Dear Friends,

At the Center for Community Investment (CCI), we help leaders and communities do hard work: overcoming decades of disinvestment founded on centuries of structural racism; collaborating across sectors; ensuring community voices get heard—and heeded; producing and preserving affordable housing; improving health outcomes through upstream investment; and building climate resiliency.

But the outcomes we seek—equity and opportunity for all Americans, whoever they are and whatever community they live in—are worth it.

What do leaders need to do this hard work? Tools—like our capital absorption framework. Support—like our learning labs and coaching. An organizing principle—like our focus on transforming the community investment system (rather than individual transactions), which gives the work powerful direction. And hope—which we find in the inspiring examples of communities working to change the systems that have made it so difficult to achieve the results we seek.

In 2019, our third year of existence, we saw participants in Accelerating Investments in Healthy Communities (AIHC), Connect Capital, and the Fulcrum Fellowship make meaningful progress toward equity and opportunity for people who have not had them—and reinforce our sense that change is possible.

We’re delighted to share a few of these inspiring stories of progress. They are by no means the only ones, but they give you a sense of the diversity of regions, issues, and approaches we are seeing across the country.

Thank you to our program participants, staff, and consultants for all their work and dedication over the last year. Thank you, as well, to our funders, who have placed their faith in us to make a difference.

May the next year and the next decade bring us closer to the changes we seek.

With warm wishes for strength and fulfillment,

Robin Hacke
Executive Director
Center for Community Investment
CCI has an ambitious goal: to help ensure that people of color and people with low incomes have a fair chance to lead healthy lives. Our reach spans across the nation, touching two dozen cities, two counties, and one region (see map below). We continue to pay close attention to where opportunities may be found or created and to think strategically and creatively about how best to leverage them.

Our Impact

39 news articles, blog posts, and other publications mentioned CCI, our staff, or our work

100 leaders participated in our programs, received training in our tools and approach, and initiated capital absorption work in their communities and workplaces

2 AIHC teams received PRO Neighborhoods grants—this JPMorgan Chase initiative is prioritizing investment to promote inclusive community growth

16,742 users visited CCI’s website in 2019, accounting for 46,787 unique page views and digging deeper to view an average of 2.46 pages per visit

72 public and private speaking engagements at which CCI staff shared our vision, approach, and tools

5 certifications were earned by CCI staff members, including MBTI® Certified Practitioner, Emergent Learning, and Municipal Finance
CCI’s Accelerating Investments for Healthy Communities initiative is designed to help participating hospitals and health systems deepen their investment in affordable housing and advance policies and practices that foster equitable housing solutions. A year into the implementation phase of our first cohort, the six participating hospital systems working in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Boston, San Bernardino, Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties (Maryland), Columbus, and Pittsburgh are successfully using their own resources to invest in affordable housing and unlock millions of dollars from local and state governments, foundations, banks and other health institutions.

These initial results show the power that could be harnessed if the multi-billion-dollar health sector invested even a fraction of its assets into communities. In the year ahead, we’ll be updating our research on health institutions investing in social determinants to understand how the field is evolving and laying the groundwork for our next generation of work, including identifying participants. We hope that the expanded scope of this work will continue to broaden health system participation in community investment.

“Giving more people access to affordable housing is the cornerstone of Nationwide Children’s initiative, and AIHC will help even more health institutions realize that goal.”

Angela Mingo
Director of Community Relations
Nationwide Children’s Hospital

In Columbus, Ohio, Nationwide Children’s Hospital has been investing in a variety of community revitalization efforts since 2008. Through its Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families (HNHF) initiative, the hospital has partnered with a range of community stakeholders to support the health and well-being of children and families living in the South Side neighborhood of the city. HNHF targets five impact areas: affordable housing, education, health and wellness, safe and accessible neighborhoods, and workforce development. The hospital has used its participation in AIHC to expand its affordable housing strategy and develop plans to enter Linden, a predominately African-American community.
Connect Capital

We believe effective and generative multi-sector collaboration is key to changing the way community investment takes place and achieving system-level results. With the injection of the capital absorption framework, equity lens, and intensive coaching and support that our Connect Capital initiative provides, we are seeing multi-sector teams in Central Appalachia, the Coachella Valley, Miami, Milwaukee, Richmond, and Seattle gain traction, establish relevance and legitimacy, and organize other stakeholders toward an ambitious result. Most of the teams have already galvanized new energy, secured public sector commitments, and set substantive and scaled goals.

The next round of Connect Capital will begin in late 2020. The program will continue to focus on strengthening community well-being and advancing health equity using the capital absorption framework and a strong equity lens as change levers. It’ll also include a stronger emphasis on prioritizing community participation and intensified coaching and strategic assistance for team leads.

“Connect Capital is helping raise the visibility of the work that is being done within the community, within the utility, and within the city. It’s also providing a platform for us to reach out to stakeholders and partners who have historically operated in relative isolation from each other.”

Ann Grodnik-Nagle
Strategic Advisor, Climate Adaptation and Built Environment
Seattle Public Utilities
Fulcrum Fellowship

The Fulcrum Fellowship is CCI’s hands-on leadership program for rising executives seeking to help disinvested communities achieve their environmental, social, and economic priorities. The Fellowship has proven to be an excellent vehicle for identifying outstanding talent and helping those leaders elevate their skills and national profile. Across two cohorts so far, we have worked with 26 Fellows, two-thirds of whom are leaders of color, with thematic clusters in the areas of health, community organizing, philanthropy, and climate. As we’ve watched Fellows advance professionally, we have realized that the program is also a key element of our spread model: Through our Fellows, we are shifting resources to leaders and communities of color, spearheading new health-focused initiatives, advancing community investment systems, and seeding the capital absorption framework across the country.

Recruitment has begun for the third cohort, which will run from May 2020 through May 2021. CCI is seeking candidates from a range of fields, including community health, climate resilience, housing and community development, planning, creative placemaking, philanthropy, and finance. Applications are due by Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. PST. To learn more about the Fellowship, eligibility criteria, and how to apply, visit centerforcommunityinvestment.org/fellowship.

“The Fulcrum Fellowship transforms leaders by testing their assumptions, challenging their thought process, challenging divisions, and making them think deeper about the impact that can be made from their work.”

Damon Burns
Executive Director
Finance Authority of New Orleans
Thank You!

Thank you to all of CCI’s funders, partners, and program participants for supporting our work. Your partnership makes all our initiatives and the progress highlighted here possible.

We have some exciting plans in the pipeline, and we are honored to have you with us on this journey of learning and systemic transformation. Thank you for making 2019 so amazing. Here’s to an even better 2020!

—All Your Friends at CCI

Resources

SHARING OUR APPROACH AND LEARNINGS

CCI creates resources that help local leaders change the practice of community investment in the U.S. Last year, we published several briefs and a video of the capital absorption framework in action. We also increased our communications capacity significantly, with the hiring of two dedicated staff members. In the year ahead, we will create more materials that will provide guidance, best practices and exemplars for practitioners eager to start the work.
ABOUT THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The Center for Community Investment at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy works to ensure that all communities, especially those that have suffered from structural racism and policies that have left them economically and socially isolated, can unlock the capital they need to thrive. Our work is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The California Endowment, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

centerforcommunityinvestment.org | @C4CInvest

ABOUT THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges.

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