

THE BIG PICTURE

Team Name: Savannah Community Assessment Leadership Enterprise (SCALE)

Location: Savannah, GA

Project Goal/Outcome: To realize a *shared* vision with the community for a *healthy* Savannah.

Socio-Economic, Political, & Cultural Context

- Several under-resourced neighborhoods (low-income, majority African-American) re: safe spaces that support physical activity and access to healthy eating
- Limited, sustained and meaningful participation among residents in efforts to improve community health outcomes (e.g., Tatumville)
- Challenged to identify priorities and move local health coalition from process to action
- A vision for a healthier Savannah is supported by City of Savannah and key employers (e.g., funding, programs, and the prioritization of resources)

Rationale

As a city, we have been slowly building momentum for work toward a healthier Savannah. Several coalitions, comprised of institutions, community organizations, and professionals, have worked diligently to improve the health in Savannah (e.g., Healthy Savannah, Safety Net, and Savannah Business Group). The City of Savannah has allocated funding and resources for healthy programming (e.g., Food Day and Bring It Home) and worked to achieve health promotion designations, such as Playful City and Let's Move! Recently, a major employer has launched the Live Well, Be Well campaign for its employees, with opportunities to support health-promoting community organizations. As we move forward, we desire to increase the representation and participation of community residents who not only partner in these transformation efforts, but also drive them. This will enable our community to prioritize policies and programs that lead to a healthier, sustainable community.

Potential Stakeholders

(To be fleshed out during *Enable Community Participation* stage)
Community residents, Arts Community, Health care sector, Work site sector, Community Institution/Organizations, School Sector

Pathway to Change/ Key Activities

Identify Prior Efforts

- Articulate our definition *community participation* (i.e., what it is, what it's not, and how it reflects the distribution of power that we think is important for our work)
- Plan study of prior community transformation efforts (e.g., identify key efforts and potential participation models, design interview questions, and compare across life stages)
- Implement study & reflect on study findings to share with community and to inform work moving forward
- Recruit members of arts community, writers (someone who captures our mobilizations, shifts, learning, etc.); capturing our own story
- Strategically develop or strengthen community relationships to *Enable Community Participation*

Leadership Learning Priorities

Identify Prior Efforts

- Learn to work in appreciative perspectives into existing problem-centered conversations around health and community currently happening.
- Determine and communicate the lessons learned from previous efforts as a way to shift toward a more appreciative perspective
- Identify and apply a "new leadership" model where we serve as a resource for community-driven transformation that leads to a healthier Savannah

Indicators of Success Output and Process Indicators

Outcome Indicators: (organized by stages; driven by community members):

Identify Prior Efforts

- Engage in an appreciative inquiry process to learn about prior community transformation efforts in Savannah
- Synthesize a set of practices that (a) can be shared with community as inspiration and (b) inform development of shared vision and work for a healthier Savannah

Enable Community Participation

- Identify focal community that "gives voice to the voiceless" and is all encompassing
- Identify and vet potential stakeholders and resources that create readiness for authentic conversations, i.e., a level of trust to exchange ideas and share feelings

Plan for a Healthier Savannah

- Establish a community-driven "planning" committee
- "Planning" committee engages in appreciative inquiry that captures the energy and contributions of the community

Serve as Resource

- Articulate how SCALE members will participate in this effort
- SCALE steps back to become a resource