

## **Community Trust Process Overview**

Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation seeks to empower community residents at the local level to share their ideas for the betterment of their community, by implementing a *Community Trust Process*.

This process is different in its application of community development principles and consensus-based self-governing ideals, as well as its consideration of new approaches to funding and local trust sustainability. The following is an outline of the process.

### **Initial Community Trust Meeting(s)**

Small, randomized groups of community residents at least sixteen years of age who live within the identified School District will brainstorm and share ideas concerning ways to enhance the vibrancy and resiliency of the community so that all residents may thrive. Outcomes of community trust meetings will be shared with the community on the JFCAC Community Trust webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).

### **Trust Prioritization Meeting**

Small, randomized groups of community residents at least sixteen years of age who live within the identified School District will work through a consensus-based process of discussion and prioritizing to identify a community theme, or area of emphasis, for the year, based on thoughts and ideas shared at community trust input meetings. From the selected area of emphases, eventually, a community project will be chosen. Outcomes of community trust meetings will be shared with the community on the JFCAC Community Trust webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).

### **Trustee Selection**

At the Trustee nomination meeting, each small group identifies a person from its group and a person "not at the table" or "not in the room" as a "Trustee." Non-resident Trustees must own a business, or work, in the community and be at least sixteen years old. Such a process ensures that at least 50% of Trustees are residents, allows for organization/agency representatives (those "not in the room") to be considered for Trustee roles, and provides for proportional representation (i.e., the number of Trustees increases/decreases based on the number of individuals participating in the Community Trust meetings). Outcomes of community trust meetings will be shared with the community on the JFCAC Community Trust webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).

## **Next Steps Meeting**

Following the Trustee Selection meeting, Trustees who have accepted their nomination will host a series of “Next Steps” sessions to invite/consider project proposals based on the theme/emphasis chosen at the Theme Prioritization meeting. Trustees use a consensus-based discussion process to select some number of projects (4-6) to present back to the community at a final Next Step meeting. Outcomes of community trust meetings will be shared with the community on our Community Trust webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).

## **Final Next Step Meeting**

At this meeting, community residents select a project to be undertaken from the proposals presented by the Trustees. Trustees then craft a plan for project funding and implementation, meet as needed to fund and/or implement the project, and report back to the community the completion of funding and implementation (at the following year's Community Trust event, if not sooner). The final project chosen by those who have participated, will be announced to the community, and shared on our webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).

## **Community Trust Funding**

The Trust is implemented with seed funding of \$15,000 from JFCAC, then sustained by individual donations from residents and businesses that may be eligible for a tax benefit for the donation as well as the benefit of “owning” the decision-process related to Trust fund allocation(s), and by possible grant “matches,” and by revenues generated by local economic activity (ex., buy-local campaigns in which a portion of sales revenue is designated for Trust use). Utilizing multiple sources of funding in this way would not only sustain the Trust fund, but also increase the fund over time.

## **Project Evaluation**

A final project evaluation will explore each of the aspects of the Trust, as well as key views of, and principles and concepts associated with, the Community Trust process, including its devotion to local sustainability and its cooperative, collaborative, and consensus-based orientation. The evaluator will also compare and contrast the Trust to and with other participatory, consensus-based approaches currently being implemented in the United States and abroad. A final evaluation report will be available for public review upon completion on our webpage at [jfcac.org/communitytrust](http://jfcac.org/communitytrust).