



# *Youth Investment Workshop*

STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE AND EMPOWER TOMORROW'S LEADERS  
TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



## RISE'S MISSION

*Rise partners with communities to build stronger, more equitable St. Louis area neighborhoods.*

# AGENDA



9:30 Introductions & Opening Activity

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10:10 Overview of Youth Voice & Leadership

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10:20 CDC Presentations

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11:00 Break

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11:15 Panel

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11:55 Call to Action

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## PURPOSE

*Informing Community Development Corporations (CDCs) and other community leaders the benefits of engaging youth in the community to improve the overall quality of those communities and transforming them into active stakeholders.*



## GROUP TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Key questions guiding this group training include:

- Why is the youth voice vital to your work?
- What are some other ways that you can engage youth?
- What are local community development organizations doing to improve the overall quality of life for youth?
- What pressing health and safety needs exist in your community – and how can they be effectively addressed?

# Community Development in St. Louis

Encourage and promote the industrial, economic, entrepreneurial, commercial and civic development or redevelopment of a community of area, including the provision of housing and community economic development projects that benefit low- income individuals and communities.

- 1 • St. Louis and East St. Louis need to increase capacity for strategic community development
- 2 • Strategic community development requires a supportive community development system
- 3 • It is important to increase the capacity for CDCs to implement place- based strategies.

# Importance of Youth Engagement



- Youth can support CDCs with improving neighborhoods in terms of ideas and enthusiasm and energy.
- By giving the youth in the community a voice, we create a continuous cycle of energy
- If pride is taken within their communities, we build a more sustainable environment.
- We grow a group of young produce and ambitious future professionals.
- Youth can be positive influences among their friends and other youth

# GROUP ACTIVITY





## Forecasted Youth Outcomes

## Efforts and Activities

## Forecasted Community Outcomes

- Increased civic leadership
- Increased skills and knowledge
- Increased access to power

### Systems Expectations and Efforts

#### GOVERNMENT

- Youth Council establishment
- Policy leadership
- Youth-led outreach to peers

- Increased involvement of youth voice in policy and planning
- Increased community awareness and prioritization around youth voice
- Systems of Care that are responsive to youth voice
- Increased reach of youth

- Increased skills and knowledge
- Increased opportunities to practice leadership
- Increased opportunities for influencing and informing

### Organizational Expectations and Efforts

#### YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Intentional philosophies
- Training provided for staff
- Capacity building
- Creation of communities of practice

- Quality improvements
- Increased presence of youth in program design
- Reduced bias toward youth and youth voice
- Increased youth participation and retention in programs

- Increased skills and knowledge
- Participation in civic action
- Engagement in public and social media
- Increased access to and engagement in leadership and advocacy opportunities to impact change

### Community Expectations and Needs

- Program, voice and leadership accessible to all youth
- Training provided for youth and adults
- Amplification of youth voice through public and social media
- Communitywide youth well-being assessments

- Increased awareness by community and parents of youth issues, needs, assets and perspectives
- Increased support for youth voice
- Impact positive youth perception

# Supports for Youth Engagement



- Preparing youth for leadership
- Preparing adults to give youth voice
- Youth – Adult Relationships
- Youth Decision Making

# Youth Voice & Leadership Process



## Orientation & Readiness Assessment

- Familiarize the organization with youth voice & leadership
- Assess the interest and readiness for engaging youth voice & leadership

## Goal Setting

- Identify organizational goals for which youth voice and leadership will be engaged

## Alignment

- Match identified goals with strategies that may work

## Action Planning

- Agree upon who will do what by when to implement solutions

## Implementation

- Implement plan and monitor progress of agreed upon solutions



## CDC PRESENTATIONS

- Sinai Family Life Center
- Old North Restoration Group
- Riverview West Florissant Development
- Old North Restoration Group



# Sinai Family Life Center



*“Building Lives, Building Futures”*

THE MISSION OF SFLC IS TO PROVIDE VITAL SOCIAL SERVICES THAT WILL ENABLE RESIDENTS TO LIVE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE, POSITIVE AND PURPOSEFULLY DIRECTED LIVES.



**BREAK**



# PANEL DISCUSSION

