



Westside Future Fund

Four (4) neighborhoods totaling approximately 2.26 Square Miles:

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

Understanding the Issues

- The target Westside neighborhoods' population has decreased by approximately 60% since 1960. Today, they have a population of about 15,568 residents.
- 43% of WFF target area families live below the federal poverty line, with English Avenue at the highest percentage (59%).
- The WFF target area's housing vacancy rate (36%) is more than twice the City of Atlanta's (17%) and more than three times the Atlanta metro's (10%).
- More than half (53%) of homes in the WFF target area are vacant lots or structures.
- Only 8% of properties are occupied by homeowners, compared to 45% in the City of Atlanta.
- The median household income for the WFF target area is \$24,778, with all four neighborhoods categorized as "very low-income," earning less than 50% of the area average median income.

Role of the Westside Future Fund

We are creating an alliance for change. The Westside Future Fund is building an alliance of business leaders, philanthropists, community builders, and government officials focused on transforming the lives of residents of Atlanta's Westside.

Creating the conditions for progress.

We exist to organize and fuel Westside revitalization efforts, contributing to the work through:

- 1 **Vision:** Setting and stewarding a bold vision for the Westside
- 2 **Strategy:** Delivering a clear strategy that frames the big picture
- 3 **Coordination:** Channeling resources to fuel change
- 4 **Action:** Rolling up our sleeves to fill gaps on the ground

We do this work across four areas that are proven to have the most immediate impact and will lay the foundation for other initiatives: **safety and security; quality, mixed-income communities (community retention); cradle-to-career education; community health and wellness**

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

A. 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.

B. Land-Use Action 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.

C. Transform Westside Summits:

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

D. Westside Neighborhoods Beautification Project:

Pilot job training and placement program designed to help Westside residents carve out career paths while cleaning up and beautifying our four target neighborhoods.

