



REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR APPLICANTS OF THE Community Innovation Grant

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR THE ISSAC COLEMAN COMMUNITY INNOVATION INVESTMENT GRANTS

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners approved on February 21, 2017 the **Isaac Coleman Community Innovation Investment Grants**. These grants fund efforts within neighborhoods to rebuild community and connect community members to economic and educational opportunities.

Community members interested in applying are required to attend one of the hour informational sessions that are being offered at 200 College Street (TD Bank Building) in the ground floor conference room:

- Monday, 3/20 5PM
- Friday, 3/24 5PM
- Thursday, 3/30 Noon

Parking is available in the College Avenue deck and vouchers to pay for the parking will be available to attendees.

At this meeting, Health and Human Services staff will go over the Request for Proposals (RFP) including the eligibility requirements and answer questions about the application, the review process and timeline.

Applications must be submitted **no later than 5:00 pm on April 10, 2017**.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

If you are part of an existing self-organized group with an identified structure and purpose then you may be interested in applying. Here are some other factors to consider:

- Your group has an identified shared aspiration that is rooted in an issue of importance to the community around economic and educational opportunities and a strategic plan that supports this issue.
- Your group has identified strategies that fit with the community's culture and build off of current conditions in the community that will enable change to take hold and support economic/workforce development opportunities. These conditions could include:
 - Current buy in/participation of neighbors in the community
 - Currently utilized resources (including nonmonetary)
 - Current networks of support and partnerships
 - A track record of lessons learned from previous work
 - Current ways of getting community input and providing feedback to the community
 - Current availability of physical space and/or "home" for efforts
 - Current cultural component(s) that brings people together
 - Other conditions that you think are important for us to recognize



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AWARDS

The awards will vary from \$50,000 to \$125,000 (modifications to the amounts may be made based on pool of proposals). We anticipate awarding between 3 and 6 grants.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People and neighborhoods are impacted by race, poverty and trauma. These factors create barriers to economic success for adults and even impact the health of newborn babies. From early on, these cumulative pressures impact children, hampering the development of the necessary social, emotional, educational, and work skills to achieve self-sufficiency. As a community we cannot leave this talent behind. We need every child in our community to realize their potential and contribute to our community.

Based on recent data, we know our current efforts have not decreased disparities in health, education and economic opportunity. This requires us to think differently and employ different strategies.

What we have learned is that health, safety and wellbeing are culturally created rather than professionally prescribed. If we want to improve the economic opportunity, health and safety of communities then we must engage with communities in ways that allow them to lead. We also know that focusing on individuals alone will not address the pervasive effects of race, poverty and trauma. We must recognize that children and families live in communities and that healing begins within these communities. Three factors that determine the environmental conditions within communities are: economic and educational opportunity, people, and place. By focusing on these factors and harnessing the talents of community members, we can build a more robust workforce and more resilient neighborhoods.

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.

**Questions about these sessions? Call Lisa Eby 828-250-5610 or email:
lisa.eby@buncombecounty.org**



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INFORMATION ON THE THRIVE MODEL WHICH SERVES AS A BASIS FOR THE GRANT

THRIVE (Tool for Health & Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) Model

For detailed information see: <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/thrive-tool-health-resilience-vulnerable-environments>

Our focus with this investment is rebuild economic and educational opportunities in our communities using an approach modeled after the THRIVE model:

- 1) To increase Equitable Opportunity
 - Economic growth in communities
 - Efforts to create self-sustaining business models
 - Efforts to build job skills/connect to paid apprenticeships/business partners
 - Ideas for building capacity in communities that supports small business development (e.g., Ideas for micro loans tied to developing small businesses, skill building for community members/ ability to share resources/supports, etc)
 - Efforts to build bridges between neighborhoods and businesses
 - Educational improvement in communities
 - Efforts that create conditions for kids to be school ready
 - Efforts to create community norms that support learning: excellence in education (reading, math, science, etc)/and aspiration for trade and/or college training
 - Efforts to build bridges between neighborhoods and schools
- 2) People: to increase social capital in communities by increasing trust among communities members and by supporting the ability of communities to work together for a common goal.
 - by increasing the self-organization of community members toward a shared goal
 - increase the connection and alignment of efforts
 - number of hubs
 - number of connections (weak and strong)
 - increase the number of approaches to tackling health and safety issues through distributed efforts
 - by increasing the capacity of community leaders
 - To develop/build the capacity of community leaders to understand how to lead and build movements
 - to develop/build capacity of leaders to use developmental evaluation i.e., a continuous quality improvement practices (on the ground ability to adjust and shift approach in real time to nudge systems forward)
 - To develop/build capacity of leaders to connect/communicate/influence professionals with nonprofit agencies and governmental bodies as



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- appropriate (including working with City/County staff, BOCs, grant opportunities).
- To develop/build the capacity of community leaders to strengthen fiscal and oversight skills
- 3) Place: to improve the built environment of communities to create safe open spaces that bring people together
- To ensure the built environment supports messages of success around health, safety and wellbeing
 - To use the arts and cultural identity to provide a sense of “place” for communities, bringing them together around cultural pride and ownership

