

Making CONNECTIONS

A Neighborhood Transformation Family Development Initiative

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Core Belief

- Children do well when their families are strong; and families do well when they live in supportive neighborhoods

Families matter and Place matters

&

Connections count

Core Areas of Work

- Family Economic Success (FES)
- Children Healthy and Prepared for School Success (CHAPSS)
- Resident Engagement and Leadership (REAL)

What is the Indianapolis work?

- Two targeted neighborhoods:
 - **Martindale Brightwood**
 - Southeast

A Statistical Glance Martindale-Brightwood

Resident Engagement and Leadership (REAL)

- Philosophy:
 - Residents who take formal and informal leadership roles in their neighborhoods are more likely to be connected to resources and more likely to make decisions to improve their family and their neighborhood.

Tools and Resources Available for **REAL**

- Engagement Tools:
 - **Study Circles**
 - small group neighborhood based discussions that engage residents in developing solutions for neighborhood concerns.

Study Circles Goals

Strength through relationships

Connect families to others with similar interests and concerns.

Strong community-building skills

Link families to leadership opportunities within their neighborhoods.

Strength in numbers

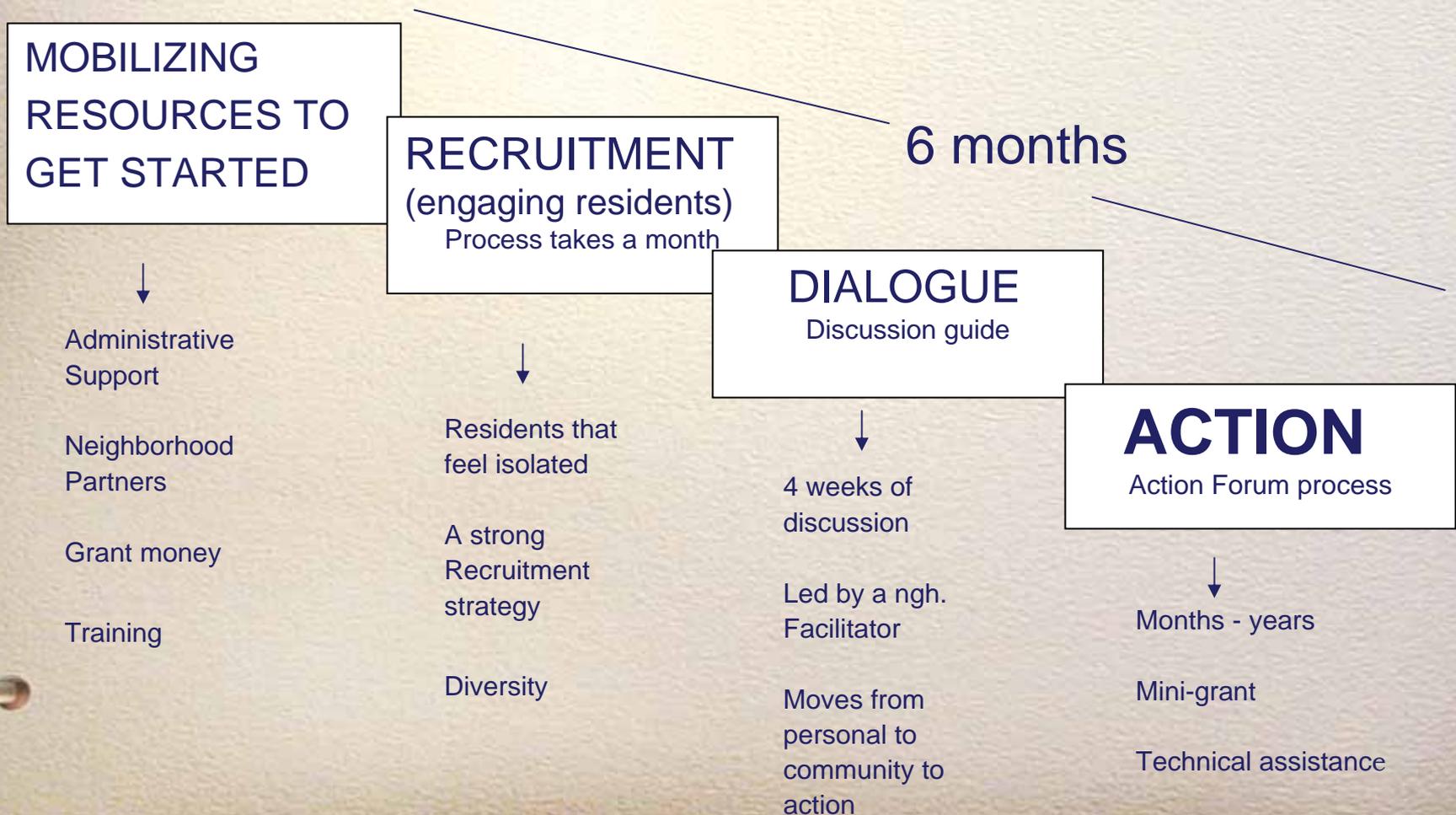
Link families to needed services

Small scale action that impact a large scale agenda

Study Circle Logistics

- Neighborhood Groups will:
 - Conduct 1- 2 circles
 - 8-10 participants per circle
 - 4-5 weeks of circle discussion
 - Conduct Action Forum & implement

Study Circles Process



Best Practices

- Martindale Brightwood Environmental Justice Collaborative
- Martindale Brightwood Weed and Seed Study Circles Action Plan

Resources

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
www.aecf.org
- Everyday Democracy
www.everyday-democracy.org
- Making Connections Indianapolis
www.mcindy.org
- Alicia J. Barnett, REAL Coach
aliciajbarnett@aol.com

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