

Action 1: Institutionalize Community-Led Coalition Funding



What is the action?

Institutionalize long-term funding mechanisms for community-led coalitions by creating transparent public and private funding streams that provide sustained, multi-year support and embed community members in funding priorities and decision-making processes at the local, regional, and state levels.

Why does this matter?

- Historically marginalized and under-resourced Georgians often face barriers to consistent civic participation. Sustained investment helps ensure community voices are represented in decisions that affect them.
- Community-based and grassroots organizations often struggle to sustain operations and influence because funding is short-term and unpredictable. Long-term support helps coalitions remain stable, connected, and effective over time.
- Community priorities are not always reflected in local, regional, and state decision-making. Embedding community input in funding and policymaking can increase accountability, support more equitable outcomes, and help protect communities from harm and displacement.
- Flexible, community-informed investments can help resources better support healing, health equity, and economic mobility for socially vulnerable Georgians.

What does success look like?

- **Equitable and Sustained Investment in Community-Led Work:** Community-led coalitions and grassroots organizations have access to durable, equitably distributed resources, particularly in communities experiencing the greatest disparities.
- **Community Power, Leadership, and Shared Decision-Making:** Residents, especially those with lived experience of inequity, have meaningful influence over decisions that affect their communities and are represented in leadership and governance structures.
- **Accessible and Community-Responsive Systems:** Systems reduce barriers to participation and make it easier for residents and organizations to access resources, funding, and decision-making opportunities.

What things should be considered?

Implementation Considerations

- Building broad support across sectors and communities can help sustain momentum through changing political priorities and leadership transitions.
- Long-term progress depends on funding approaches that support planning, coordination, and systems change.
- Administrative requirements should be streamlined and supported with technical assistance to reduce barriers to participation.
- Meaningful community engagement and shared decision-making help build trust, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

Geographic and Population Considerations

- Approaches should reflect local context across urban, suburban, rural, and coastal communities.
- Special attention should be given to populations that have historically faced barriers to participation, including immigrant or multilingual communities, people with disabilities, low-income households, formerly incarcerated individuals, and other underrepresented groups.

Key Stakeholders

- Community-based organizations and nonprofits
- Neighborhood and grassroots coalitions
- Local and state government
- Public health, education, and public safety agencies
- Advocacy organizations, funders, and statewide coalitions

In what ways can this action be moved forward?

- Advocate for policies or funding approaches that provide multi-year, flexible support for community-led coalitions.
- Identify opportunities to include community members in planning, funding, or decision-making processes within your own work.
- Invest in or support coalition backbone organizations, technical assistance, or accessibility efforts that strengthen participation.
- Share examples, stories, and data that demonstrate the value of community-led solutions.
- Build new partnerships or strengthen existing networks around shared community priorities.

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Action 2: Build Leaders and Strengthen Collaboration



What is the action?

Develop and support community leaders and cross-sector collaborations by creating leadership pathways across generations, especially for underrepresented communities, strengthening the systems, partnerships, and shared infrastructure needed to coordinate action across sectors, and co-designing accessible and multilingual civic engagement systems at the local, regional, and state levels.

Why does this matter?

- Communities most impacted by policy and systems decisions are often underrepresented in leadership. Building leadership pathways helps broaden civic participation and representation across Georgia.
- When sectors work separately, solutions can become fragmented. Stronger collaboration helps communities coordinate efforts, solve problems faster, and use resources more effectively.
- Durable civic infrastructure and leadership pipelines help sustain progress beyond a single program, election cycle, or a funding opportunity.
- Inclusive leadership and collaboration can strengthen equity, transparency, and community-informed decision-making while recognizing the value of diverse perspectives.

What does success look like?

- **Civic Participation and Representation:** Residents have more accessible opportunities to participate in decision-making, and civic and political leadership better reflects the communities served.
- **Leadership Development and Civic Capacity:** Residents, especially those historically underrepresented, gain the skills, confidence, and pathways to lead in community, civic, and governance roles.
- **Equity-Centered Engagement and Access:** Engagement opportunities are inclusive, culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and accessible to communities often left out.
- **Community Trust, Collaboration, and Shared Power:** Residents, organizations, and institutions build stronger relationships, coordinate action, share decision-making, and sustain participation.
- **Systems Change and Community Impact:** Cross-sector civic engagement efforts lead to more responsive policies, systems, and community conditions.

What things should be considered?

Implementation Considerations

- Sustained leadership pathways need stable funding, paid backbone coordination, and ongoing capacity-building so community leaders can be recruited, trained, and retained.
- Trust and participation grow when community-led design, compensation, accessibility, and trusted messengers are built into engagement and decision-making.
- Cross-sector collaboration works best with clear coordination structures, shared plans, and alignment across grassroots organizations, institutions, and local officials.
- Long-term progress may be affected by political conditions, leadership turnover, and community safety concerns, so strategies should include accountability tools and supports that help protect and activate leaders.

Geographic and Population Considerations

- Approaches should be adapted for urban, suburban, rural, and regional contexts and should meet people where they already gather.
- Special attention should be given to youth, older adults, immigrant or multilingual communities, people with disabilities, low-income households, housing-insecure residents, LGBTQ+ communities, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and other underrepresented civic groups.

In what ways can this action be moved forward?

- Fund or support leadership development, mentorship, succession planning, and peer-learning opportunities.
- Create or strengthen coordination structures that connect community leaders across sectors, regions, and organizations.
- Build pathways for youth, residents, and emerging leaders from underrepresented communities to move into formal and informal leadership roles.
- Share examples, data, and stories that highlight successful collaborative leadership and partnership outcomes.
- Use accessible, multilingual, and culturally relevant engagement approaches to broaden participation and strengthen trust.

Key Stakeholders

- Community leaders, residents, youth, and emerging leaders
- Community-based organizations and grassroots coalitions
- Local, state, and regional government partners
- Education, business, and workforce sector partners
- Advocacy organizations, coalition networks, and funders

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Action 3: Strengthen Civic Engagement and Accountability



What is the action?

Strengthen civic engagement capacity and systems-level accountability by investing in the infrastructure, education, and participation systems that enable residents to influence decisions and hold institutions accountable. This includes supporting community-based organizations, participatory governance structures, transparent public reporting, and community-driven feedback and oversight mechanisms that allow residents to shape implementation and evaluate institutional performance at the local, regional, and state levels.

Why does this matter?

- Decisions that affect communities often happen without meaningful community input. Stronger civic engagement systems help residents shape priorities, policies, and implementation decisions that affect their lives.
- Transparency and public accountability can increase trust in policymaking and help communities see how input is used to inform action.
- When residents, community-based organizations, and cross-sector partners can participate meaningfully in decision-making, policies are more likely to reflect community priorities and produce equitable outcomes.
- Accountability tools help ensure community engagement leads to action, follow-through, and measurable progress rather than one-time participation.

What does success look like?

- **Inclusive and Representative Civic Participation:** Residents across Georgia, reflecting the full diversity of the state and including voices historically excluded from decision-making, have accessible and meaningful opportunities to participate in public processes, policy dialogue, and community action.
- **Shared Power and Community Leadership:** Community members, grassroots organizations, and resident leaders hold meaningful influence and power in governance and decision-making.
- **Responsiveness, Accountability, and Trust:** Community input leads to visible action, with clear feedback loops, transparent progress updates, and accountability systems that show how resident priorities influence decisions and help build public trust.
- **Equity-Centered Policy and Systems Change:** Policies, agendas, and decision-making systems

shift to address structural inequities and social determinants of health, with transparent reporting on progress toward equity and policy goals.

What things should be considered?

Implementation Considerations

- Meaningful engagement requires sustained funding, technical assistance, organizational capacity, and coordination infrastructure so residents, community-based organizations, and institutions can participate over time.
- Clear governance structures, shared goals, and transparent reporting can help maintain alignment amid political dynamics, competing agendas, leadership turnover, and fragmented systems.
- Accountability efforts should anticipate resistance to power shifts by defining roles, supporting open dialogue, and using participatory structures that build shared responsibility and trust.

Geographic and Population Considerations

- Approaches should be adapted for urban, suburban, rural, local, regional, and statewide contexts, recognizing that participation may look different across communities.
- Special attention should be given to residents and groups often underrepresented in civic processes, including youth, racial and ethnic communities, immigrant or multilingual communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing economic or housing insecurity, and other marginalized civic groups.

Key Stakeholders

- Residents, community leaders, neighborhood groups, and grassroots coalitions
- Community-based organizations, nonprofits, and statewide advocacy networks
- Local, regional, and state government partners
- Public health, education, university, and cross-sector systems partners
- Policymakers, planning bodies, chambers, funders, and accountability partners

In what ways can this action be moved forward?

- Create or participate in opportunities for residents to shape decisions, provide feedback, and influence implementation.
- Support community-based organizations, grassroots coalitions, and resident leaders working to increase civic participation and community voice.
- Use community-informed measures, feedback tools, or public reporting to track progress and demonstrate accountability.
- Share regular updates on progress, outcomes, and next steps to strengthen accountability, responsiveness, and public trust.
- Encourage residents, community leaders, and organizations to participate in public decision-making processes and help remove barriers to engagement.

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