Step Up Savannah works to bring together business, government, social service agencies, and individuals who seek to reduce Savannah’s persistent poverty by identifying and removing barriers that prevent families from attaining economic self sufficiency.
What does Savannah look like?

- 25.5% poverty rate overall; 40-50% in 7 downtown census tracts
- 136,286 pop. While 38% white, 55% African American, 68% of individuals in poverty are African American
- $34,000 median HH income
- 15% of all residents 25 and older less than HS diploma
How does Step Up work?

- Focus on Workforce Development and Wealth Building
- Educate and advocate on relevant policies
How does Step Up work?

- Attract/leverage resources
- Enhance capacity of direct service providers to increase their impact in fighting poverty
- Train neighborhood leaders
Board & Staff composition

- 39 member Board of Directors
  - Neighborhood Leaders
  - Business & Government Leaders
  - Non Profit/Social Service Leaders
- 90 partner organizations
- 7 staff members & 3 VISTA Associates
What do we do?

- Bank On Savannah/free financial literacy workshops
- On-site employer services (benefits screening, VITA-tax preparation, credit & budget workshops)
- Chatham Apprentice Program & Center for Working Families network
What do we do?

- Neighborhood Leadership Academy at Savannah State University

- Research and advocate: Access to public benefits, affordable housing, small-dollar emergency loans current issues.
Supporting Work Project: FINRA Foundation

- 10 Employers

Communications

- Poverty simulations; regular updates, reports to community

Capacity building

- RBA approach to strengthening outcomes of community-based orgs

Evaluation

- Annual “Report Card”
How do we approach policy?

- Georgia Legal Services; MRB Foundation

Issues identified through Residents Team, community volunteers & direct service providers. Work through board policy committee and formal board vote.
Resources

http://www.savannahga.gov/

Savannah Affordable Housing Fund:


