

Common Good Initiative

2017 “Top Eight” FAQ’s

The Common Good Initiative, launched in 2014 by Allegany Franciscan Ministries, is designed to mobilize communities towards better health and wellness through community engagement, a long-term commitment of resources, and increased collaboration of residents and stakeholders. Allegany Franciscan Ministries created the Common Good Initiative to work with people in three participating communities to build healthier, safer places where everyone thrives. The initiative is committed to listening and learning from members of the community.

1. What has happened so far?

Initially, time was spent in each of the three Common Good Communities (Lincoln Park, Overtown and Wimauma) listening to and learning from community members - people who live, work and volunteer in the community. Community Dialogues with residents and stakeholders identified the most important priorities they felt should be addressed by the initiative.

Local volunteer advisory councils called Councils for the Common Good formed to work with Allegany on the development, implementation, investments and evaluation of the Common Good Initiative. Together with Allegany, the Councils are continually analyzing existing resources and researching best practices and evidence-based efforts related to the priorities, and deciding upon the best approaches for implementation and investment.

Almost \$5.7 million has already been invested focused on the community priorities.

2. What are the identified priorities the Common Good Initiative is focusing on?

➤ Lincoln Park Priorities:

- All residents will have access to quality jobs that earn them a livable wages.
- All residents will live in a safe and healthy community.
- Building community infrastructure and capacity.

➤ Overtown Priorities:

- All residents will have access to high quality employment.
- All community youth will have access to affordable, high quality youth development opportunities.
- Community Voices in Overtown inform policies and decisions.

➤ Wimauma Priorities:

- All residents will have access to economic opportunities.
- All youth and children will grow up in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.
- Building community infrastructure and capacity.

➤ All three communities share an additional priority:

- Building Community Infrastructure and Capacity: Organizations and individuals in Lincoln Park will have the connections and capacity to achieve their missions and sustain the progress of the Common Good Initiative.

3. How is the community involved?

Community involvement is a deeply held value for the Common Good Initiative. “The community” includes anyone who lives, works or volunteers in the community – Lincoln Park, Wimauma or Overtown. The initiative is committed to engaging with, listening to, and learning from, members of the communities. Allegany Franciscan Ministries is participating in individual and group meetings with community members, leaders and stakeholders, listening to and understanding their concerns, and engaging in solution oriented dialogue. Community representatives participate on the Council for the Common Good, which guides the development, implementation and investments of the initiative. Periodically, community meetings are hosted to share and get feedback about the work and celebrate the community’s successes.

4. Who’s involved in making decisions about Common Good Initiative?

Residents, stakeholders and volunteers from each community participate as members of the Council for the Common Good. The Council, in partnership with the Allegany Franciscan Ministries’ regional vice president, supports the development, implementation and evaluation of the investments and makes recommendations to the Allegany board of directors, which makes the final decisions. Progress is shared regularly with the community as a whole to get continued feedback and suggestions and to make sure the initiative is on the right track. The Allegany Franciscan Ministries board of directors ultimately makes strategic and investment decisions.

5. How much money is available?

Allegany Franciscan Ministries has committed \$3 million this year (FY17), more than half of its total community investment funds. Of this, \$1 million is available for each of the three Common Good Communities. The same amount was committed in FY16; \$2.7 million is set aside for FY18. Allegany Franciscan Ministries anticipates supporting this work at some level for five or more years, through 2022. Each year the Allegany Franciscan Ministries board of directors will determine the amount of funds available. One of the initiative’s goals is to attract additional funders and financial resources interested in investing in the Common Good Communities.

6. What types of funding opportunities will be available?

As strategies are identified in support of community priorities, each Council will develop funding mechanisms. These could include a traditional RFP, contracted services, mini grants, proactive partnerships, loans and a myriad of other innovative funding mechanisms. As appropriate, opportunities will be announced when they become available.

Community members may participate in community meetings to learn more about the initiative and potential funding opportunities. Community members may also reach out the Allegany Franciscan Ministries regional vice president and monitor updates through the Common Good Initiative pages on the website, www.afmfl.org.

7. How will success be defined?

Success will look different in each community based on the priorities selected. Data and evaluation will demonstrate improved community health outcomes. A key determinant of success will be active community engagement resulting in leadership development and the ability of the community to lead this initiative forward beyond support from Allegany Franciscan Ministries, eventually developing the ability to sustain it independently. Evaluation reports are completed twice a year and can be found on the website, www.afmfl.org.

8. What are the investments to date?

Grants have been awarded and financial support through grant-related activities has been provided in each of the Common Good Communities, as the communities identify priorities and strategies. As of June 2017, over \$5.7 million has been invested across the communities. A complete list can be found on the website, www.afmfl.org.

