**What is collective impact?**
We’re using the term “collective impact” to describe organizations working together to make changes in our community. What’s new about this approach is when organizations — nonprofits, agencies, foundations — share goals and measures of success for a specific community challenge, the pace of change is accelerated.

**Why do we need collective impact?**
No single program, organization or institution acting in isolation can bring about large-scale social change on its own. For change to occur there needs to be a concerted effort of the many different players around a common agenda.

**How is GCF making collective impact work?**
We have made a multiyear investment in seven “backbone” organizations that will serve as leaders to nonprofits in our community as they work on specific issues and systems. The backbones will help nonprofits report and measure progress, connect partners and collect data.

Our partnership with these seven organizations will help everyone work together across sectors, address resource gaps and fuel the implementation of proven strategies to make our community better.

**Who are the organizations?**
Agenda 360, Green Umbrella, LISC Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky, Partners for a Competitive Workforce, Strive Partnership, Success By Six®, Skyward.

**What is it?**
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a national nonprofit with a focus on local community redevelopment. LISC makes neighborhoods stronger. It does this by mobilizing corporate, philanthropic, and government funding on behalf of neighborhoods to help them achieve their goals. It also supports community groups with technical and management assistance to help make them more effective, and public policy networks to help bring resources and awareness to critical issues in neighborhoods.

The local LISC program, LISC Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky, oversees a comprehensive community development initiative called Place Matters. Implemented in 2006 by United Way of Greater Cincinnati, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and other funders, Place Matters is a place-based model for investing in underserved communities to strengthen the neighborhood and improve quality of life for residents.

**What is the problem?**
Disinvested neighborhoods face a wide range of challenges, including lack of economic, housing, health, and education opportunities. It requires many stakeholders and a comprehensive approach to community development to address the range of issues surrounding low-income and disinvested neighborhoods.
Staying Zen

Not long ago, Robert Thomas, a lifelong practitioner of zen meditation, was working odd jobs when his identity was stolen, tipping his precarious finances into chaos. Zen was helping him stay centered, but he needed tangible help. Today, Robert’s credit has been repaired and he is working hard to advance in a stable job he enjoys.

Robert got the help he needed at the LISC-supported Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) at Cincinnati Works. He participated in job training, made a savings plan, and got help from a legal aide.

“Zen has been an accumulative thing in my life, and so is saving and building up my personal finances,” Robert said. “If you focus and make the right choice, you will eventually reach nirvana.”

LISC’s Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Investment</th>
<th>Dollars Leveraged</th>
<th>Homes &amp; Apartments</th>
<th>Commercial Space</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>in 2014</td>
<td>$19 million</td>
<td>$27 million</td>
<td>60 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>since 2000</td>
<td>$95 million</td>
<td>$413 million</td>
<td>2,312 units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LISC’s Solution

LISC concentrates on place-based efforts in five focus areas: investing in housing, increasing family income, stimulating economic development, improving access to education, and supporting healthy environments.

LISC’s Results

**Housing development:** Invested nearly $12 million in loans and recoverable grants in 60 units of housing in the region.

**Family income and wealth building:** Saw more than 350 people increase their net income after getting help at one of four LISC-supported Financial Opportunity Centers.

**Economic development:** Helped support the Walnut Hills business corridor and safety efforts, which attracted two new businesses to the area.

**Education and youth:** Supported youth programs that engaged over two dozen teens in several communities.

**Health and safety:** LISC Community Safety Initiative helped Covington residents develop a strong and effective relationship with the police; work which was recognized with two national awards in 2014.