



New Tools, New Visions 2 :
**Lessons Learned Engaging in
CBPR with Albany, GA Tools for
Change, Inc.**



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Disclosure Statement



Any relevant financial relationships? Yes

Name of Organization Clinical/Research Area Type of relationship
W. K. Kellogg Foundation CBPR Research and Technical Assistance Consultant and Paid Contractor

I agree to comply with the American Public Health Association Conflict of Interest and Commercial Support Guidelines, and to disclose to the participants any off-label or experimental uses of a commercial product or service discussed in my presentation.



Learning Objectives



The goal of the Albany GA Tools for Change's New Tools, New Vision 2 project is to assess the overall health of the community residents, conduct research to validate or dispel these beliefs and to collaborate with College Heights and College Park residents and its partners to conduct and transform preventive research into effective strategies and obtainable solutions that improve their environment, their health, and their overall well-being.



Learning Objectives



Adhering to and administering the CBPR guiding principles to the project has been challenging such as: involves a long-term commitment; recognizes community as a unit of identity; co-learning and capacity building among all partners; and builds on strengths and resource within the community. We have focused our efforts during grant year-two to address the above mentioned principles with successful strategies and outcomes, which will be listed on the next slide.

We are continuously working to solve additional challenges that hinder the pace of the project, such as: facilitates collaborative equitable partnerships in all phases of the project and research; and involves systems development through cyclical and iterative process.



Learning Objectives



AGTFC and NTNV2 steering committee engaged in the following strategies to effectively operate and engage community residents:

- **Restructured the AGTFC board and staff.**
 - Jacqueline Jenkins' departure as a board member to serve as the project's Technical Advisor.
 - Torrey Knight, ASU Graduate Student, to serve as an assisting Technical Advisor and Program Assistant
 - Community Coordinator reporting to the Technical Advisor
 - Electing both project Steering Committee presidents to serve on the board of the fiduciary agent (AGTFC)
- **Empowering steering committee members to actively participate in the grant project through activities and initiatives implemented by diversified, collective ideas and input.**
 - Conducting goal-oriented activities targeted at the CH & CP audience.
 - Assigning steering committee members to accompany the community coordinator to standing community and government meetings.
- **Conducting and participating in relevant public health and community-based training and conferences.**



Welcome to Albany, Georgia



Georgia's Flint River runs through Albany serving as both a scenic playground for the "Good Life City" and a cataclysmic disaster zone during times of heavy rain fall in the region. The city has survived two recent major flooding disasters in 1994 and 1998.





Superfund Sites



MERCK & COMPANY INC
3517 RADIUM SPRINGS RD, ALBANY
EPA# GAD003324985 (Plant closed in 2006)

PROCTOR & GAMBLE PAPER PRODUCTS CO
US HWY 19, ALBANY
EPA# GAD059537357

UNITED STATES MARINE CORP LOGISTICS BASE
555 FLEMING ROAD, ALBANY
EPA# GA7170023694



College Park & College Heights

- College Heights (CH) & College Park (CP) represent two distinct communities, nestled on a body of land once owned by the founder of Albany State University, Dr. Joseph Holley.
- Separated only by Holly Drive, CH & CP collectively has 172 homes.
- College Heights, founded first, consist of 42 homes, where 95% of the residents are the original homeowner and have been there for 25 years or more.
- College Park consist of 130 homes where only 20% of the homeowners have been there for over 25 years and still residing in the community. A large percentage of the residents are renters who have moved in within the last 7-5 years.





Mission of AGTFC



The mission of AGTFC, Inc. is to engage and empower the community with respect to eliminating health disparities, promoting environmental justice, and providing health education throughout southwest Georgia.



History of AGTFC, Inc.



Albany, Georgia Tools for Change, Inc. (AGTFC) is a community benefit organization, incorporated by the state of Georgia in 2006 as a 501(c) (3).

Local citizens in East Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, originally established the organization in the mid-1990's to address community health concerns, particularly those related to illnesses and diseases thought to be caused or exacerbated by environmental pollutants. In 2008, AGTFC was one of the four rural, Southern Georgia community organization grant awardees of the "New Tools, New Vision 2" project (NTNV2) established through a 3-year grant awarded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



Purpose of AGTFC, Inc.



The grant funded project has brought together residents of predominantly African-American, Georgia communities and faculty from Albany State University, a surrounding Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs), to develop community-campus partnerships.

A key specification of this project has been to apply a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach to address local health equity and social justice issues.



Lessons Learned



- Building a strong community based steering committee with the inclusion of members from both distinct communities within College Heights (CH) & College Park (CP)
- Knowing and Educating residents; and
- Maximizing access to environmental and health resources through collaborative partnerships.



Building a strong community-based steering committee

Filled with a history of advocacy, former and current educators, plant workers and military personnel, ten College Heights and College Park residents graciously heeded the call for community participants on the grant mandated community-based steering committee. The steering committee now has twelve members and fifteen community partners.

After a year of direction, support and training by our local project and consulting grant program technical advisor, the steering committee is well on its way to serving as the voice and conscience of their community.



One of the community holding ponds, located behind homes in College Park, is the future site of a sump pump station. The second pond will be home to a transferable sump pump station to help relieve the flooding consistent during flash floods and heavy rain fall. Drainage pipes will lead the run-off to a canal.



Knowing and Educating Residents



- **Armed with the knowledge of our audience, the two distinct communities and their very different demographics, the Community Coordinator and the Steering Committee has geared their efforts and activities to target these two groups: Retirees and young families.**
- **Steering Committee and AGTFC Board members living in the community has participated in a series of trainings and conferences to help disseminate information to empower fellow residents. Trainings & conferences include: CBPR, Community-Campus Health Partners, GA Associations of Evaluators, and Visions, Inc./W.K. Kellogg Training.**
- **Standing monthly steering committee meetings have been conducted for over a year and gaining recognition within the community.**
- **In addition, the committee has hosted a series of annual community events that are rolling into their second year. These events are themed related on environmental health, health & wellness, and community awareness.**
- **A monthly community newsletter is forthcoming -launching this month.**



Maximizing access to environmental and health resources through collaborative partnerships

Community Advocacy Environmental & Hazardous Relief

- Through a collaborative partnership with the City of Albany and Dougherty County elected officials, the community will undergo a series of public works projects to relieve the flash flooding prone to the community.
 - The community will now receive timely notifications on public works projects.
 - A petition for street lights on Betty's Drive in College Park will circulate the community with assistance from the Public Works Department.





Where are we now?



AGTFC and the New Tools New Visions 2 (NTNV2) partnership experienced tremendous growth during the Year-Two grant period! Guided by a renewed leadership, staff and a community motivated steering committee, energy, resources, and partnering organizations has revived the focus to a mission driven organization and project.

- The steering committee continues to be the driving force and conscience of the project. After a full year of organized events, training, and collaborative partnership building efforts, the steering committee has become a recognized entity in the community and with local government and organizations.
- **IRB Application** - An IRB application is pending approval from the ASU review board to conduct Health Assessment Survey, Key Informant Interviews, and Focus groups in the community.



Acknowledgements



New Tools, New Vision 2 Steering Committee

Karen McWhite, President – College Heights

Veronice Ford, Vice President – College Park

Flo Hill, Secretary – College Heights

Elwanda Coston, Assistant Secretary – College Heights

Barbara Banks – College Park

Dorcas Barber – College Heights

Mary Barnes – College Heights

Gloria Cutts – College Park

Joanne Gates – College Park

Pamethia Graham – College Park

Vera Solomon – College Park

Lula Stokes – College Heights

A.L. Thompson, Sr. – College Heights

Sam Whitlock – College Heights



Acknowledgements



Albany GA Tools for Change, Inc.

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Carolyn Smith, Community Coordinator-
CARE Grant
Torrey Knight, NTNV2 Program Assistant



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