

Brushy Fork Institute Community Transformation Program

What is the Community Transformation Program?

The CTP is all about developing leadership capacity, vision and momentum from within your community. The program is an intensive, long-term process that includes workshops, community projects and a strategic planning effort.

If your community joins the program, a team of core leaders will attend the Brushy Fork Annual Institute on the campus of Berea College, where they will gain hands-on skills and unique perspectives related to leadership and community development.

Once back home, this core group will recruit teams of community members to take on multiple, diverse community improvement projects. The project teams will participate in workshops on leadership development and project planning, facilitated by Brushy Fork staff in the community, and will use what they learn from these workshops to implement their community projects.

Based on the projects, community members also will complete a strategic plan to sustain your community's movement toward a brighter future.

Who in my community should participate in the Community Transformation Program?

The CTP entails two levels of participation: the core team and the project teams.

Core Team: Members of the core team will represent various sectors of the community, for example: economic developers; local entrepreneurs; community agencies and nonprofits; the school system; elected officials or volunteers. The core team members should be decision-makers who have influence in initiating or continuing community projects in their sector.

Project Teams: The project teams will include diverse groups of citizens who are interested in completing community projects in a variety of sectors, such as education, health care, economic development, or the environment. Project team participants might range in age from students to retirees and could come from all walks of life. These team members may range from being very experienced at working on community projects to being novice at community involvement.

What will my community gain from the Community Transformation Program?

Your community will see its investment in the CTP pay off in terms of increased social capital, the completion of concrete short-term projects, and broad citizen involvement in developing a strategic plan that will carry your community into the future. Through this program, we expect that your community will be able to achieve the following:

1. The completion of a range of successful community projects, thereby increasing the "sense of possibility" in the community;
2. Mini-grants of up to \$10,000 to be used for implementation of the community projects;
3. The development of a community-wide strategic plan that unifies efforts among the various sectors of the community;
4. An increase in the number of citizens involved in leadership and community development;
5. The development of strong networks of leaders in the community;
6. An increased trust and respect among members of the community, resulting in an increase in social capital;
7. A better ability to leverage internal and external resources.

How can my community participate in the Community Transformation Program?

If your community is interested in the CTP, we should start with a conversation. Selection of a community will result from a collaborative dialogue between Brushy Fork and local leaders about capacity, readiness, energy and timing. To be selected for the program, your community should demonstrate the following:

- local leaders' vision and commitment to carrying their community through the program;
- ability to garner the involvement of key community leaders for a core team of 15 members;
- willingness to invest \$50,000 in the program; and
- ability to recruit several project teams.

How can my community pay the \$50,000 fee for the Community Transformation Program?

Your community will be able to access the funds needed to participate in this program from a variety of local sources, such as government, business and private donors, and from external funders, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, foundations and corporate donors. As part of our conversation during the selection process, we can help you identify potential funding sources.

How can I get more information about the Community Transformation Program?

To learn more about the CTP, contact one of the Brushy Fork staff members below:

Jane Higgins, Program Associate
Donna Morgan, Associate Director
Peter Hille, Director

E-mail: Jane_Higgins@berea.edu
E-mail: Donna_Morgan@berea.edu
E-mail: Peter_Hille@berea.edu

Mailing address and phone:

Brushy Fork Institute
CPO 2164, Berea College
Berea, KY 40404
859-985-3858
Fax: 859-985-3903
Web: www.brushyfork.org