

# HEALTHY PLACES NC FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

## Equitable Food Systems and Recreation Opportunities in Eastern North Carolina

Most Healthy Places North Carolina counties have limited access to healthy food options and recreation opportunities. Data from Feeding America notes that in 2020 about 16 percent of Edgecombe and 18 percent of Halifax County residents experienced food insecurity. Many rural areas also lack adequate places and spaces to play, walk, and be active. County Health Rankings data shows that only 40 of residents in Halifax County and 51 percent of residents in Nash and Edgecombe County have reliable access to recreation opportunities. This compares with the North Carolina state average of 68 percent of the population having access to recreational opportunities. The rates of physical inactivity are 36 percent in Edgecombe and Halifax Counties, and 30 percent in Nash County. This compares with the North Carolina state average of 26 percent of the population being physically inactive.

Community based organizations, local coalitions, and collaboratives are tackling these longstanding inequities and health concerns through a variety of means. These include, but are not limited to, the creation of food policy councils, establishing new farmers' markets, advocating for more recreation resources, and ramping up healthy eating and active living programs.

The Trust aims to reduce racial disparities in health care, so we are particularly interested in how communities are engaging residents with low incomes and people of color in these efforts.

### **Goal**

Build a more equitable food system where residents with low incomes have ongoing access to healthy food options.

Increase equitable access to recreation opportunities.

### **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 goals.

Convene, facilitate, and coordinate stakeholders to collectively address goals. This could include better coordination within and across systems and regularly convening community partners.

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: **September 20, 2022**

Application deadline: **October 13, 2022**

### **Geographic Focus**

Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, and surrounding counties.

## **Opportunity Details**

Organizations in Eastern North Carolina are working to create more equitable food systems that provide ongoing opportunities for healthy food access and increasing equitable access to recreation opportunities, especially for historically marginalized communities. These groups are also helping ensure that people with low incomes and communities of color have greater leverage to influence the food system, address hunger, and create communities with recreational opportunities. These groups have worked to map out food access in Northeastern North Carolina.

To help communities in implementing these plans, the Trust is interested in supporting system change strategies for increasing access to healthy food and building a more equitable food system. For equitable access to recreation opportunities, the Trust is interested in supporting systematic efforts to increase access to recreation opportunities. This could include communications or advocacy strategies, community engagement, policy reform, coordinating across organizations and related approaches. If communities have not developed maps and action plans, then the Trust can assist with this approach as well. Competitive applications will directly engage the communities that disproportionately suffer from a lack of healthy food and recreation options.

## **Contact**

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