

# Inclusive Economy Funding Opportunity

Engaging community to create a more equitable Forsyth  
County safety net

A high functioning coordinated ecosystem of safety net services helps to increase the economic stability and mobility of families. Comprehensive and coordinated safety net services can help to reduce the impact of shocks and stresses that disproportionately affect people with low incomes. The Trust has long supported safety net organizations in Forsyth County to ensure people have access to critical needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. This work has proven critical for assisting Forsyth residents in weathering economic and social dislocations. Through community conversations and local surveys and focus groups produced by ncIMPACT, we know that numerous local safety net resources exist, but these services are not always well coordinated, and the system is not always responsive to the needs of community members. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in critical areas such as housing and food assistance.

## **Goal**

Improve effectiveness and efficiency of the system of local safety net services via coordination and alignment across Inclusive Economy and Great Expectations.

## **Strategy**

Conduct community-based evaluation, research, and planning that engages residents in the process to collect data, identify gaps, and determine best practices to address goal.

Build community, network, organizational, and individual capacity so that historically marginalized populations, particularly Black, Immigrant, Indigenous, and other leaders of color can drive community and health improvement efforts.

### **Timeframe**

Call-by date: **July 20, 2022**

Application deadline: **August 10, 2022**

### **Geographic Focus**

Forsyth County

### **Opportunity Details**

Continuing to strengthen the safety net in Forsyth County will require a greater focus on equity and community engagement. To help meet this need the Trust is interested in efforts to convene residents, grassroots organizations, and safety net providers to map and analyze gaps in the safety net system and to make recommendations for creating a more equitable and responsive set of services. We are particularly interested in the social safety net systems that meet the housing, supplemental income, and food assistance needs of residents. This work should reach deeper than solutions such as better advertising or co-locating services. We are interested in helping the community uncover the policies, practices, and barriers that make services unobtainable for working families or that deter residents from seeking assistance.

Creating a more equitable system requires that marginalized communities and grassroots organizations help drive the process. The Trust is particularly interested in proposals that center the voices of Black and Latinx residents and working people with low incomes. Interested parties should be prepared to discuss and map policies and practices that create barriers to services and propose solutions. These efforts could include technical assistance and

evaluation but should include robust engagement of grassroots groups. Proposals should also name the set of safety net services that applicants plan to examine. These could include housing, income assistance, food, or related safety net programs.

### **Contact**

To schedule a conversation about this opportunity, please contact Program Coordinator Alison Duncan for an initial consultation at [alison@kbr.org](mailto:alison@kbr.org) or 336-397-5521.