Isaac Coleman Economic Community Investment



Overview

Named for social justice champion Isaac Coleman, the Isaac Coleman Economic Community Investment plan calls for targeted investments in our communities that are currently working to champion equitable opportunity. Our goal with this investment is to rebuild the health, safety, and self-sufficiency in our communities.

These investments are part of a broader approach, which includes continued partnerships with nonprofit and faith-based organizations, mini-grants to augment emerging and innovative community efforts, support for small businesses, and investments in education and the economy. This mix of formal and informal approaches is intended to strengthen community infrastructure so that meaningful and sustainable change can take root.

On February 21, 2017, Buncombe County Commissioners unanimously approved funding for the Isaac Coleman Community Investment Grants. On June 23, 2017, seven projects (listed below) were announced as the recipients of the first round of funding. This funding, totaling \$635,426, represents the allocated funding of \$500,000 for the Isaac Coleman grants as well as additional funding of \$135,426, secured from grants such as Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities and behavioral health. This additional grant funding is focused on addressing trauma and building resiliency within communities. We are bringing all of these efforts under one umbrella so that we can build relationships and share learning and resources where appropriate.

Looking forward, the County has extended an invitation to funded and unfunded applicants for Isaac Coleman Investment Grants to be a part of the Isaac Coleman Learning Collaborative. Through this collaborative we hope to make available resources and training to further support these community efforts.

2017 Isaac Coleman Grant Recipients

ABIPA - ABIPA Cares Cooperative

Place: Southside Community, 56 Walton St, Asheville - Southside

Shared Aspiration: Develop a worker-owned co-op to address the social determinants of health, specifically around education and economics, by providing training opportunities leading to Living Wage employment and entrepreneurship to build wealth among community members.

Anticipated Outcomes: Increased employment, improved social determinants of health.

Award: \$53,707

Deaverview: Residents, Schools, and Community in Relationship (Johnston Elementary/Deaverview Community)

Place: Johnston Elementary School, West Asheville

Shared Aspiration: Creation of a permanent community center for community building, academic

supports and summer programming.

Anticipated Outcomes: Increased volunteerism in schools, decreased school discipline, adult training

and employment, increased capacity of community leaders.

Award: \$44,520

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Emma Community Ownership

Place: Nuestro Centro, North Louisiana Ave, West Asheville

Shared Aspiration: Pipeline for dignified housing, meaningful education, sustainable employment, economic equity and civic engagement. Uses participatory action research model to identify community needs and aspirations.

Anticipated Outcomes: Strong network of small businesses, resident owned housing, affordable housing cooperatives, resource center, thriving schools, inclusive community, community participation and pride.

Award: \$71,460

My Community Matters Empowerment Program Collaboration with Positive Changes and Writers in Schools

Place: Arthur R Edington Education and Career Center and Asheville GreenWorks, Asheville - Southside **Shared Aspiration**: Pipeline for empowerment and educational opportunity for youth of color who are experiencing poverty and/or live in low wealth communities.

Anticipated Outcomes: Academic success, school readiness, increased skills, value of education, social capital, educational attainment, self-determination, cultural literacy.

Award: \$116,435

Shiloh Community Association/Pearson Plan

Place: Shiloh, Burton St and East End Neighborhoods (Asheville – South, West and East) **Shared Aspiration**: Communication with City and County; Development and affordable housing; Greenspaces and maintenance of the neighborhood culture; Economic development and business development.

Anticipated Outcomes: Improved neighborhood infrastructure, reduced crime rate.

Award: \$125,000

United Community Development/Southside Revitalization

Place: Water St, Asheville - Southside

Shared Aspiration: To provide economic, social, and cultural opportunities to black people in Asheville, using the Southside community as a template for equitable community economic development which will be led and controlled by the community.

Anticipated Outcomes: Job skills, jobs created, new contractors/contracts, new businesses, loans received, operating funds raised.

Award: \$111,804

YTL Training/G.R.A.C.E. for Teens and Access for Mothers and Families

Place: Asheville City School buildings, Asheville

Shared Aspiration: Develop youth educational access and support parents and families.

Anticipated Outcomes: Emotional assets and resilience, academic success, parent engagement, self-care,

engagement. *Award*: \$112,500