

# Local Impact Funding Opportunity

## Maintaining the Safety Net

The Trust has long supported safety net organizations in Forsyth County to ensure people have access to basic human needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. As we shift our work toward building an inclusive economy for all, we also will continue to support the strengthening of the safety net so that no one falls behind.

### **Goal**

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the local safety net system via coordination and alignment.

### **Strategy**

Support overall coordination, alignment, and collaboration among safety net providers in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County through planning, research, convening, and building better integrated referral networks.

### **Timeframe**

Call-by date: **April 4, 2019**

Application deadline: **April 18, 2019**

### **Geographic Focus**

Forsyth County

## **About Local Impact in Forsyth County**

We envision a thriving Forsyth County. Through our Local Impact program, we're working to create an inclusive economy in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County that benefits all residents, leaving no one behind.

## **Opportunity Details**

Comprehensive and coordinated safety net services can help to reduce the impact of shocks and stresses that disproportionately affect people living on low incomes. Ideally, a highly functioning, coordinated ecosystem of safety net services will help to increase the future economic stability for those needing crisis support now. Through this funding opportunity, the Trust seeks proposals to support the overall alignment and collaboration of local organizations that provide emergency assistance to Forsyth County residents.

Earlier this year, the Trust funded ncIMPACT to conduct a survey and hold focus groups to learn about the most pressing issues facing Forsyth County. That research reinforced what we had heard from other projects—that local safety net resources are numerous but not well coordinated, and people who need them most don't always know how to access them.

Proposals might include coordinated strategic planning and convenings, strategic reviews of processes and protocols, data sharing and internal technology enhancements, or technical assistance to improve the overall effectiveness of the field. This work might include coordinated marketing among safety net providers, strategic communications planning and implementation, or coordinated community outreach campaigns..

## **Additional Background**

An inclusive economy is one in which there is expanded opportunity for more broadly shared prosperity, especially for those facing the greatest barriers to advancing their well-being.

Earlier this year, the Trust funded ncIMPACT to conduct a survey and hold focus groups to learn about the most pressing issues facing Forsyth County. The Trust learned that many residents want expanded economic and job opportunities in the county, especially for people facing the greatest barriers. We also heard

about the need for new voices in Forsyth County leadership and decision-making; effective public transportation; and better overall coordination of community resources. In ncIMPACT's community survey, over 70 percent of respondents said that increasing the community's knowledge of available safety net resources was a pressing need.

To address these challenges at the root-cause level, the Trust has embarked upon a journey to build a more inclusive economy in Winton-Salem and Forsyth County. Maintaining and improving the safety net is an important component of this work.

### **Consult and Apply**

If you believe you are eligible, contact the program coordinator to arrange a phone consultation to determine if your idea is a fit. Depending on alignment with goals and strategies, the program coordinator may then schedule an appointment with you and your regional program officer.

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