

## Funding Opportunity

### Building Integrated Communities Acceleration Grants

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, in partnership with the Building Integrated Communities technical assistance team at the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill, is offering funding support to current BIC communities to accelerate implementation of plans that were created through the Building Integrated Communities planning process.

*Please note: This opportunity is limited to invited applicants.*

**Issue Date:** May 17, 2022

**Submission Deadline:** June 15, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. EST

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This document describes the purpose of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation's (Blue Cross NC Foundation) "Building Integrated Communities Acceleration Grants" funding opportunity, eligibility criteria, and the procedures to follow in submitting a proposal. It is requested that proposals are submitted using the Foundation's [online application](#) portal; however, alternative submission arrangements can be requested by contacting Lasindra Webb at [lasindra.webb@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:lasindra.webb@bcbsncfoundation.org)

# Building Integrated Communities Acceleration Grants

## Background

Building Integrated Communities (BIC) is an initiative of the Latino Migration Project, housed at the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill. BIC is a planning and leadership initiative that partners with North Carolina local governments to create inclusive and welcoming practices and policies for immigrants from Latin America and other underrepresented world regions.

## Overview of Funding Opportunity

The Blue Cross NC Foundation, in partnership with the Building Integrated Communities technical assistance team at the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill, is offering funding support to current BIC communities to accelerate implementation of plans that were created through the Building Integrated Communities planning process.

## Overarching Goals

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to accelerate the action plans that will support the expansion of more inclusive practices by local governments to engage immigrants, Latinos and historically underrepresented communities to inform decision making and develop health equity priorities and strategies. Immigrants and historically underrepresented communities are often marginalized or encounter barriers – including language and information access, restrictive policies, and discrimination – to health promoting programs and services. This in turn impacts economic stability, health care access, educational outcomes, and social cohesion – contributing to significant health disparities.

The long-term goals are to show the promising examples and models of this work in five communities so that it can inspire change in other communities across North Carolina. These activities will continue to strengthen the partnerships between local governments and community-based organizations that are led by Latinos, immigrants, and/or individuals from historically underrepresented communities in order to identify and implement policy and programmatic solutions that address social drivers of health in local communities. In turn, this will create new opportunities for leadership by people most impacted by health inequities so that they can advocate for health equity.

## Eligibility Criteria

This funding opportunity is exclusively for local governments and/or community-based organizations in the five municipalities that partnered with BIC before 2021, to support implementation of recommendations and action plans over the next three years. Eligible organizations are already participating in BIC in the following communities:

- Washington (Beaufort County)
- Siler City and Chatham County
- Chapel Hill (Orange County)
- Sanford (Lee County)
- Winston-Salem (Forsyth County)

Due to the variation of each BIC community partnership, grant amounts and requests will vary.

- Each community is eligible for up to \$125,000 each year over three years. Grant amounts can be split among up to two organizations as determined by the BIC community partnership.

- Subcontracting with other partner organizations is allowed and should be noted as part of the activities of the government entity or community-based organization, especially when it furthers the efforts to fund those most proximate to the issues – the individuals and residents who are engaging in the planning and implementation processes. This should be agreed upon and budgeted for by the applicant organization.
- We encourage BIC partnerships to prioritize funding community-based organizations and community leaders, especially organizations led by people of color and working and living in the community served.

#### Type of Organization:

- A nonprofit organization that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- A government entity.

#### **Description of Funded Work**

Examples of work described in the existing action plans and eligible for funding includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Local government language access plans, language access and equity-related staff positions in local government.
- Stipends to compensate community consultants and community leadership.
- Expansion of multilingual outreach and communication efforts in immigrant communities.
- Leadership recruitment programs in historically underrepresented communities.
- Developing local practices or programs to celebrate immigrant cultures.

#### **Grantee Experience**

Over the next three years, we will focus on establishing our relationships to, and with, one another while also continuing to work with the BIC technical assistance team. Expected activities include:

- Participate in shared learning opportunities, with one to two meetings per year.
- Participate in learning and evaluation activities in partnership with the BIC technical assistance team. Grantees may be asked to provide qualitative or quantitative data as part of reporting processes, complete surveys, and participate in sense-making opportunities to strengthen learning across projects and inform future grantmaking.

#### **Funding Partnership**

As a partner with our grantees throughout this work, in addition to providing funding support, our Foundation commits to:

- Engage in thought partnership with grantees with a focus on listening to grantees for understanding.
- Support grantees to achieve their goals and to adapt to new and perhaps unexpected circumstances.
- Solicit, and be open to, direct, constructive feedback about our approach to, and implementation of, this project and specific opportunities to improve.

- Provide open and regular communication about any changes or updates that might have an impact on grantees.
- Operate in consistency with our organizational values: authenticity, collaboration, curiosity, equity, health, and leadership.

### How to Apply

All applicants will complete an [online proposal](#) to provide information about the organization’s BIC Action Plan and Recommendations. Responses should total no more than four pages, plus attachments. The application will ask the following:

- Describe the project, including how it is applicable to the actions recommended through the BIC plan in your municipality.
- Describe how the funds would be used to benefit historically underrepresented communities, including immigrants.
- Describe how the activities would engage community-based organizations that are led by and represent people of color and immigrants.
- Describe the local government’s commitment to supporting this work beyond the grant.
- Describe how you will track and monitor the activities of this work.
- Attachment: Please upload the latest version of your community’s BIC implementation plan.

### Project Budget and Budget Narrative

- Upload your completed project budget using the Multi-Year Budget Template. Include a budget narrative that describes how funds would be allocated. File types allowed include .XLS, .XLSX, and .PDF.

### Timeline:

Deadline or Activity	Date(s)
UNC BIC staff providing consultations on developing proposals	April-June 2022
Funding opportunity opens	May 17, 2022
Proposals via web portal submissions due	June 15, 2022
Decision notifications	By June 30, 2022

### Learn More:

For questions about this funding opportunity contact:

- Valerie Stewart at [valerie.stewart@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:valerie.stewart@bcbsncfoundation.org)
- Marquita Mbonu at [marquita.mbonu@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:marquita.mbonu@bcbsncfoundation.org)

For questions about the proposal submission process contact:

- Lasindra Webb at [lasindra.webb@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:lasindra.webb@bcbsncfoundation.org)

### About the Foundation

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation is a private, charitable foundation established as an independent entity by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina in 2000. Over the past two decades, the organization has worked with - and supported - nonprofit organizations, government entities, and community partnerships across the state, investing \$178 million into North Carolina through more than 1,200 grants. Within its focus areas of early childhood, healthy communities, healthy food, and oral health, the Foundation strives to address the key drivers of health, taking a flexible approach designed to meet identified needs in partnership with the community.

Learn more at [bcbsncfoundation.org](https://bcbsncfoundation.org).