



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund
Friday, January 21, 2022

Agenda

7:45AM – 8:00AM
Welcome + Updates

Benjamin Earley
Westside Correspondent, Redclay-Hill

Ebony Ford
English Avenue Resident

8:00AM – 8:10AM
Opening Devotion

Lakeisha Walker
Vice President of Youth Initiatives, Atlanta Police Foundation

8:10AM – 8:55AM
**"Highlighting AT&T's
Continuing Commitment
to the Westside" moderated
by Benjamin Earley**

Venessa Harrison
President, AT&T Georgia

Dr. Diamond Ford
Principal, Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy

John Ahmann
President & CEO, Westside Future Fund

8:55AM
**Raffle Drawings +
Closing Remarks**

Benjamin Earley
Westside Correspondent, Redclay-Hill

Ebony Ford
English Avenue Resident

9:00AM
Summit Adjourns



Our Featured Participants

Lakeisha Walker

Vice President of Youth Initiatives, Atlanta Police Foundation

Lakeisha Walker serves as Vice President of Youth Initiatives and oversees the day-to-day facility operations of the At-Promise Center. She is responsible for managing the At-Promise Youth Initiative, ensuring program integrity and implementation, and maintaining strong relationships with key stakeholders.

Lakeisha has spent the last 16 years serving various Atlanta communities, through collaborative programming, with a focus on youth. She is a native Atlantan and takes pride in overseeing juvenile crime reduction programming in the Historic Westside community where she grew up.

Lakeisha has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Bauder College and believes a youth's home environment and community resources have a huge impact on how their personalities and priorities are formed.

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, economic development, and community engagement activities across the state of Georgia.

Named to her current position in November 2018, Harrison works closely with state and local policymakers and business and community leaders to foster an environment that welcomes investment and innovation, focuses on bringing new technologies that drive innovation and create jobs, and provides educational and economic opportunities that empower to 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 corporate responsibilities, Harrison is committed to helping make a difference in the community and in the lives of others. She has a passion for driving positive impact and social equity 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, the Agnes Scott College Board of Visitors and the Rotary Club of Atlanta. Additionally, she was recently honored by Georgia Trend as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians, Families First with the 2021 Making a Difference Community Service Award, by the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce with the 2021 Moxie Award, the Atlanta Business Chronicle with the 2020

Our Featured Participants

Diversity and Inclusion Civic Award, by the Women in Technology with the 2020 Woman of the Year in Technology Award, by the Atlanta Business Chronicle with the 2019 Women Who Mean Business Award and named to Atlanta Magazine's 2021, 2020 and 2019 Most Influential Lists.

Harrison holds a Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. A North Carolina native, she is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother.

Dr. Diamond Ford

Principal, Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy

Dr. Diamond Ford is currently in her sixth year as Principal of Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy. She has served in the field of education for 21 years as a teacher, instructional coach, and principal. A passionate and dedicated educator, Dr. Ford is committed to growing and transforming schools. As the Founding Principal of Hollis, she has demonstrated the ability to create programs that focus on developing the whole child through a rigorous and relevant curriculum. Her innovative approach to instruction served as a foundational element for the initial stages of Hollis as an educational institution. Through her visionary leadership, she has successfully cultivated an environment for students that nurtures their creativity, supports their social-emotional development, encourages engagement and meaningful connections with their families, and fills academic gaps.

To fulfill her desire to establish Hollis as a community school that provides resources and fosters a community environment, Dr. Ford launched a partnership program that has resulted in a robust, long-standing network of corporate, non-profit, and community partners who help support the school's mission and vision.

Dr. Ford holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle School Education from Clark Atlanta University and a Master's degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of West Georgia. She earned an Ed.S. in Teaching and Learning from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Mercer University.

Among numerous honors, Dr. Ford was awarded EL Education's prestigious 2019-2020 Silverberg Leadership Award, the "2016-2017 Stellar Principal of the Year" by Atlanta Public School Leadership, and she was named as one of Atlanta Business League's 100 Black Women of Influence in 2017 and 100 Women of Influence in 2020 and 2021. Also in 2020, she was honored as one of Mercedes-Benz USA's "Greatness Lives Here" Heroes, a tribute to her impact on those she serves. Dr. Ford has participated as a panelist/speaker on multiple education platforms, including UNCF Educational Panel, NAACP Educational Panel, Author David Osborne's Book Preview, Georgia Coalition for Public Education, and Atlanta Business League's 2020 Super Tuesday Conference panel, "Ensuring No Black Child Is Left Behind".

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 and contribution to racial equity.

He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders and managing initiatives through to fruition. He 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 impacting Atlanta and its future.

A native son of Atlanta, John is currently the President & CEO of the Westside Future Fund (WFF). WFF was launched by the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP) in December 2014, with the strong leadership support of former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed. The nonprofit organization's mission is 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. Through its flagship program, *Home on the Westside*, WFF helps neighbors live in the place they love through access to high-quality housing and educational support, strengthening the city we call home.

John has been recognized for his work by receiving the following awards: 2020 and 2021 *Atlanta Magazine's* Atlanta's 500 Most Powerful Leaders; 2020 and 2021 *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 100 Most Influential Atlantans; 2019 Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy Partnership Award; 2019 Christian City's Community Champion Nonprofit Honoree Award; Atlanta Business League's Visions of Excellence Award in 2019; Antioch Urban Ministries Anchor Award in 2018; and 2018 *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* Best Overall Deal in Atlanta Real Estate Awards.

John has two adult daughters and lives in Atlanta's historic neighborhood of Vine City.

Benjamin Earley

Senior Consultant, Redclay-Hill

Benjamin Earley is a web developer, creative writer, and musician born and raised in Atlanta, GA, where he continues to call the Westside home. He holds two certificates from Berklee College of Music for Music Business and General Music Studies. In addition to pursuing his passion for songwriting and music production, Benjamin also builds websites and web-based solutions for clients as an independent contractor with Redclay-Hill.

Our Featured Participants

Ebony Ford

Westside Resident, English Avenue

Ebony Ford is a Westside Atlanta community advocate with an affiliation with several civic and philanthropic organizations. She is passionate about legacy resident retention in this climate of rapid gentrification in the city of Atlanta, particularly in the neighborhoods of English Avenue and Vine City, and she spends her free time mentoring residents who want to become homeowners through her organization English Avenue Tea. She is an Atlanta Public Schools elected official as she serves as secretary for her neighborhood school's GO Team. Professionally, Ebony works in IT for the State of Georgia.



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.



@westsidefuturefund



@WFFAtlanta



@westsidefuturefund



westsidefuturefund.org



Westside
Future Fund





Meet the Westside Future Fund.

WHY THE WESTSIDE?

The Westside is an important part of Atlanta's past, present and future. These historic neighborhoods played a defining role in the American civil rights movement and is the place some of its most iconic leaders called home, like Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dorothy Bolden, founder of the National Domestic Worker's Union of America. The Westside also bears the scars of policies that led to depopulation and left those who stayed without economic opportunity. Today, the Westside Future Fund is working to change that and make it a model of racial equity and economic justice. The result will be a better Atlanta where everyone on the Westside has access to the resources they need to thrive.

OUR MISSION

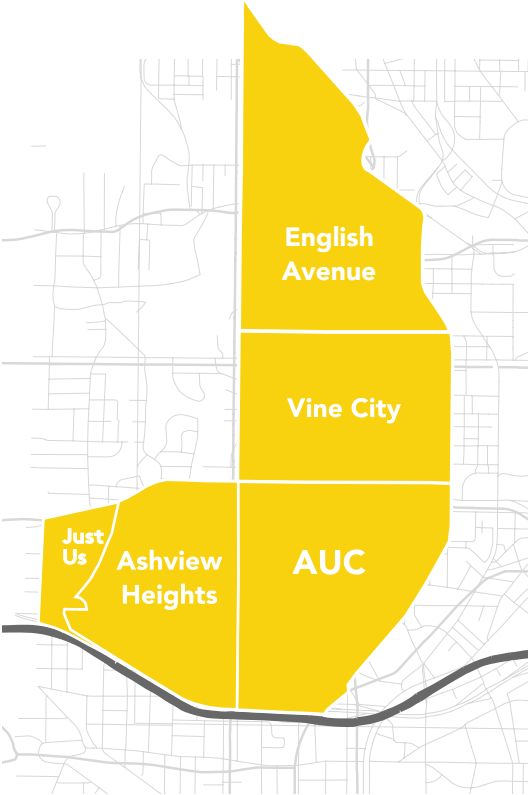
To advance a compassionate approach to neighborhood revitalization that creates a diverse, mixed-income community, improves the quality of life for current and future residents, and elevates the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.



THE HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

We focus on five neighborhoods in Atlanta’s Historic Westside: Vine City, English Avenue, Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center and Just Us. Long underserved and underfunded due to systemic racism, the Westside suffered from the lack of essential services, food deserts, neglected infrastructure and blight. Today, more than half of its residents live below the poverty line, and 40% of all housing is vacant. Only 79% of the population can read above the third-grade level. That is why our mission is to open access to resources and potential through the cornerstones of homeownership and education.

Definition of Legacy Resident: Anyone residing on the Westside prior to 2017 as well as those with meaningful ties to the Westside including former colleges and universities, church congregants and others.



WHAT DOES THE WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND DO?

The Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the lives of current and future Westside residents. Through our flagship program, Home on the Westside, we help our neighbors live in the place they love through access to high-quality housing and educational support, strengthening the city we call home.



SAFETY
& SECURITY



HEALTH
& WELLNESS



MIXED-INCOME
COMMUNITIES



CRADLE-TO-CAREER
EDUCATION

MORE WAYS TO BE AT HOME ON THE WESTSIDE

We ensure the availability of affordable, quality housing in ways that are financially attainable for long-time residents of the Westside or those connected to the neighborhood. That includes support to rent, buy or retain a home with a unique focus on community retention.

ACCESS TO CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone of better futures and prosperity. Investment in these foundational opportunities starts with quality early childhood education and our partnership with Atlanta Public Schools in support of the elementary, middle and secondary schools that make up the Booker T. Washington Cluster. It continues through adult skill training and support of Westside entrepreneurs. Westside residents deserve the resources that support families and lead to quality employment opportunities.

CHAMPIONING A SAFE & HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD

Collaborating with other organizations working on the Westside, we advocate for an environment where residents can thrive. That means teaming up to improve access to healthcare and overall wellbeing with greenspace, walkability, and safety. It’s contributing to residents’ sense of security by mitigating social factors that impact crime rates.

We also stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who care about the Westside — residents, community groups, police officers, schools, business owners, developers, donors, and investors – and lend our voice to the calls for change today and a better future tomorrow.

We can stop the unchecked gentrification that displaces legacy residents of the Westside and tears the social fabric of Atlanta. Instead, we want to ensure they benefit from the rising tide of economic opportunity, rather than being swept away by it. Together, we can realize the vision of the courageous American civil rights leaders who called the Westside home: a thriving mixed-income community that models what it means to be a world-class city embracing racial and economic justice.





CONTRIBUTE TO RACIAL EQUITY IN ATLANTA

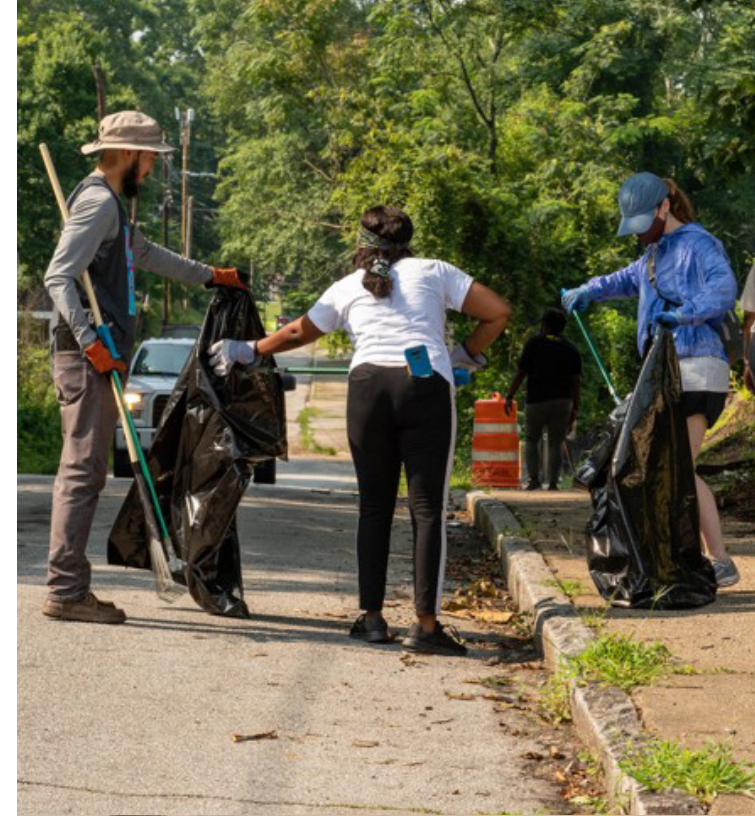
The long-term effects of underserved neighborhoods and generational poverty have limited opportunity on the Westside, and the enormity of the problem may seem overwhelming. Together we can break down barriers and build something better. We can connect legacy residents to resources that make homeownership possible. And, in turn, that homeownership can fuel transformational and generational change for them and their families.

Home is more than a house, so when you contribute to *Home on the Westside*, you're also investing in the community.

That means strengthening educational opportunity from cradle to career and advocating for the safety, security, and wellness of all our residents. It's a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization.

Westside Future Fund's Home on the Westside program is uniquely built to realize this model. We represent a convergence of experience, expertise and influence from the worlds of business, education, government, and philanthropy, as well as the knowledge, connections and creativity needed to address the complex issues facing the Westside. **We also have the ability to leverage every \$1 donated to Home on the Westside with \$2 from the WFF Impact Fund, multiplying the impact of every contribution.**

Revitalizing the Westside is not just something we can do; it is something we must do. Atlanta cannot forget those who built it. Get involved. Invest in real change. Make a better Atlanta at Home on the Westside.



THE WESTSIDE: Your home now... and for years to come



Introducing **Home on the Westside**, an initiative from Westside Future Fund to help drive inclusive community retention for Atlanta's Historic Westside neighborhoods.

We're taking steps to deliver safe, quality housing on the Westside with:

- Affordable 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom rentals
- Newly constructed and renovated homes for purchase and lease-to-purchase
- Down payment assistance
- Anti-Displacement Tax Fund for legacy homeowners
- Financial coaching and counseling in partnership with On the Rise Financial Center

Are you interested in Home on the Westside?

Go online and complete a simple form to let us know which of our housing opportunities interest you:

westsidefuturefund.org/homeonthewestside

Contact WFF with any questions.

Call: 470.377.1696

Email: home@westsidefuturefund.org



**Westside
Future Fund**

Legacy westside residents,
Ebony and her son, Jeremiah

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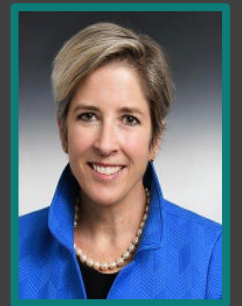
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STAY CONNECTED WITH AFFORDABLE INTERNET



Internet for \$10 a month

Now more than ever, access to home Internet is important to stay connected to friends and family, work from home and attend school online.

If at least one person in your household is a SNAP participant or receives SSI benefits (California only), you may qualify for Internet service up to 10Mbps[†] for \$10 a month or less.

- **Free installation and in-home Wi-Fi**
- **No annual contract**
- **No deposit**

In response to the public health crisis, Access from AT&T is temporarily:

- **Expanding eligibility to households participating in the National School Lunch and Head Start programs or that meet income requirements.***
- **Waiving home Internet data overage fees until April 30, 2022. (Does not apply to DSL.)**

Other eligibility requirements apply.

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

01/2022

*Available only in the AT&T wireline footprint. Offer temporary. If at least one person in your household is a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") participant you may qualify for up to 10Mbps home Internet service at our discounted \$10/mo. rate. For a limited time, households participating in the National School Lunch or Head Start program or meet the household income based on 135% or less than federal poverty guidelines, may also qualify. In California only, households receiving Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits may also qualify. Add'l eligible speed tiers: (3Mbps/15Mbps/768Kbps) available for \$5/mo. depending on your service address. Data allowance: Service includes either 150GB or 1TB of monthly Internet data allowance per month depending on your speed tier. If you exceed your monthly data plan allowance, you will be automatically charged \$10 for each 50GB of data usage in excess of your data plan, even if less than 50 gigabytes is used. For more information, go to att.com/internet-usage. Add'l Fees & Taxes: AT&T one-time transactional fees, and monthly cost recovery surcharges which are not government-req'd may apply, as well as taxes. See att.com/fees for details. 087171



AT&T Offers Eligible Customers Low-Cost Broadband Through New Program

AT&T and Cricket Wireless have opened enrollment for the new federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which is helping expand benefits for millions of Americans.

What's new?

The ACP replaces the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). ACP will provide eligible households with a benefit of up to \$30 a month to help reduce the cost of broadband service. Households on qualifying Tribal lands will be eligible for \$75 a month.

Why is this important?

Affordability is one of the key roadblocks to narrowing the digital divide. The ACP will help make broadband services more affordable for American households who may qualify.

What's changing?



200%

Households will have new ways to qualify for ACP such as receiving WIC benefits or having an **income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**. Eligibility requirements can be found at acpbenefit.org.



\$30

For households enrolled in ACP, the monthly subsidy has changed to **\$30/mo**. **There is no change to the Tribal benefit**. See information below regarding the transition period for households enrolled in EBB as of December 30, 2021.

New customers can confirm eligibility today.

Customers can apply to the federal government's National Verifier at ACPBenefit.org to determine if they are eligible for ACP. Eligibility is determined by the federal government, not by AT&T.

Once approved, find out details on which AT&T services are available by going to att.com/acp or to cricketwireless.com/ACP for information on Cricket Wireless plans.

How can EBB customers take advantage of ACP?

For EBB customers, **benefits will remain the same through March 1**.

- To receive the ACP benefit after March 1, customers may contact the [Universal Services Administrative Co.](https://www.usac.gov) (USAC) to reverify eligibility.
- For customers who qualified for EBB under a COVID program or substantial loss of income criteria, the National Verifier will need to reverify your eligibility under different criteria **prior to March 1**.
- See details on which AT&T services are available at att.com/acp or cricketwireless.com/ACP.

COVID-19 VACCINE SITES



**GA Department of Health of Public Health
Fulton County
Mercedes Benz Stadium
9 Mangum Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 613-8150**

**Morehouse Healthcare
455 Lee Street
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30310
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 752-1000**

**Good Samaritan Health Center
1015 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30318
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 523-6571**

**Family Centers of Georgia at
West End
868 York Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30310
COVID Vaccine Line: (800) 935-6721**

For more information on vaccination sites

myvaccinegeorgia.com

vaccinefinder.org

dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine

fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine



**Good Samaritan Health Center and CVSHealth are offering free rapid
COVID-19 testing or vaccination
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Call 404-523-6571, ext. 4928 to schedule.

**Good Sam is located at
1015 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318**

Visit goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19 for more info.



**Subscribe for Updates to the
NATIONAL COVID-19
RESILIENCY NETWORK**

www.msm.edu/ncrn



LEARN MORE



CARIBBEAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

SENIOR DENTAL CARE PROGRAM



DOCTOR

DANIELLE GREENE

OWNER FABULOUS SMILES ATLANTA

Danielle Greene, DDS, will help you achieve the most beautiful and healthy smile possible. At her practice Fabulous Smiles of Atlanta, located in Fulton County. You can take advantage of various dental issues.

**Free Senior Dental
Care Services for
Fulton County
Residents !**

DEEP CLEANING

DENTURES

EXTRACTIONS

**CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
CALL 1-800-213-1059**

Fabulous Smiles of Atlanta

**1188 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd,
Atlanta, GA 30310**



**FULTON
COUNTY**



This is a federally funded program, which is based upon a first-come, first-serve basis. Spaces are limited. No walk-ins are accepted. You must call to make an appointment. Must be 65 years or older.



Only one number to get the help you need: food, housing, counseling, employment, education, healthcare, COVID-19 testing. Feeling lonely, lost, stressed, anxious or down? Need help managing your health condition?

Call **404-430-8180** today!

**Westside
Connect
Help Line**

**NEED A
DOCTOR?**

**TEXT:
WESTSIDE
TO 51555**



JOB FLASH REPORT

**IF INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT, PLEASE CALL 404-853-1780
OR VISIT [INTEGRITYCDC.ORG](https://integritycdc.org). WHEN YOU FILL OUT YOUR
APPLICATION, MAKE SURE TO CLICK "DIRECT EMPLOYMENT."**

ATTENTION

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR
OWN AD SPACE?**

Westside Future Fund is now offering you a chance to
promote your business in our Summit bulletins!
If interested, please email sonia@westsidefuturefund.org
for more details!



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS EXTERIOR OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

Atlanta Housing, Invest Atlanta and the City of Atlanta have launched a deferred forgivable loan program that provides up to \$70,000 in federal funds to eligible Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center homeowners for exterior health and safety repairs on their home. Funds will be provided in the form of a forgivable loan at a 0% interest rate with payments deferred and forgiven until the earlier of loan maturity, sale, transfer of ownership, or failure to maintain the property as the primary residence during the loan term.

The maximum loan amount per home is \$70,000, inclusive of all construction related costs and closing costs. Loan term will be determined by loan amount, not to exceed 10 years.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- Homeowner must reside within the Choice Neighborhoods of Ashview Heights or Atlanta University Center.
- Must be a primary homeowner and existing resident as of September 30, 2015.
- Homeowners with 1st Mortgage Liens are permitted. Second mortgages from Habitat for Humanity on a Habitat home, and Invest Atlanta will be treated as one mortgage for purposes of this program. Homes with other liens (tax liens, recorded Fi Fas, etc. are ineligible. Homes with water liens must have a payment arrangement to be eligible).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

Contact the Choice Neighborhoods Exterior Owner-Occupied Rehab Program Manager
Meals On Wheels Atlanta at info@mowatl.org or 404-351-3889





Center for Employment Opportunities

938 Peachtree Street
Atlanta Ga, 30309
404-689-6579
www.ceoworks.org
Mon-Friday 9am-5pm

We provide immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration.

Bringing Goodwill to the Southside:

New Store & Career Center Coming to Metropolitan Parkway

Located at 2160 Metropolitan Parkway, our new store and career center will bring jobs and skills training to the local community. To start, this project is generating 30-40 new construction jobs for local residents. When we open, we will create an additional 50 jobs in the store, as well as in the career center.

Our focus will continue to be on not just helping our neighbors to find work, but helping them move into successful careers. All of our career centers provide free access to job search resources like computers, résumé writing tools, job listings, employment seminars, software training and more.

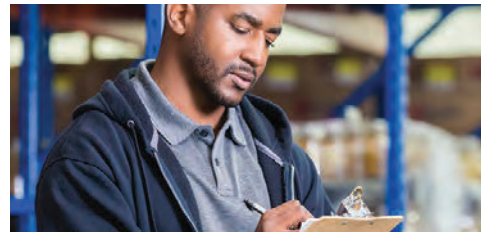
Great finds at great prices.

Our new store is bringing great deals to your community. From clothing to accessories, housewares, and shoes; shopping at Goodwill will save you money and help your neighbors find jobs.



Job training for the future.

Goodwill offers a number of skills training programs to prepare residents for careers in fields like technology, healthcare, construction, logistics and more.



Donate. Shop. Support Job Seekers. *That's #Goodwilling.*



Be the first to know.

Visit goodwillng.org/metro and sign up to receive updates on job opportunities, hiring events, construction updates and more at our new location.



GEORGIA **LIHEAP**

Attention families in need of heating or cooling assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**) is a federally funded program that assists low-income households heat or cool their homes.

Apply for assistance at your local Community Action Agency. Take the following documents:

1. Proof of Income for all household members for the past 30 days
2. Proof of Social Security number for each person in the household
3. Most recent Gas and Electric Bill for the household
4. Proof of citizenship or legal immigrant status



**Heating Assistance
Application Cycle**

• **November 1 - March 31**



**Cooling Assistance
Application Cycle**

• **April 1 - June 30**

For additional information, email LIHEAP-CSBG-LIHWAP@dhs.ga.gov
Local Georgia Community Action Agencies can be found online at
<http://www.georgiacaa.org>.



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

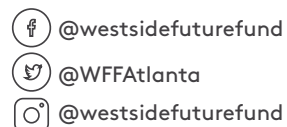


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