & Government Banking Division in Georgia. Joe's team provides credit, depository, investment management, risk management and other financial services to nonprofit and governmental entities. His SunTrust/Truist career experiences include serving as Treasury Sales Officer and Relationship Manager to New York-based Fortune 1,000 clients. Joe has served his community through leadership on the boards of KIPP Metro Atlanta, SunTrust Foundation, YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Atlanta Mission, Greater Atlanta Christian School, GACS Foundation, and Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, Inc. Joe currently serves on West-side Future Fund's Real Estate Committee.

Gayle Cabrera

Senior Vice President, Business Banking Leader, Truist

Gayle Cabrera is Senior Vice President and Business Banking Leader for Truist, leading all small business lenders in Georgia. Gayle's BB&T/Truist experience spans over 13 years, and she leads her team with a mission to help clients achieve stability and economic success by providing a combination of financial and intellectual capital. Community involvement is an important part of Gayle's life. She currently serves as Cole Women United Cabinet Chair for United Way of Greater Atlanta and as a Board Member at Big Kidz Foundation. Gayle graduated from University of Georgia's Terry College of Business with a BBA in International Business.

Venessa Harrison

President, AT&T Georgia

As president of AT&T's Georgia operations, Venessa Harrison is responsible for developing the overall strategic direction of AT&T's public policy, corporate initiatives and philanthropic activities across the state.

Named to her current position in November 2018, Harrison works closely with state and local policy makers, business and community leaders to help make Georgia an even better place to live, work and raise families. She is focused on bringing new technologies that drive innovation and create jobs and on providing educational and economic opportunities that improve the quality of life for all Georgians.

Harrison began her telecommunications career as a telephone operator. She subsequently pursued a career-development opportunity in the network organization, quickly rising through the ranks of management within AT&T with increasing responsibility in the network, business, regulatory and external affairs departments. Prior to

her current position, Harrison served for six years as president of AT&T North Carolina.

In addition to her AT&T responsibilities, Harrison is committed to helping make a difference in the community and in the lives of others. She has a passion for charitable and educational endeavors and is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees of North Carolina A&T State University and a Member of the Board of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Executive Board of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Board of the Georgia Research Alliance, the Board of the Atlanta Committee for Progress and the Rotary Club of Atlanta. Additionally, she was recently honored by the Atlanta Business Chronicle with a 2019 Women Who Mean Business award and named to Atlanta Magazine's 2020 Most Influential List.

Harrison holds a Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. A North Carolina native, she is married with two children.

Our Featured Participants

James M. Bailey

President and CEO, Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE)

Committed to living by his personal motto, “Build As We Climb”, change agent, thought leader, entrepreneur and emerging philanthropist, James M. Bailey has dedicated his life to serving others. James was recently named President and CEO of the Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE). Honoring the great legacy and visionary business leadership of Herman J. Russell, he will lead the development of the largest center in America, driven by community impact, devoted to empowering African American entrepreneurs and small business owners; over 50,000 square feet designed to inspire ideas, create jobs, grow companies, and increase wealth in the community.

An Atlanta native and die-hard Georgia Bulldog, James has a proven track record of success, recognized by 3 U.S. Presidents for his leadership and community efforts. In 2012, James was one of eight Americans honored at the White House as a “Champion

of Change: Following in the Footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”.

A graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Atlanta, and the Regional Leadership Institute, James was also named to both the Atlanta Business Chronicle and Georgia Trend Magazine’s “40 Under 40 Best and Brightest Leaders of the Future”. He is a recipient of the coveted Whitney M. Young National Community Service Medallion, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Service Award, a New Leaders Council Fellow, member of Alpha Phi Alpha and the 100 Black Men of Atlanta.

James has served on numerous boards including The Historic Wren’s Nest in Atlanta’s West End, the Metro Atlanta Chamber Board of Advisors, the Atlanta Beltline TAD Advisory Committee, and Chairman of Citizens Trust Bank’s, Next Generation Advisory Board.

James and his wife, NBC news correspondent Blayne Alexander, live between Atlanta, Georgia and Washington D.C.

Nathan Jones

Co-Founder, Village Micro Fund

Nate is a Co-Founder at the Village and has been active in the start up scene as a founder, accelerator manager, investor, and advisor to early stage companies in Atlanta and the Bay Area before moving back to Texas for business school. Previously, Nate has worked for Goldman Sachs, Kapor Capital, ATX Venture Partners, and currently serves the Village as a board member. He has been featured on NPR, Huff Post, and the Bitter Southerner. He graduated with honors from Morehouse College and is currently an MBA candidate at the University of Texas at Austin.

Skip to page 15 to read more about Nathan's story and how Village Micro Fund first started.

Harriett Williams

Director of Operations, Village Micro Fund

Harriett is the Director of Operations at the Village Micro Fund and a serial entrepreneur. After graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelors in Management Information Systems, Harriett started her career as a Forensic Technology associate at KPMG. While there, she realized that she was not being fulfilled and that was no longer the journey she wanted to take. Harriett has always been a free spirit inspired to take the road less traveled and follow her dreams. She is passionate about creating generational wealth in black communities through entrepreneurship and land ownership. Her first entrepreneurial endeavor led her to the Village Micro Fund. VMF embodies all of Harriett’s passions. She is co-founder of Dirty Harriet, a politically charged luxury clothing brand.

Our Featured Participants

Leonard L. Adams, Jr.

Founder & CEO, Quest Community Development Organization, Inc.

Leonard L. Adams, Jr., is the Founder of Quest Community Development Organization, Inc.; a GA based 501c3 non-profit organization and currently holds the position of President and CEO. Mr. Adams is a true visionary taking this once grassroots organization starting with \$30,000.00 to an operating budget of just north of \$4M annually, \$39M in current assets and securing over \$100M in gov't grant and subsidy support for affordable housing under his leadership.

As an entrepreneur and social-entrepreneur of over 25 years, Mr. Adams has multi years of experience in developing affordable & supportive housing communities in challenged neighborhoods on Atlanta's Westside and Knoxville, TN's. He is a seasoned, results oriented leader with a strong record of accomplishment. He utilizes his Leadership, Fiscal, Strategic and Operational strengths as he navigates the non-profit community development superhighway in such uniquely challenging communities.

Mr. Adams gained his MBA from Kennesaw State University, a HUD-CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) certificate from the University of Illinois and completed his undergraduate studies at Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN.

A War Veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Adams is committed to supporting urban community and economic development that serves as a catalyst for change, through his work and equitable housing models that serve homeless and low-income individuals, families, older persons and veterans living with a disability.

Understanding the delicate balance of professional and personal growth, Mr. Adams serves on the Knoxville College Board of Trustees as Vice Chair. He also gives of his time serving on the Enterprise Community Partner Advisory Board and as an Enterprise Community Leadership Council (ECLC) member. He is a Leadership Atlanta Alumni Class of 2016 and a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

"WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE. // We believe that there is brilliance in our neighborhoods, and that the reason behind the lack of local enterprise in our local communities of color isn't because of a lack of local genius or talent, but because of a lack of opportunity. // We work everyday to be able to provide them with the funding, the education, the support, and the community they need to prove it to the rest of the world."

OUR STORY BEGAN IN THE SUMMER of 2013 in New York City.

After countless hours of studying and many sleepless nights, Donte and Nate had earned the two spots amongst 250,000+ applications to be interns at Goldman Sachs. At the time, Nate was a rising senior at Morehouse, working his second summer with the bank, and Donte was a rising junior at Morehouse, working at Goldman for his first summer. The experience that Nate, who comes from the South Dallas town of Desoto, and Donte, from Greenville, South Carolina, had at the bank was both a technical and cultural awakening. We spent lots of time meeting new friends and understanding the theory and application of finance. One very late night after spending a full day focusing on one aspect of a company's financials, Nate and Donte reflected on their backgrounds and about what they were doing and how it did not seem to have any direct impact on the "real people" who played such a massive role on where we were.

We just knew that if we put the same amount of rigor and focus that we did at work on the small businesses in our communities back at home and in similar neighborhoods across the U.S., we could create a world of change. Over the course of the summer, it was that thought that evolved into the early stages of the Village Micro Fund, or VMF. Once we returned to Atlanta after that summer ended, we put the



idea into action. We reached out to our friends from the summer who went to school in Atlanta and classmates from school who also had really rich summer experiences and would be willing to provide technical assistance to small business owners in their community. We got our first logo (Thanks Ben!), held our first meeting on the Morehouse campus, and met our third co-founder, Robin Mckinnie. The people who came to the meeting wanted to do whatever they could to support small business in West Atlanta, either with skills-based volunteering or through shopping. And soon, three of us started to realize what the "village" could become.

After two months or so we got our first client: Ricky Pulley, a religious studies student and budding chef who was known around campus for baking and selling cupcakes. His company is called, The Cupcake Tailor. Ricky came to Donte and said, "Look man, I don't know if I'm making money or losing money, I just know people love my cupcakes." Over the course of about two months, we helped Ricky find his unit costs across his cupcakes, formalize his relationship with school vendors, better tell his story to the community, and set his prices to market. He started to sell his cupcakes at the majority of the stu-

dent and school hosted events on campus and earned a lot more money from his sales. Over the course of that year, we worked with 5 more student entrepreneurs and continued to share

the idea of VMF with local merchant associations and city officials throughout Atlanta. We got our first bit of attention across the country and consequently, we were invited to speak at UC Berkeley about our experiences with other student-led micro finance groups. Although we couldn't fully express it yet, we knew we were doing something right. **We thought to ourselves, 'Who's better equipped and more willing to make a change in our community than us?'**

With that thought in mind and graduation quickly approaching, Nate—who was a senior—decided to forgo working at Goldman in order to stay in Atlanta and continue building the Village with Donte and Rob. In the summer of 2014, we got our 501(c)(3) status and hosted our first small business workshop in partnership with the West End Merchants Coalition and our local councilwoman. The workshop was a free two-day weekend session where we called on our village of friends from Suntrust, Kabbage, Twitter, Human Capital Theory, Avid Entrepreneurship, as well as students from school who were focused on building better business in the West End of Atlanta. The workshop was attended by about 15 entrepreneurs and we started to see the big pain point—access

to capital. We always knew that was the issue. The three of us had each intimately experienced the effects that a lack of access to capital could have on an entrepreneurial community. We had witnessed stagnant economic development in our communities back home, particularly in light of the fact that we originally (and still) wanted to start a bank.

Since the banks won't lend in "low-moderate income neighborhoods," we thought, 'What if we could make sure a company was investable, then the community could invest in their own businesses?' We were dreaming of cooperative neighborhoods, where the community collectively invests the money needed to support the businesses they want to see and then gets paid back as they shop locally and the business grows.

With help from our team and That's exactly what we put into action with Keitra. We originated a loan and let the community invest in it. We hosted loan funding parties with Keitra's customers, neighbors, parents from her kid's school, and our friends and partners too. Together we raised \$4,000+ at 6.5% so she could purchase what she needed to grow. While that was breathtaking, we were reminded of two really amazing things from that experience. Firstly, it was that every time we came back to WVPC to check in, an investor was at the pizzeria. People felt ownership; they were choosing to shop there instead of Dominoes or Papa Johns. Secondly, there were residents from the Westview community who were just as frustrated with the lack of development as we were. After investing, one resident went on a tear around the

restaurant saying, "We need a taqueria on the is street, and a clinic and coffee shop. We can do it." He got exactly what we were trying to accomplish, a community where residents can choose and finance what they want in their neighborhood.

Those experiences back in our hometowns were no different from our new home in Atlanta, but now we had the ability to do something about it. We knew we had to figure out a way get money to deserving businesses that just needed a little help to be great. Then we met Keitra Bates, the owner of the Westview Pizza Cafe, or WVPC, at our first small business workshop. She is an entrepreneur and community leader that just gets it. She started WVPC—an organic pizzeria in a low-income neighborhood that sources organic produce from local urban farmers, educates patrons on healthy food options, hires re-entry workers, and teaches them how to run their own businesses. Her restaurant serves as a community meeting spot for neighborhood organizations and parties. Keitra needed help reaching new customers and raising money for a new oven and a liquor license. Over the course of two months, our core team (which now included Scooter Taylor and Taylor Harris!) and a host of other villagers, connected her to the AUC student community, rebuilt her business plan from the executive summary down to the financials, helped her tell her story, and put the plan into action. There was a flood of new customers who were attracted to what she was doing. Thus, she became a vendor at the AUC schools and with companies we'd partnered with in the past. During the time we

were working with Keitra we revisited our theory about lending.

For our Spring 2016 cohort, we partnered with Morehouse's Department of Entrepreneurship and District 4 of the City of Atlanta to incubate a cohort of 10 entrepreneurs from the West Atlanta neighborhoods of English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview heights, West End, and Westview. Over the course of eight weeks, they received hands on technical assistance and panel-style discussions from our villagers at Google, Twitter, UberATL, Invest Atlanta, Fifth Third Bank, PNC Bank, Equifax, Alston Bird, Emory's Impact Investing Group, and our councilwoman from District 4. We are focused on helping them start and run stronger businesses and connect them to opportunities around the city.

Every month Keitra makes a payment on her loan to us, and every quarter the investors get an email with an update on their investment, and a text that says "you made \$X from your investment in Westview Pizza cafe."

Unbeknownst to us, Keitra's story and our model of community-directed development has been shared around the country, from Washington D.C. to Seattle. We're blown away when people call us from out of town to hear more about what we're doing!

Most recently, we've started quarterly cohorts where over the course of eight weeks we and our villagers provide hands on technical assistance, advisement, and panel-style conversations with city leaders who are dedicated to building stronger businesses in our community.





OUR START

Many communities are at risk of losing their Culinary history due to gentrification and rapid development. The customer base of local home cooks in ethnic communities is being displaced by higher earning newcomers. Because of these shifting demographics, most of the home cook's traditional distribution channels are closing. Marddy's has reimagined the way that these entrepreneurs bring their products to market.

OUR VISION

To transform the health and wealth of communities through delicious traditional home-cooked food. Real food taste good!

[Read/Listen more on NPR's All Things Considered >>](#)

RCIE is our BIG IDEA.

>> Launching in 2019, honoring the great legacy and visionary business leadership of Herman J. Russell, The Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE), will be the largest center in the country, driven by community impact, devoted to empowering African American entrepreneurs and small business owners.

>> The only initiative of its kind in the region, RCIE will be part incubator, part accelerator, part innovation lab and even part museum; changing the narrative by telling the untold and under-told stories of African American entrepreneurs and business leaders of past and present, while offering access to place and space, resources, networks, mentorship, technical assistance and education. Atlanta's nexus between community, exposure, access and opportunity. Ultimately building a prepared and capable pipeline of entrepreneurial leaders and sustainable businesses that will raise the collective prosperity of Atlanta—just as Mr. Russell did in so many ways.

>> In the heart of one of Atlanta's Opportunity Zones, RCIE will house over 50,000 SF of affordable coworking, convening, meeting and makerspace; along with a robust offering of educational, mentoring, networking, and capital resources; dedicated to inspiring ideas, creating jobs, scaling companies, and increasing wealth in the community. >> <https://rcie.org/>



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

@ PROMISE CENTER

Need food? Call!
Pick Up and Delivery available.

9-5 pm
Monday to Friday
470-346-2693

WESTSIDE EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Feeling lonely, lost, stressed, anxious or down?
Have Non-COVID-19 health related questions?
Need help managing your health condition?
Call today!

9-5 pm
Monday to Friday
404-481-5790

GOOD SAMARITAN HEALTH CENTER

Do you have questions about COVID-19
or have symptoms?
Call 24/7.

404-523-6571

Text GACOVID19 to 898211
UNITED WAY GREATER ATLANTA 2-1-1
For additional resources

www.westsidefuturefund.org/covid-19-info
List of Resources for Westside Residents

Progress from the Westside Collective Effort: Response to COVID-19

In these extraordinary times, showing up for each other is most important. The pages that follow detail how a number of partner organizations are adapting and responding to Westside resident needs.

Use the links below to jump to a specific page in this bulletin.

- [Good Samaritan Health Center](#)
- [City of Atlanta | A Message from Mayor Bottoms](#)
- [Atlanta Housing](#)
- [Atlanta City Council](#)
- [Atlanta Police Foundation](#)
- [@Promise Center](#)
- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)
- [Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation](#)
- [AT&T](#)
- [CHRIS180](#)
- [City of Refuge](#)
- [Families First](#)
- [Goodwill](#)
- [Grady/Mercy Care](#)
- [Helping Mamas](#)
- [Integrity CDC](#)
- [MercyCare](#)
- [On the Rise Financial Center](#)
- [Quest Communities](#)
- [Raising Expectations](#)
- [Sister's Action Team](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Westside Works](#)
- [YMCA of Metro Atlanta](#)

[Click here to jump to important information about COVID-19 and how to protect yourself and others.](#)

[Click here to jump to a new report on the impact of COVID-19 on communities from the Federal Reserve.](#)

Davis, Daniel Paul; Kaufmann, David; and Leone de Nie, Karen. *Perspectives from Main Street: The Impact of COVID-19 on Communities and the Entities Serving Them*. Federal Reserve System, April 2020.

[On behalf of the Westside Collective Effort, Westside Future Fund is maintaining an information and resources webpage with relevant resources to benefit the neighborhoods we serve.](#)
<https://www.westsidefuturefund.org/covid-19-info/>

24 7

CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE

(404) 523-6571

EXT. 4928

A FREE CALL

This is a FREE service that offers help with COVID-19 prevention, testing, telemedicine and more.

HOW IT WORKS

Call the helpline and answer a few questions. Your information will be reviewed and you'll receive a callback from a staff member during clinic hours.

CALLBACK HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 8am – 4pm

Friday & Saturday: 8am – 12pm

Call 911 if you are having difficulty breathing.

PROTECT YOURSELF and OTHERS

STAY HOME!

If you are **sick**, contact us or your provider.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

With soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

AVOID CLOSE CONTACT

COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough.

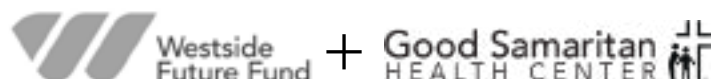
WEAR A FACEMASK IF YOU ARE SICK

If you are **NOT sick**: Most healthy people without chronic health problems do not need to wear a mask as supply is needed for health care providers.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) Division of Viral Diseases

goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19



[Back to List](#)

The services we offer at Good Sam.

MEDICAL CARE

This includes sick visits, annual checkups, and physical exams and wellness visits. We also perform vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition screenings and immunizations for school enrollment.

DENTAL CARE

We offer full restorative dental care including tooth and gum cleanings, simple extractions, fillings, bridges, crowns, full and partial dentures. Additional services are offered as available.

COUNSELING

Christian mental health counseling is available to all patients.

SPECIALITY MEDICAL

Volunteer specialists see patients on a limited basis for orthopedics, physical therapy, ophthalmology, gynecology, cardiology, pulmonology, podiatry, psychiatry, and others as available.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Group classes focus on diabetes, kidney health, and nutrition. Nutritional counseling is available for individual sessions.

FITNESS CLASSES

In partnership with the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Good Sam works to build a healthy lifestyle for our community by offering exercise options at our onsite Wellness Center.

PRENATAL CARE

We provide a low-cost, comprehensive prenatal care program inclusive of group education visits for low-risk obstetric patients.

MEDICAL NETWORK

Good Sam has a network of medical providers and clinics that perform services outside of our facility including radiology and imaging services, colonoscopy, minor and major surgery, mammograms, etc.

DISPENSARY

We maintain a dispensary to assist patients who qualify financially to receive certain medications at a reduced cost. This program is coordinated through the Center with assistance from the pharmaceutical companies.

How to become a patient?

FastTrack | Priority ZIP Codes 30318 and 30314

Can register at any time by calling: 678-515-0258 or

Email: FastTrack@goodsamatlanta.org

Requires proof of income, address, ID, and insurance card (if applicable). You must have these documents to be seen.

Non-FastTrack | Outside of priority ZIP Codes.

First come first serve and occurs on a monthly basis.

Please call 678-515-0241 for our next registration date.

We are always accepting prenatal and pediatric patients.

Please call 404-523-6571 for more information.

MORE INFO:

goodsamatlanta.org/patients



Let's keep #ATLSTRONG

#ATLSTRONG provides resources, guidance and information about COVID-19 and its impact on Atlanta. As we continue to receive updates about COVID-19, we want to provide you with accurate and timely information. You can sign up for emergency text messages and get the latest news. We are working as #OneAtlanta to provide vital resources and relief to Atlantans citywide.

MOBILE ALERTS: Receive texts with the latest and necessary information on COVID-19 by texting "ATLCOVID19" to 888777.

FAQ: Get your [key questions answered from the City of Atlanta at this link](#).

DONATE: Mayor Bottoms launched the #ATLSTRONG Fund Giving Campaign in partnership with the **United Way of Greater Atlanta** to provide immediate support to City of Atlanta residents, prioritizing food security, homelessness, small business assistance, and emergency financial assistance.

On April 21, The Mayor announced the [Strength in Beauty Fund](#) to provide grants to people in the beauty industry whose businesses have suffered.

[Donate here](#). All donations are tax deductible.

"The City of Atlanta is fully engaged with federal and state partners to coordinate a safe, urgent and rigorous response to the COVID-19 health crisis. The full effort of our dedicated team, including those appointed to the Governor's Coronavirus Task Force, is focused on ensuring the well-being of all Atlantans. New information and additional resources have been posted to the City's website, so Atlanta residents can learn more about being safe and protecting themselves and their loved ones."

— MAYOR KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS

#ATLSTRONG





INFORMATION & RESOURCES

For Housing Choice Voucher Program Participants and Applicants, and Atlanta Housing Property Owners

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) team continues to offer support to all HCVP participants, applicants and property owners. If you are a participant whose Work Requirement status has been negatively impacted by COVID-19, please email us your notice of layoff, decrease in pay, etc.

How to Connect:

- **Phone: 404.892.4700**
- **Email: HCInterimmailbox@atlantahousing.org**

For AH-Assisted Families

Atlanta Housing's Human Development Services team continues to offer services and referrals for AH-assisted residents with identified needs. Services include:

- Supportive services, employment opportunities and virtual/online training and assistance
- Meal access, transportation, home delivery services and supportive care for seniors
- Food distribution sites, community resources and virtual learning opportunities for youth
- News and information to support AH-assisted families

How to Connect:

- **Phone: 404.685.4344 or 404.347.5293**
- **Email: connectme@atlantahousing.org**

For Seniors

Seniors who are in need of food resources can call **Elder Care at 1.800.677.1116** or visit eldercare.acl.gov. They will be connected to local resources who might be able to provide assistance.

Be careful of businesses and people who are selling preventative medicine and foods, or cures. The Federal Trade Commission is currently investigating fraudulent activities. To file a complaint, go to ftc.gov and click on "file a consumer complaint."

Update from Atlanta City Council - District 3



Hey Westside,

Georgia's primary election was just moved to June 9, but we can still vote *now* by mail!

- 1 If you need to register to vote or update your address, visit <https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov> by **May 11**
- 2 Complete the absentee ballot application you already got in the mail. Return it either by mail or email a photo of it to elections.absentee@fultoncountyga.gov
- 3 You will then receive your ACTUAL ballot in the mail. Complete this ballot and return by mail (not email) using **two stamps**



Atl District 3 Community Engagement Task Force
For help: 470-250-3121 & community@atld3.org

Atlanta District 3 Community Engagement Task Force

Need help accessing resources on the Westside?

- Individuals & families
- community & city resources
- voting & Census information

community@atld3.org

 **470-250-3121**

Please call, text, or email us for free support.



www.atld3.org & [@atld3community](https://twitter.com/atld3community)

ATLANTA POLICE FOUNDATION + AT-PROMISE CENTER



- In cooperation with the Atlanta Police Department (APD) and the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) has created a comprehensive program designed to keep APD officers safe, healthy and on on-the-job, as well as securing additional resources to meet the law enforcement challenges posed by the coronavirus.
- APF has convened a coalition of private sector business and philanthropic organizations who have generously invested in providing the special law enforcement, medical and health resources required to enable APD to meet the uptick in crime, spawned in part by issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- APF is working to develop a long-range contingency plan to address the special law enforcement challenges posed by a Covid-19 emergency that lasts many months.
- APF has secured three new mobile trailers equipped with cameras and license plate readers that will be strategically deployed across business districts and neighborhoods plagued with increased criminal activity.
- APF's At-Promise Center has extended service hours while schools have been suspended and is providing lunches and groceries to youth and neighborhood families who formerly received meals at school.



Atlanta Public Schools is delivering food **one day a week each Monday from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Please note this service concludes on May 18th.**

At any of these sites, families can pull up for drive-thru service or they can walk up for service. Food distribution consists of two parts:

- **First**, students are provided with five-day meal bags, containing five breakfast meals and five lunch meals each Monday. Those meals will be available at our 10 school sites via drive thru and walk up. In addition, those five-day breakfast and lunch meals will be delivered through our bus delivery service **only on Monday** using the same route schedule.

Please check this site <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/62031> for exact times.

- **Second**, a bag of weekly groceries will also be available to families at our 5 anchor sites:
 - Bunche Middle School - 1925 Niskey Lake Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30331
 - Cleveland Avenue Elementary School - 2672 Old Hapeville Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30315
 - Douglass High School - 225 Hamilton E Holmes Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
 - Phoenix Academy (formerly Alonzo Crim High School) - 256 Clifton St., SE, Atlanta, GA 30317
 - Sylvan Hills Middle School - 1461 Sylvan Rd., SW, Atlanta, GA 30310

For the most up-to-date information, please visit >>

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/coronavirus>





AVLF's Services During the Covid 19 Pandemic

AVLF offices are currently closed. The health of our clients, volunteers, and staff is of the utmost importance to AVLF. We want to continue providing our services to clients in crisis while protecting the health and safety of our community – especially those who are most at risk.

Please refer to the following page for updates in how our services will be modified during this time: <https://avlf.org/covid-19>

Our regular intake line at (404) 521-0790 is open as normal during this time. Our phone intake hours are from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Our staff is working remotely. They have access to their email and regular phone lines. You should be able to contact AVLF staff as usual! This includes our school- and courthouse-based staff.

Click [here](#) to see our full staff and contact information, and leave a message on our main intake line at 404-521-0790 if you need assistance.

If you are calling for help related to a matter of intimate partner abuse, please call the Safe Families Office between the hours of 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 404-612-4324.

Intimate Partner Abuse / Domestic Violence

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

- Georgia's 24-hour statewide domestic violence hotline: CALL 1-800-33-HAVEN
- NCADV's National DV hotline: CALL 1-800-799-7223 or TTY 1-800-787-3224 or [CHAT here](#)
- Safe Families Office: 404-612-4324, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday ([more info here](#))
- [Technology Safety Plan](#)
- [Internet Browser Privacy Tips](#)
- [Technology & Your Safety](#)

Keeping you connected when it matters most.



COVID-19: Our Commitment

Now more than ever, it's important you have access to the Internet to stay in touch with your family, friends, work and school.

That's why AT&T will continue to offer you an affordable way to connect. In response to the public health crisis, Access from AT&T is temporarily:

Offering **two months of free service** for new customers who order Access by May 23, 2020.

\$5/mo. or \$10/mo. plus taxes and fees thereafter, depending on your speed.

Expanding eligibility based on income* and to households participating in the National School Lunch and Head Start programs.

Waiving all home Internet data overage fees.

Plus, there's NO commitment, NO deposit and NO installation fee.

Get an in-home Wi-Fi gateway and access to the entire national AT&T Wi-Fi Hot Spot network — INCLUDED at no extra cost.

Other eligibility requirements apply.

Visit att.com/access or call 1-855-220-5211 for complete information and to apply.



*Household income based on 135% or less than the federal poverty guidelines. ©2020 AT&T Intellectual Property. All Rights Reserved. AT&T, the AT&T logo, and all other AT&T marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

AT&T Offers Relief for Customers & Employees

Consistent with FCC Chairman Pai’s “Keep Americans Connected Pledge,” AT&T will continue to support our customers. Through June 30, 2020, for residential or small business customers who notify us that they are unable to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we will:



Not terminate any postpaid wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business account.



Waive any late payment fees for postpaid wireless, home phone or broadband residential or small business, U-verse TV or DIRECTV customer.*



Waive domestic postpaid wireless plan overage charges for data, voice or text for residential or small business wireless customers.*



Keep our public Wi-Fi hotspots open for any American who needs them.

Our newest benefits include more mobile hotspot data, accessory discounts, flexible return policy, curbside pick-up, door step delivery and free express shipping. To provide further relief and support, AT&T announced:



Unlimited AT&T Home Internet – All AT&T consumer home internet wireline customers, as well as Fixed Wireless Internet, can use unlimited internet data. Additionally, we’ll continue to offer internet access for qualifying limited income households at \$10 a month through our Access from AT&T program. We’ve expanded eligibility to [Access from AT&T](#) to households participating in the National School Lunch Program and Head Start. Additionally, we’re offering new Access from AT&T customers two months of free service.



Helping You Work and Learn Remotely – Businesses, universities and schools can keep their teams and classrooms connected through conference calls and video conferencing with Cisco Webex Meetings with AT&T for 90-days, and seamlessly forward calls to both mobile and landline phones with AT&T IP Flexible Reach. We’re also offering schools a way to save on unlimited wireless broadband connectivity for students. Through May 22nd, qualified schools activating new lines on qualified data-only plans for school-issued tablets, 4G LTE-enabled laptops and hotspot devices will get the wireless data service at no cost for 60 days.



Distance Learning – We’ve created a new \$10 million Distance Learning and Family Connections Fund to give parents, students and teachers tools they need for at-home learning. The fund also will provide resources to maintain meaningful connections and bonding opportunities for those isolated from family and friends. Our first contribution of \$1 million will go to [Khan Academy](#). This collaboration will improve and expand online learning resources to meet growing demand from parents, teachers and students, including those who rely on free resources and need Khan Academy the most.



AT&T Supports First Responders, Medical Personnel and Others in need impacted by COVID-19 with Nourishing Meals – First responders and medical personnel are playing a critical role in helping care for their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. That’s why we’ve committed \$5.5 million to provide nourishing meals for first responders, medical personnel, and others in need impacted by COVID-19. We’ll be collaborating with local organizations in communities most impacted by the pandemic.

* To submit a waiver request, visit: <https://att.com/help/covid-19/waive-overage-fee/>





Serving Those who Serve – AT&T is redirecting more resources to provide communication services and tools for first responders, health care professionals, educators and other essential customers. This additional support will help ensure these customers can continue providing critical support to the country and their communities, particularly to first responders using the FirstNet network.

As first responders across the country stand on the front lines to support our nation's response to COVID-19, they can have confidence knowing that with FirstNet they'll have the unthrottled connectivity and priority communications they need to respond during this public health emergency. It's this type of unparalleled emergency support that distinguishes FirstNet, the only nationwide wireless broadband communications platform dedicated to America's first responders and public safety community, from best-effort commercial wireless networks built for consumer use.

AT&T also announced three months of free wireless service for frontline nurses and physicians nationwide on the FirstNet® network. Visit [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com) to learn more.



Bonus to Employees – Thank you to all our employees who are working hard serving customers during this challenging time.

- To show our appreciation for our frontline employees, effective March 25 and until further notice: We'll pay a 20% bonus above the regular hourly base rate of pay to bargained-for employees for all time worked in the office or at home. That bonus will be included in their regular rate of pay for purposes of calculating overtime rates.
- We are recognizing first-level managers who supervise our non-management employees and first-level managers who are required to leave their homes to complete their work with a monthly appreciation bonus of up to \$1,000 for time worked, effective March 25 and until further notice.



Extending Paid Leave for our Employees – As we continue to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our business, our people and our communities, we recognize some of our employees have specific needs and cannot fulfill their roles either at the workplace or from home during this time – so we want to continue to help. We are extending our original 80 hours of paid, excused time off to up to a total of 160 hours for the following scenarios:

- Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and remain quarantined.
- Employees who are at higher risk due to an underlying health condition.
- Parents or guardians of children whose schools or daycares have closed for COVID-19 and for whom another child care option is not yet available.
- Primary caregiver for someone diagnosed with COVID-19 who is unable to provide self-care.



Connecting Military and Family at No Cost – We're helping keep our military and their families connected during this difficult time. We've worked out an agreement with the Navy Exchange Command that allows military personnel stationed on selected Navy ships to make calls to their loved ones through April 30 at no cost to the Navy or its sailors.



Reducing Retail Locations – Due to coronavirus, we will begin to close additional AT&T stores across the nation, significantly reducing our retail footprint to a minimum number of locations required to serve first responders, healthcare workers, government users and our customers. Where possible, we will keep at least one retail location open within a 20-mile radius in urban and suburban areas, and just over a 30-mile radius in rural areas. To locate a retail store that will remain open to serve your area, please visit our store tracker at www.att.com/stores.

Visit AT&T's dedicated [COVID-19 website](#) for additional details and the latest updates.



Changing Directions.
Changing Lives.

CHRIS 180's COVID-19 -related initiatives

Five of our seven counseling center locations, including the Westside Empowerment Center and At-Promise Youth and Community Center are open for in-person and telehealth therapy sessions. If you need to talk or need other resources, contact us today!

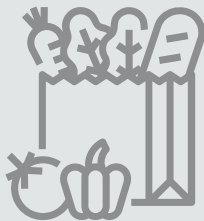
- **Westside Empowerment Center:** 404-481-5790
- **At-Promise Youth & Community Center:** 404-346-2693
- **The Atlanta Police Foundation's At-Promise Youth & Community Center,** where CHRIS 180 is the lead organization, is offering programming for youth in small groups, tutoring and food for kids and boxes of food to community residents from 11:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. daily. If you are a senior and need food delivered please call the At Promise Center 404-346-2693.
- Our community health workers are visiting clients in their homes and delivering medicine and food. Call 404-481-5790 if you need assistance.
- CHRIS 180 is continuing to provide housing resources for residents on the Westside. Please contact James Tomlin or Tameka Askew at 404-346-2693.

For more information, visit CHRIS180.org/Counseling and to donate, visit CHRIS180.org/Donate

WE'RE HERE TO HELP



Need food?



Call 470-346-2693

At-Promise Youth & Community Center

9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Monday—Friday

Pick up and delivery available Tuesdays
and Fridays from 12 noon – 2 P.M.

**Feeling lonely, lost,
stressed, anxious or down?
Have non-COVID-19 health
related questions? Need
help managing your
health condition?**

Call 404-481-5790

Westside Empowerment Center

9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Monday—Friday

**Have questions
about COVID-19 or
have symptoms?**

Call 404-523-6571

Good Samaritan Health Center

Available 24/7

**Need additional
resources?**

Text 404-523-6571

to 898211

United Way of Greater Atlanta 2-1-1

CHRIS180

Changing Directions.
Changing Lives.

CHRIS180.ORG



Workforce Training Opportunities

City of Refuge (COR) recently opened one of the city’s most modern and innovative training centers in the heart of the Westside. The COR vocational training opportunities provide community members access to Atlanta’s top professions. In 2019, the COR team assisted 480 community members to locate meaningful employment.

WORKFORCE TRAINING COURSES

Auto Technician

16 weeks; 8AM-3PM

COR is equipped with state-of-the-art tools, lifts, and parts needed to offer auto tech repair training and certification. The program is four-month intensive program requiring a 40-hour per week commitment. Students engage in classroom and online training in the mornings and in-shop training in the afternoons. Students participate in performing bulb replacement, brake jobs, diagnostics, tune-ups, water pump replacement, front-end work, and tire mounting, balancing, and alignment.

Culinary Arts

10 weeks; 8AM-2PM

Culinary Arts will provide insight into food production skills, various levels of industry management, and hospitality skills. This is an entry level course for students interested in pursuing a career in the foodservice industry. This course is offered as classroom and laboratory-based course. This course is structured to teach the fundamentals and basic concepts of Culinary techniques and cookery to include the Brigade system, cooking techniques, heat transfer, sanitation, safety, equipment usage and maintenance, menu knowledge and professionalism.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

4 weeks; 9AM-3PM

Certified nursing assistants (CNA’s), play a vital role in healthcare delivery working under the supervision of a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or physician. CNA’s answer patient call lights, serve meals, and check blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiration. CNA’s visit with patients while helping them change position, walk, bathe, and eat. CNA has a great deal of patient contact and are important in developing patient relationships that foster trust. CNA’s employed by home health agencies allow patients who need additional care to recover at home rather than in hospitals or nursing homes. They assist with medications, change linens, and teach family members to care for the patient during recovery.

Additional Cohorts include

- Security (2 Weeks)



For more information and to enroll, contact Workforce Innovation Hub Director, Dominick Preyer at: applicant@cityofrefugeatl.org or visit us at www.cityofrefugeatl.org.



**Families
First**

Making a Difference

HELPING FAMILIES BUILD RESILIENCE FOR 130 YEARS

**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

The Families First team is working around-the-clock to help more children and families in our community than ever. If you need help, call us at 404-853-2800.

As we have done for the past 130 years, Families First is here for children and families in times of crisis. We are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic here in metro-Atlanta by stabilizing families and providing counseling and other critical services to help them find hope in the face of unprecedented adversity.

Counseling: Call 404-853-2844 for a counseling appointment

The impacts of social isolation and job loss are increasing anxiety and depression. Our counselors are available via telehealth and no one will be turned away if they are unable to afford a co-pay. We are currently hiring additional counselors and providing free telemental health training to expand services to licensed counselors.

Georgia Center for Resources & Support (GACRS)

We launched virtual IMPACT trainings required for foster parents, along with counseling services, to keep the Foster Care pipeline open and prepared for the anticipated surge in placements.

Foster Care Services and Support for Youth Aging out of Foster Care

Includes our Independent Living Program and our Second Chance Home for pregnant and parenting teens from the Foster Care system or formerly homeless, where our team has been providing 24/7 in-person support services since early March.

Adoption Services and Post-Adoptive Support

Our adoption team launched virtual orientations and placed our 6th infant in six months in April.

Georgia Adoption Reunion Registry

Virtual counseling and all Registry services available.

Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Our TAPP program staff are delivering diapers and baby essentials to our parenting teens, along with counseling services. Donations are needed!

Mother and Child Early Education Program for Hispanic and Latinx Families (Chispa)

Our boots-on-the-ground staff continue to supply diapers and personal care products, along with one-on-one virtual educational sessions for mothers and their preschoolers. Through a partnership with the Latin American Association we are providing parenting workshops and counseling services to hundreds of Spanish-speaking families.

Parenting and Co-Parenting Programs

Our Parenting Plus team launched new approaches to help parents navigating court-ordered access, visitation and educational programs in order to connect with their children.

Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families

**For more information call 404-853-2800 or visit www.familiesfirst.org
To donate, go to FamiliesFirst.org/GiveNow**

Take Our Career Center with You!

Be a part of the response to this critical need.

Employers are hiring now!

Get connected through our virtual career services.

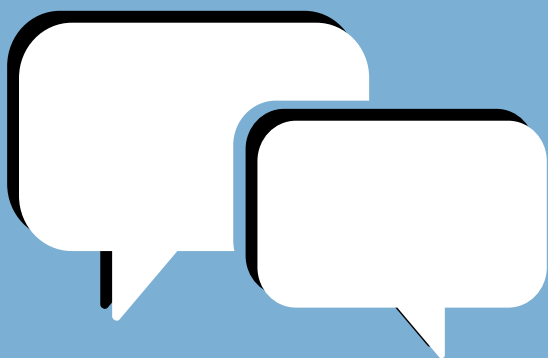


Register or log on to CareerConnector.org to have live chat with your virtual career coach.

Call us at
1.844.344.WORK
to speak directly with our
Career Services staff.



Sign up for one-on-one
appointments with
Career Center staff.



Don't have WiFi at Home? | Resources for free or low cost internet.

Spectrum and Charter are offering 60 days of free access for some households.

To learn more about the Spectrum and Charter Communications offer call 1-844-488-8395

Comcast: www.internetessentials.com/covid19#thingstoknow&all_HowdoIgetthepromo

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Grady Health System clinics are currently open and treating patients in the safest way possible – by telephone, by virtual visit, or in-person, if clinically necessary.

Grady Health System's Asa G. Yancey Health Center
is located on the Westside at:
1247 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW

If you or your client are experiencing any symptoms of respiratory illness:

- fever
- new cough
- new muscle aches
- new diarrhea *or*
- new shortness of breath,

PLEASE DO NOT COME INTO THE OFFICE!

Instead, **please call the Yancey Center at (404) 616-2265 M-F from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 404-616-1000 for advice on next steps to receive care.**

Also, If you fill your prescriptions at the Grady Pharmacy, you can enroll in free prescription delivery by mail. **Call 404-616-6218 M-F from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email rxmailorder@gmh.edu. If you do not have your provider's voice-mail number, please call (404) 616-7777.**

Details on Grady's revised visitation policy [here](#). Frequently asked questions and general COVID-19 information from Grady [here](#).

HELPING MAMAS

ATLANTA

Helping Mamas has continued to serve families impacted by COVID-19 throughout Georgia using a no contact model. We have partnered with more agencies who are continuing to support their communities such as food pantries, local cooperative ministries, residential support agencies, homeless shelters and others.



Our staff is taking orders online via email and over the phone. These orders are then assembled by staff and arrangements are made for our local agencies to pick up their requested items. We are able to assist families with essential items for their children. These items include diapers, wipes, hygiene supplies, safe sleep options, clothing, and more.

770.985.8010.

info@helpingmamas.org

4487 Park Drive Suite A1

Norcross, Georgia 30093

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To: Program Affiliates and Partners

EXTENDED COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS FOR INTEGRITY TRANSFORMATIONS CDC

MISSION STATEMENT:

Founded in 1995 and incorporated in 2003, Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation (ITCDC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is committed to transforming English Avenue, Vine City, and other contiguous communities within the 30314 and 30318 zip codes. Through direct services, leveraging of resources, community organizing, and advocacy, we will build strong and healthy neighborhoods and stimulate holistic community development. Integrity promotes positive change and self-sufficiency to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of those we serve. Integrity works with their corporate partners to understand their workforce needs and trains individuals to seamlessly fit into their organizations.

NET PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Integrity staff developed the Westside NET program to serve those in Atlanta's Westside communities having the greatest difficulty in locating employment. The two-week program offers the following: Soft Skills Training, Career Exploration, Basic Computer Training, Interviewing Techniques & Skills, Dressing for Success, Financial Management, Basic Customer Service, We offer GED / Adult Literacy Services. Please apply online at <https://www.integritycdc.org>. The next class starts on May 11, 2020, online. Internet and computer access required.

WESTSIDE BEAUTIFICATION:

Westside Beautification Landscape Technician Training Program (WBLTTP) provides a hands-on learning experience that can lead to immediate employment or self-employment. The Beautification Team also provides landscaping services to senior citizens on the Westside. Additionally, our Teams care for vacant and abandoned properties in the community. If you are in need of our services please register at <https://www.integritycdc.org>

WESTSIDE BRIDGE:

Westside BRIDGE is a 2-week long program that offers employment and career pathway solutions for individuals with criminal backgrounds. Our re-entry program is dedicated to getting ex-offenders back into the workforce and on track to becoming productive and caring members of society. Additionally, if you have been affected by COVID-19 we ask that you register with Westside Bridge so we can connect you with community resources to support you during this time of need. You can register here: <https://www.integritycdc.org>



Mercy Care continues to serve our clients in this difficult time.

- Mercy Care's fixed site locations at City of Refuge, Decatur Street, Gateway Center, Chamblee, and CHRIS180 are open and operating with limited visits based on CDC guidelines. All patients will be screened for COVID-19 upon entry to the clinic.
 - Pediatrics and dental visits are limited to emergencies only
 - Patients at high risk for COVID-19 will be receiving calls from Health Educators to help them stay safe
- To maintain social distancing whenever possible, we are encouraging patients to use our online patient portal, MyChart, to communicate with their providers (<https://mercyatlanta.org/mychart>).
Patients with a scheduled appointment should also use MyChart to fill out a COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to coming in to the clinic.
- We've temporarily suspended all mobile clinics. However, Mercy Care's Street Medicine team is still going out to serve clients who are unsheltered.
- Mercy Care is working with Georgia's COVID-19 Task Force as a member of the Homeless and Displaced Persons Subcommittee. To serve individuals experiencing homelessness, Mercy Care is coordinating and offering COVID-19 testing, working with shelters on education and referrals, and packaging and distributing hand sanitizer.

Patients over the age of 60 or those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath) should call Mercy Care before coming to the clinic (678-843-8600).

Updates on Mercy Care's COVID-19 response here:

<https://mercyatlanta.org/covid19/>



Financial Resources Government Stimulus Act (Coronavirus Tax Relief)

Direct Cash Payment

What you need to know

This is a one-time direct fund disbursement for each tax filer, dependent children and those receiving social security.

Who gets funds?

Not everyone will receive a distribution – there are specific qualifications.

Here is link to IRS website for specifics <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

How much will I get?

\$1,200 payments to adults with annual incomes up to \$75,000 annually, and a smaller amount for anyone making up to \$99,000 annually if they meet certain qualifications (additional guidelines exist for those filing married and head of household)

\$500 per child

Resource Link: Calculator to figure out how much my family will receive and for more information:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/coronavirus-stimulus-check-calculator/>

When will the funds arrive?

For most Americans, the money is likely to arrive in April via direct deposit. Mailed checks may take longer.

How will the funds get to me?

Go back to your 2019 Tax filing – do you have a bank account on file? If yes, then the funds will automatically be calculated based on how you filed (joint with spouse, along, with children etc) and funds will be deposited to account used.

If you have not yet filed 2019 taxes then go back to 2018 tax filing and look there to calculate amount and where funds will be sent.

NO bank account on file? A check will be sent to address on file.

When the IRS web site <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus> is updated it will answer questions about special situations like:

- I've moved since filing, where will my check be mailed?
- I used a temporary reloadable card and not able to access the card or I can't find it?
- I closed my bank account, what will happen if the IRS sends funds to a closed account?

Filing Unemployment in Georgia

Georgia Department of Labor (GA DOL) manages the Unemployment Insurance Program for residents of Georgia.

1. What is unemployment insurance?

[Read this: https://www.investopedia.com/terms/u/unemployment-insurance.asp](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/u/unemployment-insurance.asp)

2. How do I file and where? See Resources link to [Georgia Dept of Labor](#) (next page)

3. I was 'furloughed' and not totally laid off – can I file? Yes.

4. I only get 1099 and not a W2 – can I file? YES, temporary relief is included for 'gig' and self-employed

5. What should I expect during the process and while waiting?

You will file via online web site and must have all this lined up BEFORE you go out to the website to apply:

1. You must have an email address – preferably personal and not shared and make sure emails from GA DOL do not go into your junk or spam folders
2. Javascript must be enabled and pop-up blockers should be set to allow pop-ups to use this application.
3. You must have a GA driver's license or GA ID card.
4. Your social security number, as a claim cannot be filed without a social security number
5. Employer-issued separation notice or letter, if available (if your employer did not give you anything, proceed to file anyway)
6. Names, addresses, and dates of employment of all employers for the last 18 months
7. Alien number and expiration date for non-citizens
8. SF-50 or SF-8 form and paystubs for federal employment in the last two years
9. Most recent DD-214, orders to report or of release, military earnings/leave statement, or W-2 form(s) for former military personnel
10. Personal banking account and routing number for direct deposit
11. A copy of your most recently filed income tax return or quarterly estimated income tax payment record(s), if applying for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and you are self-employed or a farmer

Be VERY careful to review your answers BEFORE you submit. If your request is declined you CAN NOT reapply. You would have to appeal and that will slow down your ability to start receiving funds.

6. How much can I get?

And what extra funds are available for people impacted by COVID19 layoff?

Your weekly benefit amount is calculated by combining your wages from the two highest quarters in your base period and dividing that number by 42. Your weekly benefit amount is subject to a weekly minimum of \$44 and a maximum of \$330. Benefits are available for up to 20 weeks.

SPECIAL temporary extra funds:

In addition to regular state unemployment insurance, individuals will receive an additional \$600 per week for up to four months. In total, unemployed workers will receive 39 weeks of unemployment benefits, which will carry them through to the end of 2020.

7. When do I start getting funds?

You will be required to set up your personal page on the GA DOL web site where you should log on daily for any updates.

8. How long will the benefits last?

That depends and you will be advised by GA DOL after you apply. Here is a calculator that might be helpful: <https://fileunemployment.org/georgia/ga-calculator/>



RESOURCE LINKS

Go [HERE](#) for answers to the questions above for individuals/families:
<https://dol.georgia.gov/unemployment-benefits>

Go [HERE](#) to file a claim: (turn off your pop-up blockers)
<https://www.dol.state.ga.us/fileaclaim/>

For small business owners – you have some NEW requirements.
Learn more [HERE](#):
<https://dol.georgia.gov/blog/new-information-filing-unemployment-partial-claims-and-reemployment-services>

Call or email On the Rise if you experience any issues.

Our coaches are here to offer assistance to make sure you get all that is being made available to you.



www.ontherisefc.org

404-228-1569 ext 100



Dear Internal and External Stakeholders,

We hope all is well with you, your families and your organizations. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers as we live thru the current crisis in our communities.

We are all in unprecedented times once again, as history has shown, with the ongoing spread of the novel (new) coronavirus known as COVID-19. Such times are changing at incredible speeds, causing for swifter adaptability of the Quest Communities operations and activation of both short-term and long-term provisions and solutions to ensure all of our residents and employees have minimal to no hardships during this time.

With the recent state and local directives, and the potential for future mandates, I personally want to ensure that every member of our Quest team and extended family is informed on an ongoing basis.

Quest Communities seeks to ensure the safety of our staff and residents. We will continue to monitor this health and financial crisis very closely and will provide updates as needed to ensure we are doing everything we can for our customers, employees and communities.

Below are the actions we have taken to date to address the impact of this crisis:

Risk Management

- At the onset Quest Communities conducted our Business Continuity Plan 1 day drill to assess a remote working environment and address any breaks in services and operations offered in the wake of a disaster specific and non-specific to Quest Communities.
- Quest Communities risk management team of professionals assessed this Covid19 crisis and determined Quest as an agency would be under a MEDIUM level threat which consisted of an identified number of team members that will report to the offices while practicing social distancing during normal work hours while the rest of the employees working remotely.
- With the new state and local directives, the threat level has been lifted to a HIGH until further notice and 100% of Quest operations staff will be working remote working environment. Quest has 85% capability of successfully working remotely. The 15% that cannot work remotely based on the origin or scope of work is the Property Management Maintenance Team (PMMT). The PMMT developed a plan to scale down to 50% remotely due to having to address all life safety work orders.
- While staff is working remotely, incoming calls may be answered by an automated attendant inviting the caller to select an extension. We have the ability to forward our calls so that team members can receive calls even when they're not in the office, as well as check voicemail remotely.



Business Operations

- Current operations are remotely. Our Accounting department is ensuring that Account Receivables, Accounts Payable, Grants and Contracts Management are functioning well. We are experiencing some expected delays due to the shift to a remote working environment and aligning activities with external partner processes. Signs are showing some small delays. We are also experiencing additional expenditures due to the cost of hardware and software necessary to move all operations remotely.

Human Resources

- We are proud to inform you that Quest has not had to have a reduction in our workforce due to the Covid19 crisis. We are watching this area very closely because it is a sensitive area, for our customers and our staff.
- We serve the most vulnerable and human resources are necessary to ensure that our customers are able to be resilient and successful during this health and financial crisis. We will do all that we can to ensure that our services are well staffed and that our employees don't experience any employment hardships.
- We are also monitoring our staff's health and well-being. We are securing additional protective gear for staff and conducting regular check-in's to keep our team connected and informed.

Good Neighbor and Partner

- We are working closely with our Federal, State and Local governing bodies to align our efforts as we continue to serve our vulnerable populations and others. Information about additional community Food, Medical and other services are being distributed to our resident on a regular basis. We are consistently assessing needs and providing support where needed.
- We are participating with other non-profit sector agencies in our to maximize dissemination of information and strategize on how we will collectively ensure all of our residents and staff continues to be served.

Resident Services

- Our Quest Cares team will not be entering occupied residences nor meeting in-person for case management services. Group therapy and individuals sessions will be conducted remotely to the best of our and the resident's ability in an effort to protect both our team members and our residents. This will be in effect until further notice. We will continue to update you as things change.
- Quest Cares team will make weekly health and safety check-in calls on all residents and continue to conduct routine case management sessions remotely.

Real Estate Development (RED)

- Quest RED activities are approved as essential services. We currently have 5 projects under construction. We will continue to work with the general contractors to keep the projects moving forward to the best possible ability based on the current industry environment.
- We have requested the GC's to provide us important insight on the impact Covid19 is having on their company, the sub-contractor market and any indicators from the construction industry.
- Due to the newness and unknown of Covid19 we are experiencing shortages in manpower, delays in work scopes and coordination disruptions of 3rd party services but hopeful this will straighten out soon.



Property Management

- In our 19 year history, we have only had 4 evictions. Property management was informed that there will be NO evictions during this crisis.
- The PM team is working remotely to the best of their ability. New software solutions are being discussed that will allow property managers to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.
- Our Maintenance team is truly angels they are one of the few departments that have to actually perform their jobs on-site. At this time they are only addressing life safety work orders.

Quest Payee Services (QPS)

- State-wide QPS services a very vulnerable population and provides an important fiduciary service for them. Both Atlanta and Valdosta offices are closed to in-person activities. Quest Loadable Debit cards are issued to beneficiaries for shopping and personal needs. We will continue to manage their major expenses such as rent, phone, utilities etc.

It fills my heart seeing the commitment our team has shown especially during this time. They have stepped up with understood reservation and embraced the mere fact that we still have residents to house and serve. We also recognize that there are many more vulnerable individuals that need safe arousable housing and services and anticipate an increase in need during and after this crisis

Under the leadership of Dr. Faye Floyd, Chair of the Quest Communities Board, the entire Board of "Special" Directors, the Executive Officers and I want you all to know we appreciate your loyalty and continued support. "It may be difficult but it's Possible" unknown

Wishing you peace and great health,

Leonard L. Adams Jr., President and CEO

For the latest information on how Quest is responding to COVID-19, please visit the following link:

<https://www.questcommunities.org/covid-19.html>

Raising Expectations



For over 20 years, **Raising Expectations** has served Westside youth with out-of-school time enrichment, mentoring, and career programs focused on students and young adults.

In response to the new demands students and families face in adopting digital learning tools and processes, Raising Expectations is conducting hands-on, virtual sessions to assist students and parents. Their focus has been on helping “close the digital divide” and support families in addressing their general needs.

Visit <http://www.raisingexpectations.org> to learn more.

Sister's Action Team



Sister's Action Team's mission is to empower women to become proactive change agents for themselves, families, and their communities. The organization’s services include personal development coaching, economic literacy and health wellness seminars and programs that support holistic wellness.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Sister’s Action Team has sprung into action to serve Westside seniors by distributing resources including useful health information, face masks, hand sanitizer, and thermometers. The Sister’s Action Team staff is also assisting seniors by phone to address specific needs.

Westside Seniors - if you are suffering from loneliness due to social distancing:

Call 888-524-7143 to speak to a Sister’s Action Team team member.



United Way of Greater Atlanta

If you are looking for resources now, please reach out to United Way of Greater Atlanta's 2-1-1, a full-service contact center which connects people to the assistance they need to address everyday challenges of living as well as those that develop during emergencies.

United Way 2-1-1 is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year in 140 different languages.

Ways to connect to 2-1-1:

- Text the keyword "211od" to 898-211 to receive Corona Virus resources
- Dial 2-1-1 and speak with a Community Connection Specialist
- Visit 211online.unitedwayatlanta.org and search our comprehensive database or chat with a Community Connection Specialist
- Email a Community Connection Specialist at contact211@unitedwayatlanta.org
- Download the 2-1-1 mobile app to access our comprehensive database



WESTSIDE WORKS
www.westsideworks.org

Westside Works is a long-term neighborhood program focused on creating employment opportunities and job training for residents of the Westside community, including Vine City, English Avenue, Castleberry Hill and other contiguous neighborhoods. Westside Works is a partnership among Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA), Integrity Community Development Corporation (Integrity CDC), Per Scholas, Invest Atlanta, Metro Atlanta YMCA, The Arthur M. Blank Foundation, and Atlanta Workforce Development Agency.

WESTSIDE WORKS TRAINING PROGRAMS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Managed by the Metro Atlanta YMCA, the 3-week Georgia Quality CDA (Childhood Development Associate) Training Course prepares students to work with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families in a variety of settings. During the course, students work towards completing the 120 hours of professional education and 480 hours of On the Job Training with the Metro Atlanta YMCA Early Learning Centers required to apply for their CDA Credential.

CONSTRUCTION

Led by Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA), Construction Ready students participate in a four-week training program that includes hands-on skills building and industry certifications. Graduates of the program have been placed in construction-related employment opportunities throughout metro Atlanta.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

Students participate in a three-week course that includes digital literacy, procedural skills and industry certification. Graduates have successfully been employed in hospitals, long-term care facilities and home health care settings.

EDUCATION

Facilitated by Literacy Action Inc., participants who face challenges in meeting the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) requirement of Westside Works training programs receive instructor-led assistance. At the completion of 40 hours of class time, students become eligible for a retest. Those who pass are placed in a priority position when they are referred to the training program of choice.

CULINARY

In partnership with Levy Restaurants, the 6-week Culinary Academy introduces students to kitchen safety protocols, international cuisine, baking and pastry, restaurant simulations, and an opportunity to receive Serve Safe Certification. Graduates will have a path to employment through Levy Restaurants venues, as well as dining establishments throughout metro Atlanta.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Led by Per Scholas, Inc., the Information Technology program is an eight (8) week course providing hands-on instruction on troubleshooting and maintaining computers, software, networks and mobile devices. Upon graduation, students will receive a CompTIA A+ certification. In addition, Per Scholas and General Assembly are partnering to offer a 17-week Web Development program. 5-Weeks of hands on training at Per Scholas will prepare you for General Assembly's 12-week Web Development Immersive program.

For more information and to enroll, call 404-458-6413 x121 or email info@westsideworks.org.



YMCA of Metro Atlanta Childcare Program **for First Responders, Hospital Staff and Frontline Workers**

YMCA sites across metro Atlanta are ready to provide high-quality childcare services for first responders, hospital employees, police department staff and other frontline workers. We understand that you are caring for members of our community, and we look forward to caring for your children so that you may continue to do so.

Registration is now open.

See full list of available childcare locations below, along with opening dates.

NOTE: Registration for each day's session closes at 6:00 pm the day before.

How to Register:

1. Go to spiritonline.ymcaatlanta.org.
2. Create a SPIRIT Online Account. Once you have done this, you'll use this login to register from here on.
3. Click on the red "Find Programs/Register Online" tab at top of the page.
4. You may select the branch you would like (see locations list below) or simply select "all Branches"
5. Enter keyword "Responders" into the keyword search field and then click the grey "search" button at bottom left.
6. The search will return all sessions available at this time. Simply select the sessions you would like to register for and add them to your shopping cart.

If you have trouble in the registration process, click on "live chat" for help.

Program Details:

- This program is open to individuals who are working to meet the needs of the community, including medical professionals, law enforcement, grocery workers, and others who cannot work from home at this time.
- Please see location list below for ages that can be accommodated at each center.
- Registration for each child will be on a per day basis.
- Cost for the program is \$40 per day per child, and is non-refundable.
- Care is available from 5:30 am–8:00 pm.
- All children should bring a water bottle and their own peanut-free breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.
- Children are encouraged to bring books and homework to complete during the day.
- All children must be dropped off between the hours of 5:30 am – 9:00 am and picked up between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. This timing will allow us to ensure our safety protocols. No children will be allowed to be dropped off or picked up between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, with the exception of emergencies.
- There are limited spaces available at each childcare site. Once a site is filled, the registration system will indicate that it is full.
- When registering online, you will need to provide emergency contacts, authorized pick-up information and any allergies or special needs.
- All children will have their temperature checked on arrival each day. Children with a temperature of 100 or higher will not be allowed to stay.



THE YMCA OF METRO ATLANTA

Meeting Our Community's Needs in Times of Crisis

The metro Atlanta area—like communities around the world—is facing unprecedented challenges related to COVID-19. At the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, we're making plans to continue serving those who need us most during these difficult times, with essential services that seek to ensure our community stays healthy and safe.

Childcare for First Responders: The Y is one of the largest providers of early learning and afterschool programming in Atlanta, providing education for more than 7,000 children annually across metro Atlanta and northeast Georgia. As most early learning and afterschool programs have been forced to close in response to the coronavirus, we have activated a program that serves children ages six weeks to 12 to support essential hospital staff, first responders, and frontline workers (law enforcement, firefighters, grocery store workers, etc.) who must continue working. This program will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to best serve the needs of these hard-working caregivers.

We launched the program on March 23 for school-aged children and on March 30 for early learners at select locations and are expanding in response to demand. We have the capacity to serve up to 2,000 children and expect to reach an enrollment of 1,000 in the coming weeks. Based on guidance from the CDC, we are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of children and staff and working with philanthropic partners to ensure that the cost of the program is not a barrier for frontline workers. To keep the program affordable, the cost is \$200 per child per week (shared by families and hospital partners), but the true cost is more than \$225 per child per week. This leaves a funding gap of \$25,000 - \$50,000 per week, depending on enrollment.

A family with two children in our childcare program, whose father is a police officer and mother is an ER nurse, shared that without the Y childcare program for healthcare and first responders, they had no idea how they would be able to work.

This vital program allows them to continue their critical work on the front lines of this crisis and know their kids are safe.



Hunger Relief: The Y already plays a significant role in meeting the needs of food insecure families in our community, serving more than 30,000 families each year before the current crisis. In the face of COVID-19 challenges, we are leveraging our existing programs and strong partnerships to support 6,000 families weekly through hunger relief efforts. To date, we have:

- Provided more than 3,500 free snacks and dinners at six Y locations for children under 18 and 400 grab and go meals to four of our early learning centers in Atlanta and northeast Georgia.
- Packed 665 backpacks (feeding a family of 4) distributed at seven of our Y locations.
- Packed and distributed 690 backpacks supporting Marietta City Schools' students and families in low-income apartment complexes across Cobb County.
- Provided 125 backpacks to the senior legacy residents living in Vine City and English Avenue neighborhoods, through a partnership with the Westside Future Fund.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to provide these essential hunger relief programs as well as expand our food pantry program to provide community members with tens of thousands of pounds of food. As we continue to serve our most vulnerable neighbors through these efforts, we anticipate costs to exceed \$20,000 each week.

Operation REACH: A third priority is our members' wellbeing, specifically those over the age of 65. Because Y facilities are often a home away from home for seniors, we have implemented Operation REACH to connect with and engage our more than 6,000 seniors and vulnerable groups during this difficult time, offering resources and support to keep them connected and healthy. From delivering food to their homes to sending a daily motivational message, we are staying connected.

Now, more than ever, the Y relies on the generous support of our philanthropic partners and supporters, and funding from the Anthem Foundation will have an immediate impact on the lives of the children and first responders who need our support right now.

Thank you for considering this request. For more information on supporting our emergency programs, please contact **Amanda Minix, Director of Development, at amandam@ymcaatlanta.org or 404-626-3233.**



YMCA School Closure Meal Services

The Young Men's Christian Association of Metropolitan Atlanta INC. is participating in unanticipated school closure meal services. Free snacks and dinners will be provided Mondays through Fridays to all eligible children up to 18 years of age.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:

[Arthur Blank Family Youth YMCA](#) — Snack & Dinner, M-F, 2-4 p.m.

[South Dekalb Family YMCA](#) — Snack & Dinner, M-F, 2-4 p.m.

[Wade Walker Family YMCA](#) — Snack & Dinner, M-F, 2-4 p.m.

[Atlanta Classical Academy](#) — Snack & Dinner, M-F, 2-4 p.m.

[Villages of Carver YMCA](#) — Snack & Dinner, M-F, 2-4 p.m.



Do you have general questions about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Fulton County Board of Health has created a hotline to answer your questions and provide information on **how to get tested**.

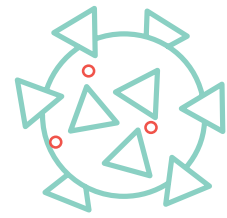
You can **call**
404 - 613 - 8150

between the hours of **9AM and 5PM**
to get your questions answered.



Call first!

Avoid exposing others to COVID-19



“I think I have COVID-19. Should I seek medical care?”

Call first.

If you think you have COVID-19, stay home and call your doctor’s office, urgent care, or telehealth line. They can advise you on whether you need medical care. If you do need care and must leave your home, wear a cloth face cover.



“I’m sick with COVID-19, and my symptoms are getting worse. Should I go to urgent care or the ER?”

Call first.

Call to find out if and how soon you need care. If you must leave home to get care, wear a cloth face cover.

Why call first?

Call first so that you don’t leave your home unless you really need to. Many people with COVID-19 don’t need medical care or testing. When they leave their homes for care that they don’t need, they put others at risk. Seek care if you need it. But call first to be sure.

And call first so that if you DO need care, the doctor’s office, clinic, or hospital knows that you’re coming. They may want you to use a special entrance or go to a special area.

HW 040820

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Coronavirus is also called COVID-19.

What you need to know.

Always follow official health advice.

COVID-19 is a **virus** that can make you **sick** or **unwell**.

You can catch this virus from **being near people who are sick with the virus**. The virus can come from breathing infected air or touching your face. People of **all ages** can be infected. It is **not serious** for **most** people, including children. **But some people will get very sick and die**. That is why it is so important to **protect yourself and others** from getting the disease.

- *Wash your hands with soap and water.
- *Do not touch your face.
- *Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- *Stay home if you are sick and call your doctor for advice.
- *Wear a mask and gloves if you are sick and are around other people.
- *Stay home if you don't have to go out.

Why are we **staying home**?

When we stay home or stay away other people we **stop COVID-19 from spreading between people**. People will get less sick. **And if you have to go out, wear a cloth mask to cover your nose and mouth**.

Whether you're home or out, **stay 6 feet away** from other people. This is called **social distancing**. It helps keep the virus from spreading.

These are COVID-19 symptoms. Call you doctor if you feel sick

Fever - this is a high temperature of 100.4 or more in adults.

Cough

Being tired

Hard time breathing

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: Do not handle pets or other animals while sick. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate.

If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

10 ways to manage respiratory symptoms at home

If you have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider. They may tell you to manage your care from home. Follow these tips:

1. **Stay home** from work, school, and away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



2. **Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



3. **Get rest and stay hydrated.**



4. If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



6. **Cover your cough and sneezes.**



7. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



8. As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask.



9. **Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



10. **Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



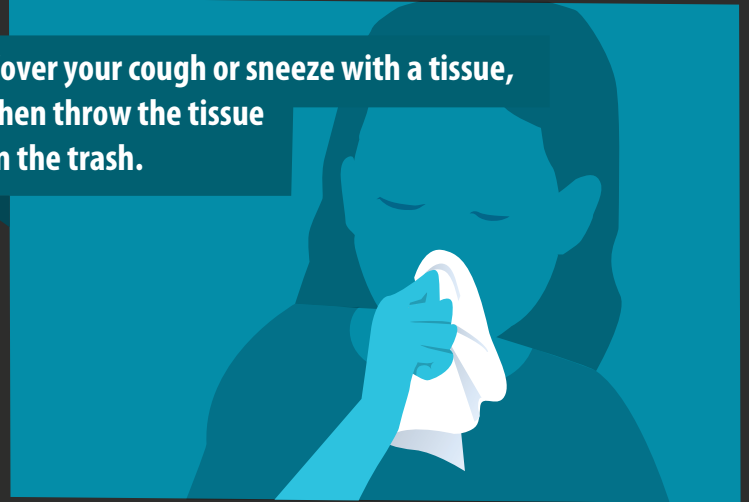
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

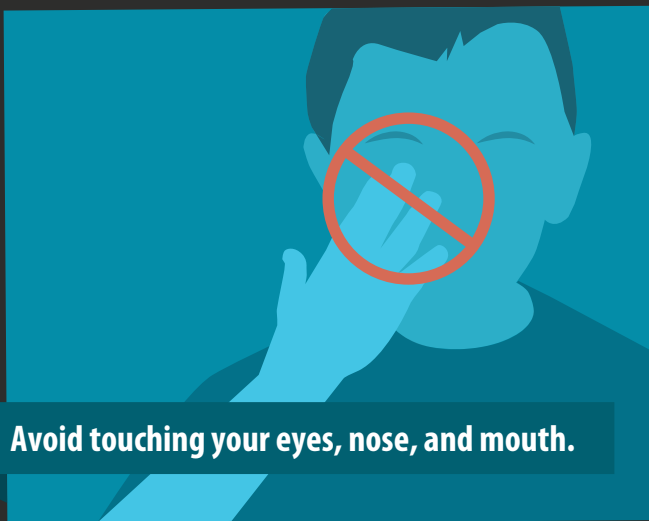
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free COVID-19 Testing Available



WHAT: In partnership with The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) are providing FREE COVID-19 testing for anyone experiencing symptoms, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath; those who think they may be infected, essential workers, and those who think they have been exposed to someone who has been infected.

WHEN: Begins Thursday, April 30. End date is TBD based on needs.
10am – 4pm, Monday through Friday

WHERE: The Home Depot Backyard at Mercedes-Benz Stadium

TO GET AN APPOINTMENT: Please register at <https://atlanta.curativeinc.com/welcome> to get an appointment time. For the health and safety of the medical team and others coming to get tested, please pre-register.

Drive-up testing and walk-up testing are both available. If you test positive, you will be told on-site and connected with medical personnel.

If you require help setting up an appointment, call the COVID hotline at Good Samaritan Health Center Atlanta at 404-523-6571, ext. 4928.

MOST. Important.

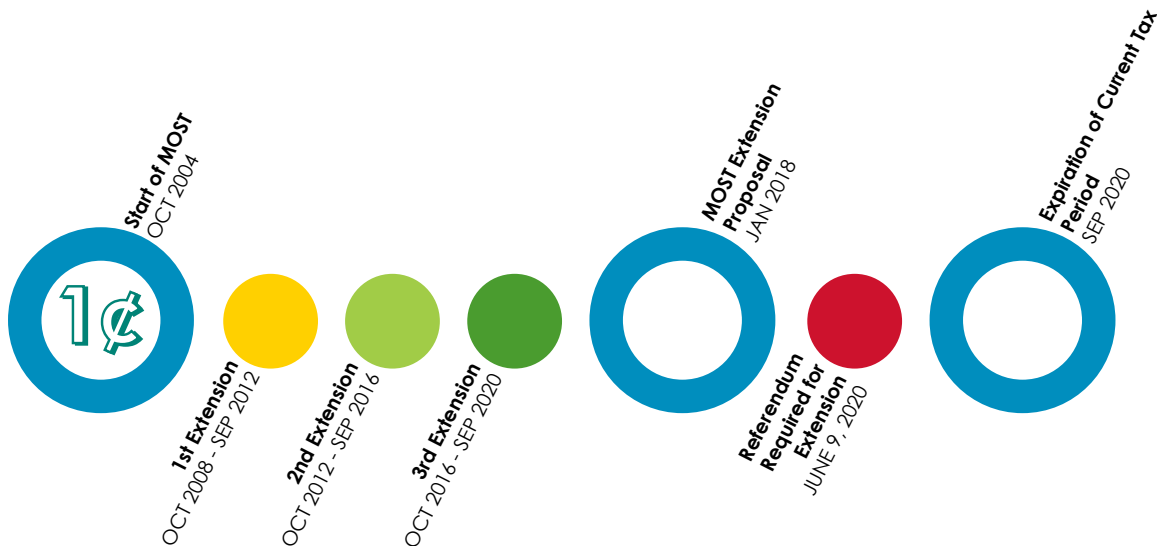
MUNICIPAL OPTION SALES TAX



The MOST: An Overview

In 2004, a 1-cent Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) was passed for the City of Atlanta largely to assist in funding the compliance obligations of two Federal Consent Decrees entered in 1998 and 1999, which required upgrades to the City's sewer system to eliminate sewer spills. Since the start of the Clean Water Atlanta Program, the MOST has helped fund \$2.3 billion in sewer system investment for the estimated \$4 billion federally mandated sewer infrastructure overhaul, while stabilizing rates.

This is not a new tax. The 2018 General Assembly authorized a referendum for voters to approve reauthorization of the existing MOST as a ballot question on June 9, 2020. Approval of the MOST will continue funding Clean Water Atlanta Consent Decree projects as well as projects to improve water and wastewater facilities, replace water lines, address flooding and complete critical projects such as the Water Supply Program that will secure Atlanta's water future and protect more than \$250 million in daily economic activity.



MOST. Important.

MUNICIPAL OPTION SALES TAX

JUNE 9TH BALLOT QUESTION

WHAT IS THE MOST? (MUNICIPAL OPTION SALES TAX)

The Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) requires reauthorization on the June 9, 2020 presidential primary ballot. This is not a new tax. The MOST is a 1-cent sales tax on most goods purchased and services performed within the City. The MOST assists with paying for Atlanta's two (2) federal Consent Decrees: Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) Consent Decree and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) Consent Decree issued in 1998 and 1999 that require investing in water and sewer improvements estimated at \$4 billion.



HOW MUCH IS THE MOST?

The MOST is a 1-cent tax, already being paid, on most goods purchased and services performed inside the City of Atlanta that are subject to sales tax, except motor vehicle sales.

HOW MUCH REVENUE HAS THE MOST GENERATED?

Since October 2004, the MOST has generated more than \$1.8 billion in revenue.



HOW IS THE MOST REVENUE USED?

The MOST has helped fund more than \$2.3 billion in sewer system investment for the estimated \$4 billion federally mandated sewer infrastructure, while stabilizing rates. The City has successfully met the obligations of the CSO Consent Decree, and the MOST will assist with offsetting the cost of the work remaining to be completed under the SSO Consent Decree.

Revenue from the MOST has also helped create 24,000 local jobs and support \$600 million in small minority and female-owned business participation.

WHEN IS THE MOST UP FOR REAUTHORIZATION AGAIN?

The MOST reauthorization measure will be on the June 9, 2020 primary ballot.

DOES REAUTHORIZATION MEAN AN ADDITIONAL 1-CENT TAX?

No. It is merely a reauthorization of the existing 1-cent tax.

HOW DOES THE MOST AFFECT WATER/SEWER RATES?

The MOST revenue has staved off a 25% increase in water/sewer rates.



MOST

MUNICIPAL OPTION SALES TAX

MAKES CENTS



MUNICIPAL OPTION SALES TAX (MOST) HAS SUPPORTED

24,000

JOBS (DIRECT, INDIRECT AND INDUCED)



SINCE 2000 DWM HAS INVESTED OVER

\$2.3B

IN SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS RESULTING IN A 97% REDUCTION IN SEWER SPILLS

ANNUAL CIP EXPENDITURES

\$100-300M

TO ADDRESS AGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND FEDERAL CONSENT DECREES

MOST IS SUPPORTING THE CURRENT

\$1.26B

5-YR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)



MOST HAS SUPPORTED

\$600M

IN SMALL, MINORITY AND FEMALE BUSINESS PARTICIPATION



MOST PROTECTS

\$250M

IN DAILY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

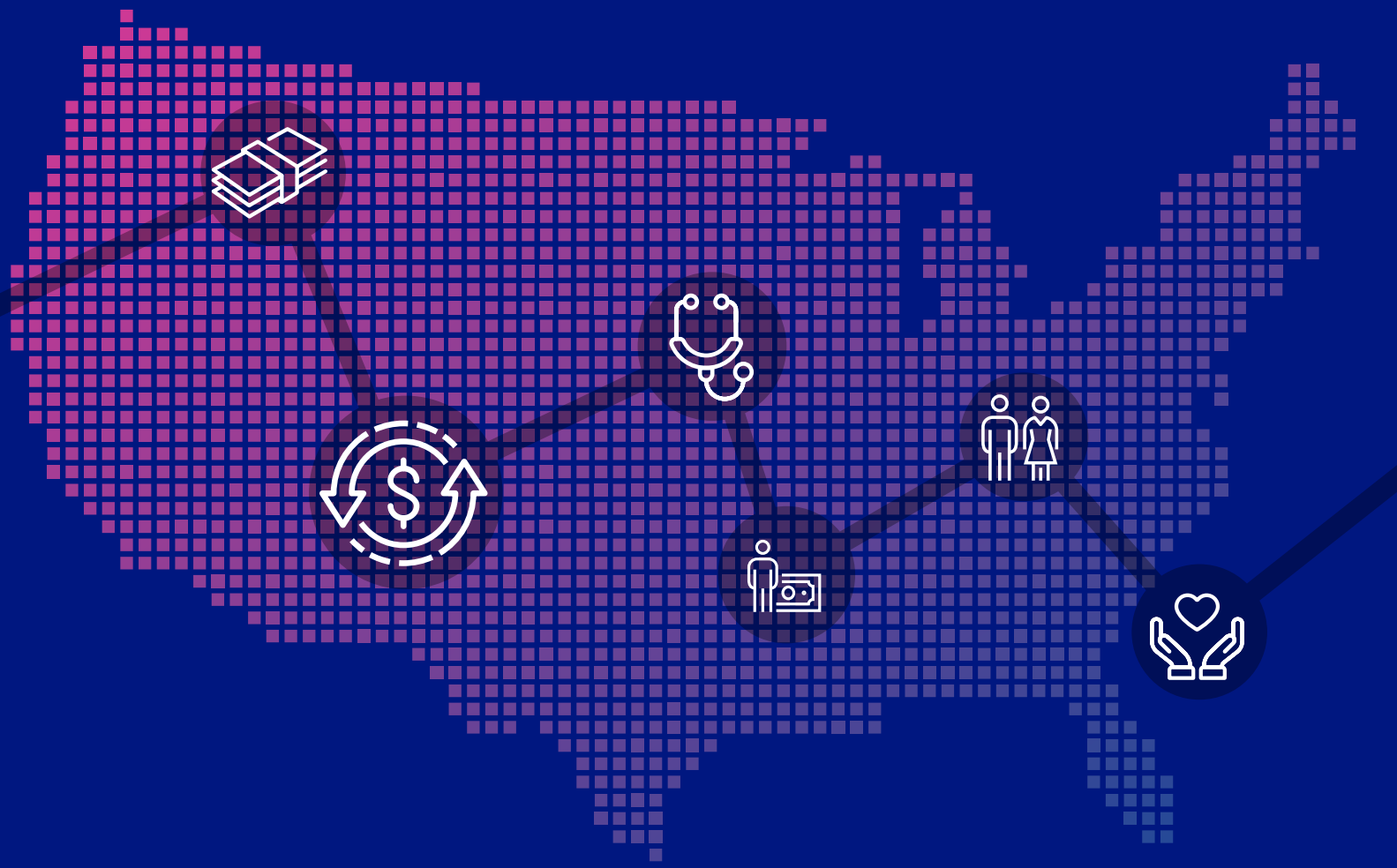


MOST HAS STAVED OFF A

25%

INCREASE IN WATER/SEWER RATES





Perspectives from Main Street: The Impact of COVID-19 on Communities and the Entities Serving Them

THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

APRIL 2020

About the Survey

The spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the many efforts to slow it are impacting communities across the nation. In order to best respond to this crisis, information is needed about the scope and scale of challenges in various communities. This report offers findings of a survey designed to collect information on the effects of COVID-19 on communities and the entities serving them. It was fielded by all 12 Reserve Banks and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System¹ between April 8 and April 10, 2020, and resulted in 3,899 responses. Responses were collected through a convenience sampling method that relied on Reserve Bank and Board of Governors stakeholder contact databases to identify representatives of nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, government agencies and other community organizations. These representatives were invited by email to participate in an online survey.

¹ [The Federal Reserve's community development function](#) seeks to promote the economic resilience and mobility of low- to moderate-income and underserved households and communities across the United States.

Survey Findings

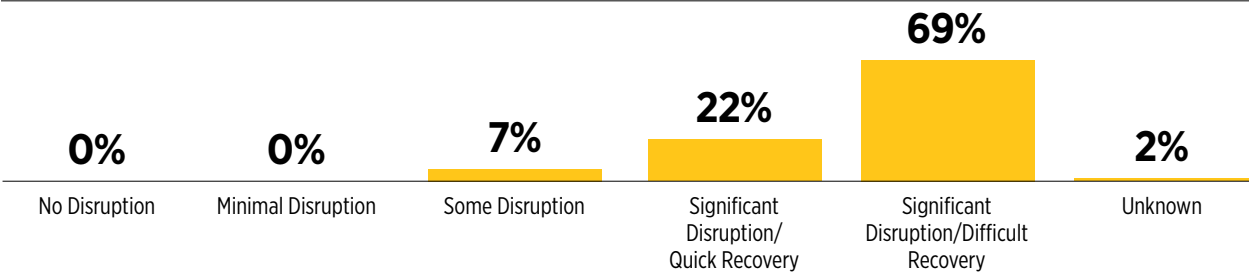
Overall, the survey finds:

- Nearly 7 out of 10 respondents (69%) indicated COVID-19 was a significant disruption to the economic conditions of the communities they serve and that recovery is expected to be difficult.
- Income loss, business impacts, health concerns, and basic consumer needs were the most frequently cited impacts of COVID-19.
- Over one-third of respondents (35%) indicated it will take more than 12 months for their communities to return to the conditions prior to the disruption from COVID-19.
- 72% of respondents indicated COVID-19 is having a significant disruption on the entity they represent, with 41% expecting to bounce back quickly after recovery begins.
- Nearly 2 out of 3 respondents (66%) indicated demand for their services has increased or is anticipated to increase, and more than half of the respondents (55%) noted a corresponding decrease or anticipated decrease in their ability to provide services.
- A quarter of respondents (25%) indicated their entity could operate for less than three months in the current environment before exhibiting financial distress.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES

At this point in time, what level of disruption is COVID-19 having on economic conditions in the communities you serve?

N=3,899



Top impacts of COVID-19 on communities.

N=3,881

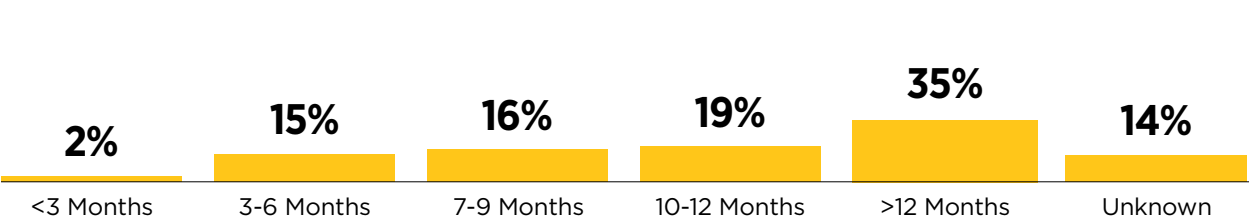
In an open-response question, respondents were asked to share the **top impacts** of COVID-19 on the communities they serve. Responses were coded, and the top impacts include:



INCOME LOSS	BUSINESS IMPACTS	HEALTH CONCERNS	BASIC CONSUMER NEEDS	EFFECTS ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS	NONPROFIT IMPACTS
including loss of jobs and self-employment, leading to the inability to service debt and pay bills	including closures, revenue loss, and supply chain disruptions	including efforts to preserve health, prevention of COVID-19 spread, and the limited availability of testing and personal protective equipment	including food and housing	including homeless and aging populations and those without access to the internet or computers—that are exacerbating existing disparities	including challenges reaching and serving clients remotely, access to funds, and closures

How long do you expect it will take for the communities you serve to return to the conditions they were experiencing before the impact of COVID-19?

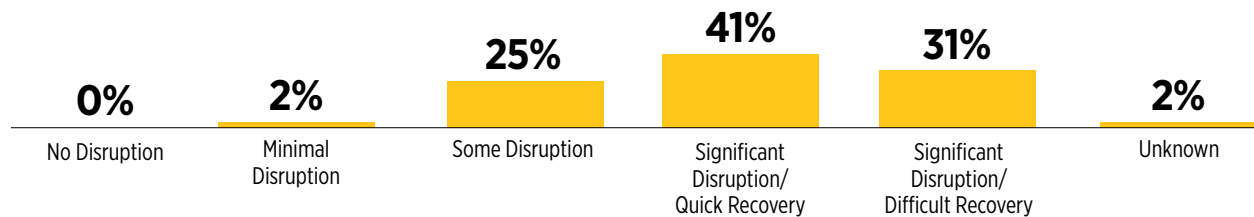
N=3,897



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ENTITIES SERVING LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES

At this point in time, what level of disruption is COVID-19 having on the entity you represent?

N=3,899

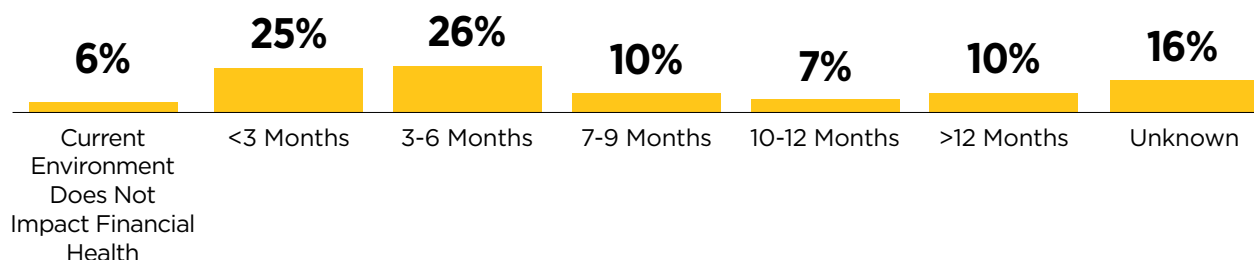


In what ways has COVID-19 impacted the entity you represent?

	Demand for Services N=3,871	Ability to Provide Services N=3,859	Staffing Levels N=3,873	Expenses N=3,858	Fee for Service N=3,836	Philanthropic Funds N=3,853	Gov't Funds N=3,857
Decreased	18%	36%	23%	6%	17%	16%	7%
Anticipated Decrease	7%	19%	16%	12%	11%	22%	13%
No Change	9%	18%	48%	28%	36%	21%	24%
Anticipated Increase	19%	12%	6%	27%	6%	16%	31%
Increased	47%	14%	5%	25%	3%	8%	9%
N/A	1%	1%	2%	2%	27%	18%	16%

How many months can your entity operate in the current environment before exhibiting financial distress?

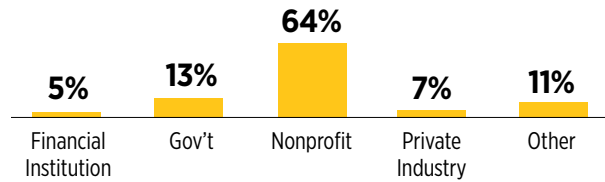
N=3,890



RESPONDENT PROFILES

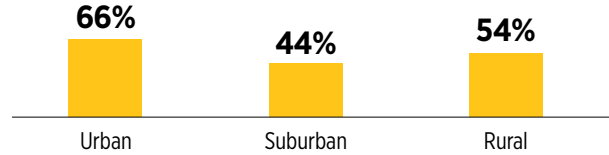
What type of entity do you represent?

N=3,898



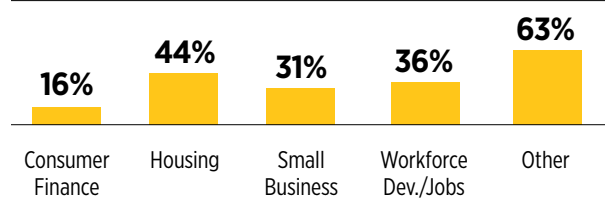
What type of area do you mostly serve? Select all that apply.*

N=3,891



What issues do you work on? Select all that apply.*

N=3,876



Are you a direct service provider?

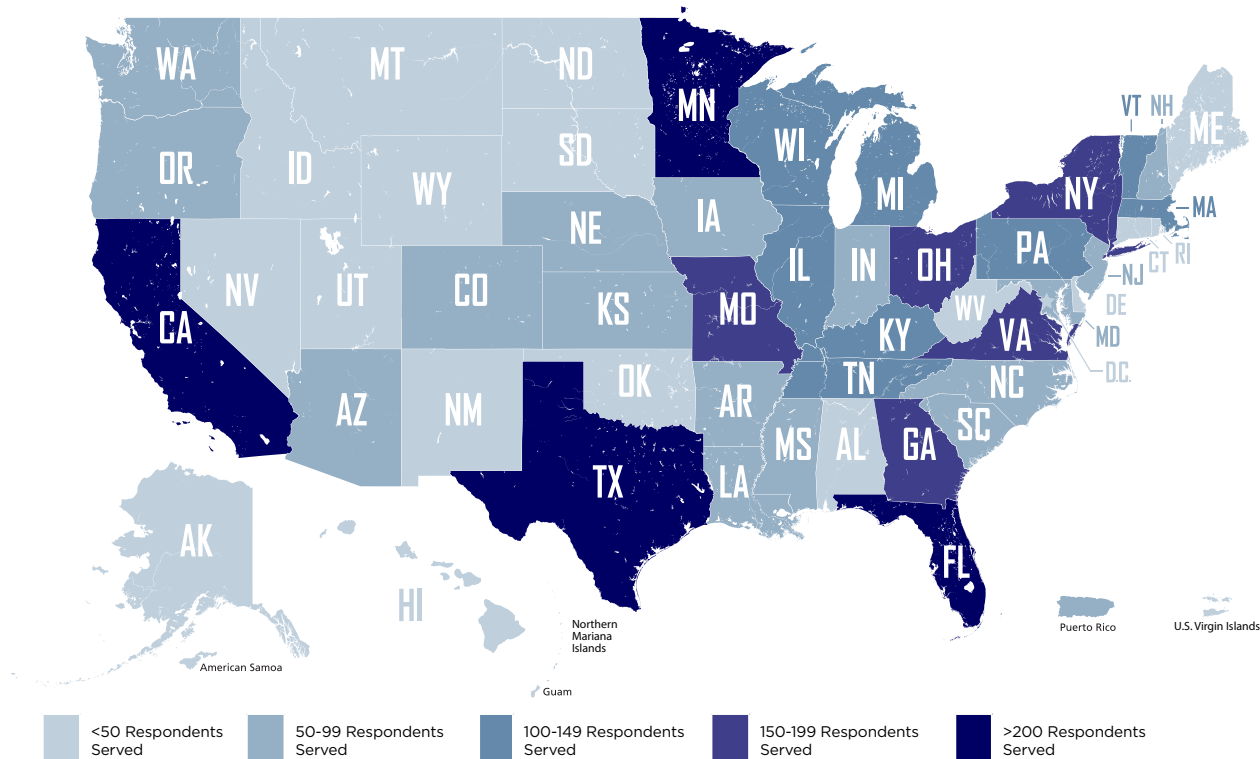
N=3,899



* Aggregate percentages exceed 100% due to the ability of respondents to select all that apply.

In which states and/or territories do you conduct most of your work? Select all that apply.

N=3,881



Creating the Beloved Community



The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, Jr. from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956

The coining of the term, "beloved community" is credited to Josiah Royce (1855–1916), a Harvard professor, theologian, and philosopher, who taught at Harvard from the 1880s to 1910s.

Josiah Royce deemed the beloved community the "principle of all principles" and spoke of the beloved community as an ideal, separate from ordinary life, a spiritual community where all those "fully dedicated to the cause of loyalty, truth, and reality itself" were joined. Speaking from a distinctly Christian perspective, he stated that religious communities at their core should embody "the mystery of loving membership in a community." This participation was enacted through deep loyalty to a personal cause that one serves with "all [one's] might and soul and strength."

Royce wrote, "Find your own cause, your interesting, fascinating, personally engrossing cause; serve it with all [one's] might and soul and strength; but so choose your cause and so serve it, that thereby you show forth your loyalty to loyalty, so that because of your choice and service to your cause, there is a maximum of increase of loyalty among your fellow [human beings]."

Since you cannot find the universal and beloved community, create it.

Josiah Royce (1913)

One of Royce's students in the 1890s was W.E.B. Du Bois, who arrived in Atlanta in 1897 to establish a sociology program at Atlanta University and develop the university's curriculum. It is possible W.E.B. Du Bois and others could have discussed the idea of the "beloved community" and its embodiment in the Atlanta University Center and Vine City neighborhoods as early as Du Bois' arrival in Atlanta. Since the late 1860s, white and black educators, black students, and working class white and black residents had been living in the historic Westside.

Dr. King's mentor, Howard Thurman, was also a student of Royce and colleague of W.E.B. Du Bois. He used the term "beloved community" as an inspirational lens "to perceive [in the world] a harmony that transcends all diversities and in which diversity finds its richness and significance." He broadened the concept from Royce's specifically Christian orientation and emphasized the importance of truly integrated communities beyond legal integration and emphasized the importance of a radically nonexclusionary community.

During Thurman's lifetime, the historic Westside served as a nerve center of civil rights activism even as the effects of legal segregation remained in the community.

Community cannot for long feed on itself. It can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.

Howard Thurman 1971

Dr. King takes the thinking of Royce and Thurman forward with his belief that we can "actualize the Beloved Community." Walter Fluker writes that the "beloved community" is Dr. King's "single, organizing principle of [his] life and thought."

Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966

VIEWPOINT: Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community

By D. Makeda Johnson | May 5, 2017 | First published in the Atlanta Business Chronicle

Gentrification of urban American cities is a complex phenomenon with social, political and economic implications.

It represents a double-edged sword with both opportunities and challenges. The infusion of higher-income individuals into urban centers generates increased renewal investments in formerly neglected and abandoned blighted communities. It provides needed revenue to local municipalities to meet the expense of much-needed infrastructure and service delivery improvements. Unfortunately, gentrification and displacement are manifesting as symptoms nationally as the urban center across our nation strives to attract upper-middle-income families while displacing current residents with increasing housing costs that exclude the working poor and altering the cultural and historical fabric of urban America cities.

Gentrification can be managed and provide an opportunity for Atlanta, Georgia, to honor its most noted son and drum major for social justice: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Atlanta can once again shine as an urban American city "Too Busy to Hate." We can redefine the G word. We are in a moment of opportunity for the creation of the "Beloved Community," a community of racial and economic diversity.

But it will not just happen, it must be intentionally developed. It is simple, but requires authentic partnership between community, political and private stakeholders committed to the possibility of the "Beloved Community." It will require a resident retention plan that prevents forced displacement, inclusionary affordable housing policy that supports mixed income and racial diversity by acknowledging the area median income, and a tax abatement program to protect vulnerable home and business owners.

The Historic Westside Community is poised with the opportunity to manifest not forced displacement, but demonstrate how to align urban transformation with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of "The Beloved Community." A community where justice and equality is the order of the day; an authentic mixed community where all can live, change and grow without the destruction of the Historic Westside Community's cultural integrity.

To accomplish the building of the Beloved Community, trust must be established requiring a shift

from traditional transactional approaches to community redevelopment. We had declared that our approach will be transformative and centered on the development of human capital. This innovative transformative approach to community development is no easy task. It requires that both residents, stakeholders and service providers rethink and reset traditional mindsets associated with poverty that fails to see and value the many assets within communities and design programs that empower residents with the skills and resources to be a part of the solution with equality and equity.

This writer loves living and working within the Historic Westside Community. Having chosen to call it home for nearly three decades, I proudly celebrate the beauty of community. We are a very resilient community that has, in spite of many challenges, continued to make contributions to society, especially as it relates to striving for social justice and an equitable society.





Unfortunately, too often those who seek to serve often overlook the value of relational capacity that exists within community, wealth of knowledge and ability to be a vital asset to achieving transformative sustainable communities.

Envision what could happen as residents and dedicated stakeholders shift their mindsets and reinvent how to renew communities without displacement, where there is the pollination of skills and the capacity to stay in communication even when they are difficult, seeking to establish trust and new ways of engagement that produce the greater good for humanity while creating economically healthy, thriving businesses, well-kept homes, quality affordable housing that is reflective of the earning of the communities' workforce, accessible and affordable healthcare, high-performing educational institutions. In this moment of opportunity, we can be the change that the world is looking for and create the environment that produces productive citizens with economic and social mobility by design. As residents and stakeholders, we will either fulfill or betray the vision of the beloved community based on our actions or inaction. There is a critical need for advocacy on behalf of the often-marginalized long-term residents in gentrifying communities; we have the opportunity to shift that. Where do you stand? I shall continue to strive to be a drum major for justice, equality and inclusion for the establishment of the "Beloved Community."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT
IN MAKING THESE SUMMITS POSSIBLE:



How to Connect with Us

-  @westsidefuturefund
-  @WFFAtlanta
-  @westsidefuturefund
-  westsidefuturefund.org



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For bulletin ideas and comments, contact Elizabeth Wilkes at elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org.