What is collective impact?

GCF uses the term “collective impact” to describe sectors working together to make changes in our community.

What’s new about this approach is when organizations — nonprofits, corporations, government, and 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 five-year investment in seven “backbone” organizations that will serve as leaders to nonprofits in our community as they work on specific issues and systems. The backbone organizations 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, Skyward, and Success By Six®.

Our backbone organizations

**Agenda 360** is the regional action plan designed to collaboratively transform Cincinnati USA into a leading metropolitan region for talent, jobs and economic opportunity for all who call our region home. The three overarching goals are meant to keep talented workers in the region and attract new ones; to grow new jobs and retain existing jobs; and to provide economic opportunity and a good quality of life.
Green Umbrella works to maximize the environmental sustainability of the Greater Cincinnati region by driving collaborative efforts of organizations and individuals. Its goal is to have the region recognized as one of the top ten most sustainable metro areas in the United States by 2020. In collaboration with the area’s regional action plans — Vision 2015 in Northern Kentucky and Agenda 360 in Southwestern Ohio — it brings together regional activities focused on the environmental aspects of sustainability.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is a national nonprofit with a focus on local community redevelopment. The local LISC program, LISC Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky, oversees a comprehensive community development initiative called Place Matters. Place Matters is a place-based model for investing in underserved communities to strengthen the neighborhood and improve quality of life for residents.

Partners for a Competitive Workforce is a partnership in the Tristate region focused on meeting employer demand by growing the skills of our current and future workforce. Its partners include more than 150 businesses, workforce investment boards, chambers of commerce, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, service providers, and philanthropic funders. It aims to accelerate the pace of collaboration to reach the United Way’s Bold Goal of 90 percent of our labor force gainfully employed by 2020.

The Strive Partnership is a collective effort to transform the larger system of education and learning by aligning work and investments to a common vision, a set of shared outcomes, and a belief that we can achieve greater impact – together. It was created by a group of of leaders from various sectors, including early childhood educators, school district superintendents, college and university presidents, business and nonprofit leaders, and community and corporate funders. The partnership’s work spans the cradle to career continuum.

Skyward is the engine behind Northern Kentucky’s five-year work plan, collaborating with the people who make the region go. Skyward focuses on four bold and inspiring goals that will lay the groundwork for long-term community prosperity. Skyward’s solution is to focus community resources on four equally important goals designed to work together for economic prosperity and civic. Those goals are education, health, jobs, and vibrancy.

Success By 6® is the driving force to achieve a shared vision that all children are optimally safe, healthy, and prepared to succeed in kindergarten in the ten county region that makes up Greater Cincinnati. Success By 6® is not a program, but rather a catalyst for systems change and action. Success By 6® partners to achieve the region’s bold goal, by 2020, at least 85% of children will be prepared for kindergarten. Universal access to preschool for children age three and four is just one strategy to reach their goal.

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