

A Message from the Board Chair

As President of the Board of Directors for The Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Collaborative, I am thankful to see the works of our collaborative bear real fruit that has not only nourished our community members, but also strengthened our communities from within.

Over the past year, we have opened new doors, created new partnerships, and continued to build upon a solid and lasting foundation for our efforts. We are fulfilling the promise of faith-based community leadership working in close partnership with nonprofit social service organizations, government, and other entities to empower community members and to increase access to services and resources for all.

Together, we are addressing longstanding equity gaps by empowering communities, centering thier voices and working remove the barriers to their success. From daily challenges to long term needs, we are committed to helping individuals and families transform their lives.

Kenneth Palmer

Kenneth Palmer

Chairman, Board of Directors

A Message from the Executive Director

It has been another year of incredible progress at The Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Collaborative. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the board, our members, and our participants. What a great honor it has been to shepherd this work for the past five years. I am thankful that, through God's grace, we have been able to grow tremendously and support more individuals and families across our community.

Over time, our diligence, and our constant stewardship—listening to program participants and working to respond to their needs—has yielded a strong organization on an upward trajectory that makes a real difference in people's lives every single day. Collaboration and community partnership have been the keys to our astonishing success.

Our work has been impactful since opening our doors in 2012. We added new strategic partnerships each year, received our first competitive grant via United Way of Greater Atlanta for the volunteer income tax assistance program in 2015. We later won a multi-year request for proposal (RFP) in 2017 to train nearly 4,000 housing choice voucher participants annually. And now we have answered the call of duty by taking a leading role in addressing the housing insecurity left in the wake of COVID-19 by preventing hundreds of evictions through direct financial assistance. We have achieved so much in such a short amount of time. Our conviction is even strong as we position struggling families for employment opportunities, better health and overdue economic mobility!

We are fortunate to be of service. At this time, we must be intentional about bringing more education, more support, and more concrete solutions to our community.



Detria Russell
Executive Director



MID-YEAR COMMUNITY REPORT





“The Martin Luther King Resource Collaborative Center has been very supportive to my family since day one. After they learned what goals we wanted to achieve, they pointed us in (the) directions to get things done. ...Resources were provided and our priorities were listed. We would refer anyone that may need the smallest to the largest assistance to come here and allow them to help as much as possible.”

- M. Cross

WHO WE ARE

A vision of the Ebenezer Baptist Church Board of Trustees, the Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Collaborative (Collaborative) helps families build better lives by providing comprehensive and integrated social support resources at a single location, with the goal of guiding families to self-sufficiency. We combine multiple services provided by our partners and organize around a personalized plan to maximize client opportunities for success. By doing so the Collaborative has launched an innovative social service delivery model that can be replicated across the country.

“Our goal is to be different from the traditional work of disjointed social support services provided to families. Each day we seek to create an evidenced-based model of best practices that can be scaled and transported to any community.”

—Executive Director **Detria Russell**

Using this social service delivery model, the Collaborative actively taps into the resources of governmental agencies and social service, business, and educational institutions on behalf of clients. Our five targeted areas are family and children services, educational achievement, workforce readiness, housing education and family economic success. Our partners work in concert with us to help clients achieve success in these targeted areas.

Through this system, we have managed to create a consistent return on investment for the community and garnered the trust of our partners while helping our clients advance toward their goals. By re-imagining the non-profit space, we are giving families the skills needed to improve their quality of life, achieve true self sufficiency and transcend poverty.

WHAT WE DO



The Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Collaborative offers help in *five (5) targeted areas* that impact the ability of families to thrive.



HONORING THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING SR.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. was inspired as a young man to become a Baptist preacher by ministers he met who stood against racial injustice. In his more than 40 years of service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, he himself became an inspiration to the many preachers and activists who followed his example as an advocate for civil rights and social justice, including his son, Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only a powerful minister of the gospel, Rev. King, Sr. was a force for positive change. He became head of the Atlanta NAACP and the Civic and Political League. He supported the growth of an educated and politically-active black ministry and helped end Jim Crow laws in Georgia.

“His life is a powerful reminder of the commitment necessary to build hope and self- sufficiency for families in our communities. It is why the Collaborative is named in his honor.”

—Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, Ph.D.



CHILD & FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES



EDUCATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT



EMPLOYMENT/
WORKFORCE READINESS



HOUSING
EDUCATION SERVICES



FAMILY
ECONOMIC SUCCESS

PARTNERS



Ebenezer Baptist Church

America's Freedom Church, Ebenezer is a founding partner of the Collaborative and provides leadership, support, and guidance for our efforts.



Casey Family Programs

These experts work together with child welfare systems, courts, policymakers, and others to help improve practices and policies that impact the needs of children in foster care, their families and their communities.



Operation HOPE

This leading global provider of financial literacy education helps Collaborative clients achieve economic stability through training in the areas of personal financial education, home ownership training, and credit/money management.



Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

Georgia DFCS has a caseworker at the Collaborative weekly to help clients needing social services, including food stamps, Medicaid, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and DECAL (Department for Early Child Care and Learning). The caseworker's primary role at the Collaborative is to educate clients about services and the application process and to assist them in navigating DFCS programs and services.



WorkSource Atlanta (WSA) & Walmart

The Collaborative utilizes partnerships with WorkSource Atlanta and Walmart to provide clients with training and educational support designed to help them achieve a livable wage and ultimately long-term career success. Our partnerships with these organizations have enabled us to develop processes, tools, and curriculums that form the cornerstone of our brand-new, digitally delivered Journey to Economic Mobility (JEM) Program.



In addition to these primary partners, the Collaborative also works with an ever-expanding network of agencies and organizations that support our clients with services in such areas as **life skills coaching, GED preparation and testing, clothing, workforce readiness, training and placement services, housing assistance referrals, homebuyer education, food pantry referrals, MARTA card referrals, and much more.**

ANNUAL PROGRAMS

Partners Achieving Community Success (PACS) Program

Through this mentoring program, the Collaborative creates a Life Plan of Action for each client for both internal programmatic support and external service provision. Life Coaching services are regularly offered to clients, so that they continually build life skills required for stable, secure, and well-paying employment to better themselves and their families. Participants consider and evaluate various educational, financial, parenting and employment paths, identify their strengths and weaknesses, while building a stronger economic foundation for their family. This program is funded in part by a Fulton County CSP Grant.

United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

We assist low-income earners in filing tax returns, free of charge, so that they can receive federal benefits that they are entitled to, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. Aside from assisting clients in receiving benefits, we save moderate and lower-income families the cost of paying for tax preparation and prevented them from taking out a loan against their own money. This is what families often do to get an 'instant refund' through a commercial preparer.

Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) Good Neighbor Program

We provide classes that enable Housing Choice Voucher Participants (HCVP) to maintain compliance with the Federal Department of Housing and Development Section 8 Program. Moreover, our classes not only allow clients to fulfill obligations to receive city aid, but also provide critical financial literacy and parenting training.

Helping our Members in Emergencies (HOME) Program

The HOME program serves families and children faced with emergencies and/or urgent situations relating to their housing stability and other unforeseen barriers to housing and family economic success. Funds are used to assist families who need shelter, support to secure housing and move-in funds or transportation assistance in support of them stabilizing their living situation and meeting their immediate, emergency needs. Our services to clients are determined by an intake session to evaluate their needs and barriers to success.



“Fortunately, I will be able to obtain adequate employment within the next few months. Obtaining employment will transition me out of transitional housing, back into stable housing, as I overcome a homeless situation from two years ago.”

- L. Coarde





"I was working temporary jobs when I first moved to Atlanta. When I came to the Collaborative for assistance, they helped me find a school for my son, get a MARTA card and other services like food stamps to see me through until I could get a full-time job."

- J. Bruton



AmeriCorps VISTA Program

Through a series of AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) grants, three AmeriCorps workers now help the Collaborative with its current programs and services, while working to create new programs and services. These first three VISTA positions—a marketing and community outreach coordinator, a development coordinator, and a Board development and policy creation coordinator—served from 2017 to 2018. The Collaborative was recently awarded renewal of these VISTA positions through 2021. We look forward to recompeting this program and using the energy that our VISTAs bring to the Collaborative to enhance our capabilities!

COVID-19 PROGRAMS

This year has been incredibly disruptive to our community and those we serve. We have been fortunate to serve as a trusted partner with many government entities and national non-profits to the address unprecedented need for assistance.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Give-A-Way

The need for PPE was tremendous. We partnered with national agencies to set up a safe distribution process. We helped to distribute over 30,000 masks and hand sanitizer for vulnerable families and children.

COVID-19 Emergency Financial Assistance

We won competitive grant awards to immediately begin addressing the need for struggling families. Eviction prevention has been our priority. Agencies we have been contracted by to disperse over \$325,000 in emergency funds include Fulton County, United Way of Greater Atlanta and the City of Atlanta.

Free Community COVID-19 Testing

We formed a strategic partnership to provide surgical masks and hand sanitizer kits to various disenfranchised populations throughout the metro Atlanta area. This effort was in response to the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on marginalized minority communities.

A LOOK AT OUR NUMBERS

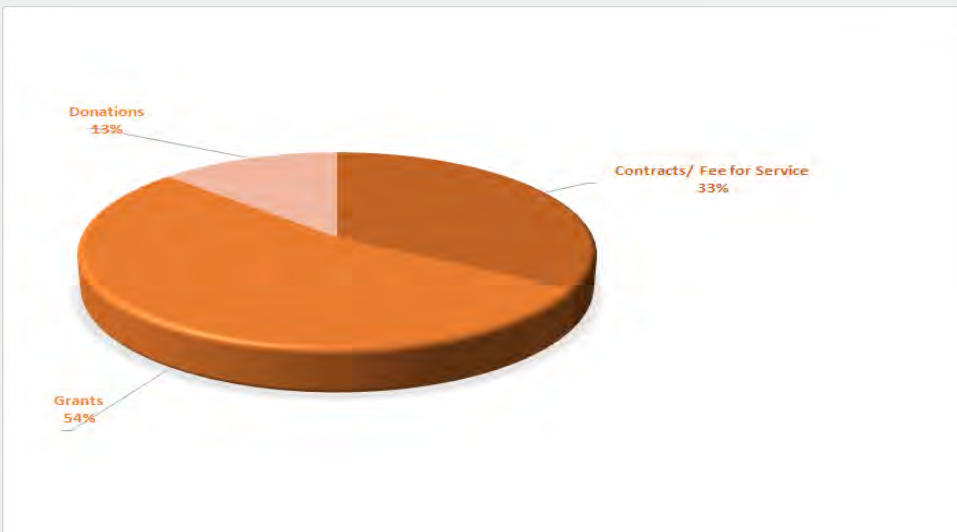
Our Impact in the Community Target Areas



4164 PEOPLE SERVED



2020 FUNDING DIVERSITY



We are honored to have partnered with so many private foundations, non-profit organizations, and government entities over this past year. Our long-standing relationships and reputation as 'doers' that get at the root causes of intergenerational poverty to provide economic mobility for the families that we serve have enabled us to win multiple grant awards. Among others, these include grant awards and contracts with the following partners:

- Fulton County Government
- The United Way of Greater Atlanta
- The Atlanta Housing Authority
- The Schusterman Foundation
- The City of Atlanta
- Walmart

To get involved or donate please see our website or call us.



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mlksrcollaborative.org