The 2023 Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

Jacksonville, FL

Philanthropic-Municipal Strategic Partnerships

Challenge
To advance municipal strategic partnerships with the public, private, and philanthropic sectors.

Project Summary
The Office of Strategic Partnerships (“Office”) operates within the City of Jacksonville’s Office of the Mayor and is designed to facilitate cross-sector collaboration and joint investments. Jacksonville is the first Southeastern city in the United States to create such an office, following a recommendation from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Championing this strategy, the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida served as the fiscal agent for over 15 diverse funders, initially funding the Office. Since the Office’s launch in 2015, its impact has been significant, and the mayor fully funded and expanded it in 2019. The Office serves as a trusted source of information and leads the mayoral priority of aligning the public, private, and philanthropic sectors around common goals. It has transformed the relationship between the city and philanthropy, resulting in the development of civic assets, disaster response strategies, homelessness services, and housing initiatives that ensure equitable and shared prosperity for vulnerable populations. Together, the Office and its cross-sector partners identify strategic partnerships, provide data around programs and policy, and leverage opportunities that improve outcomes for residents.