.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.

OPPORTUNITY

TASK FORCE

opportunitycharmeck.org

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Agenda

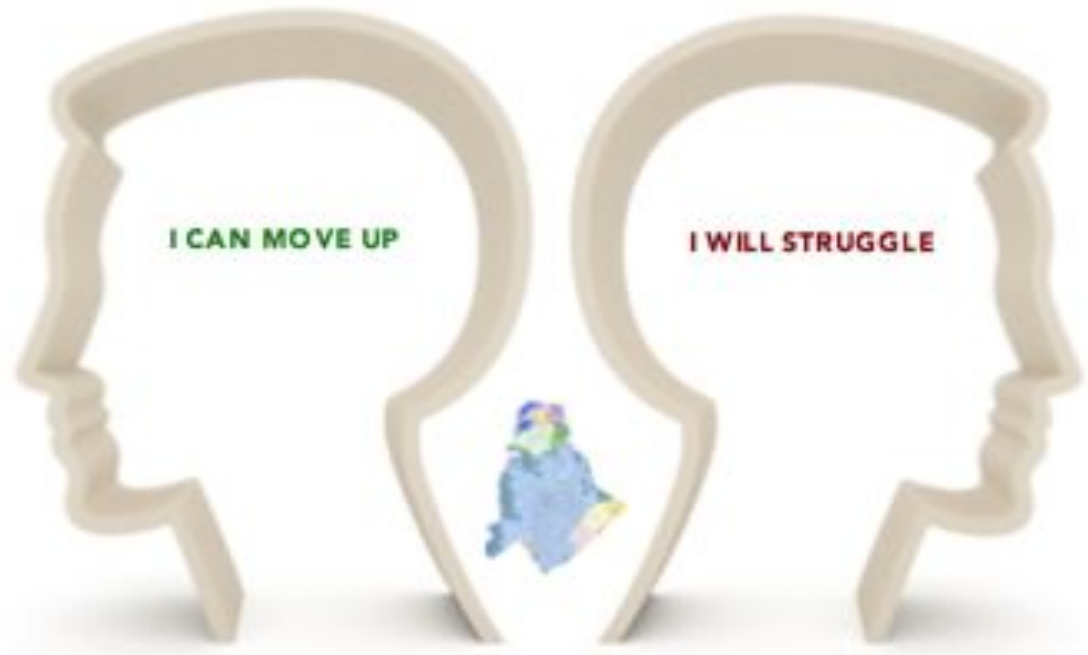
- Where We Are and Why
- What We Are Doing
- What We Have Learned
  - experts
  - community
- How You Can Help

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Where We Are and Why

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

A Tale of Two Communities



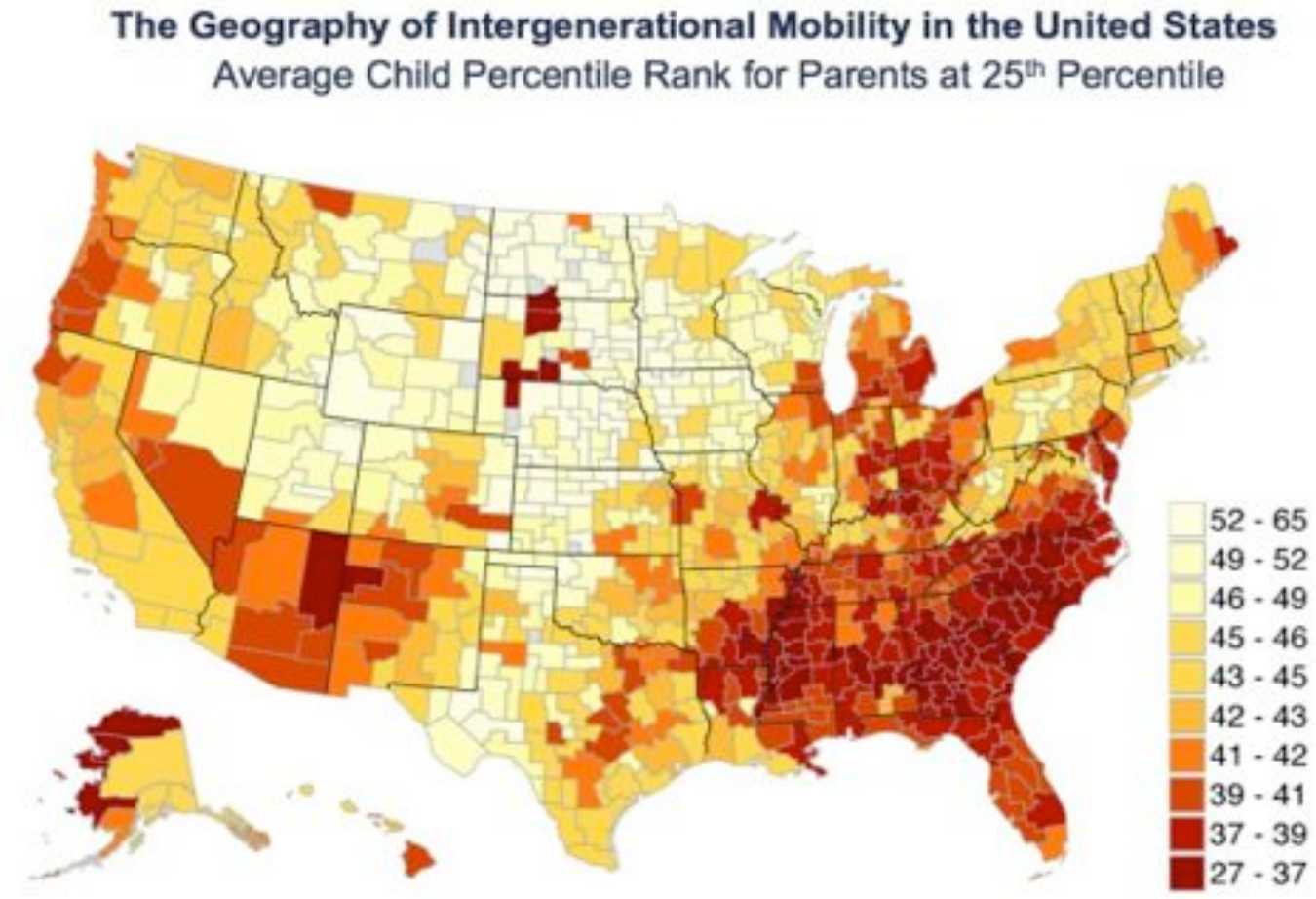
Charlotte has wealth, is growing quickly, and has plenty of amenities.

It's a great place to live for many.

For others, poverty is inherited and breaking the cycle is difficult.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Where We Are: Charlotte 50th of 50 Cities



Top 5 Cities

San Jose (10.8%)
San Francisco
Washington DC
Seattle
Salt Lake City

Bottom 5 Cities

Indianapolis
Dayton
Atlanta
Milwaukee
Charlotte (4.4%)

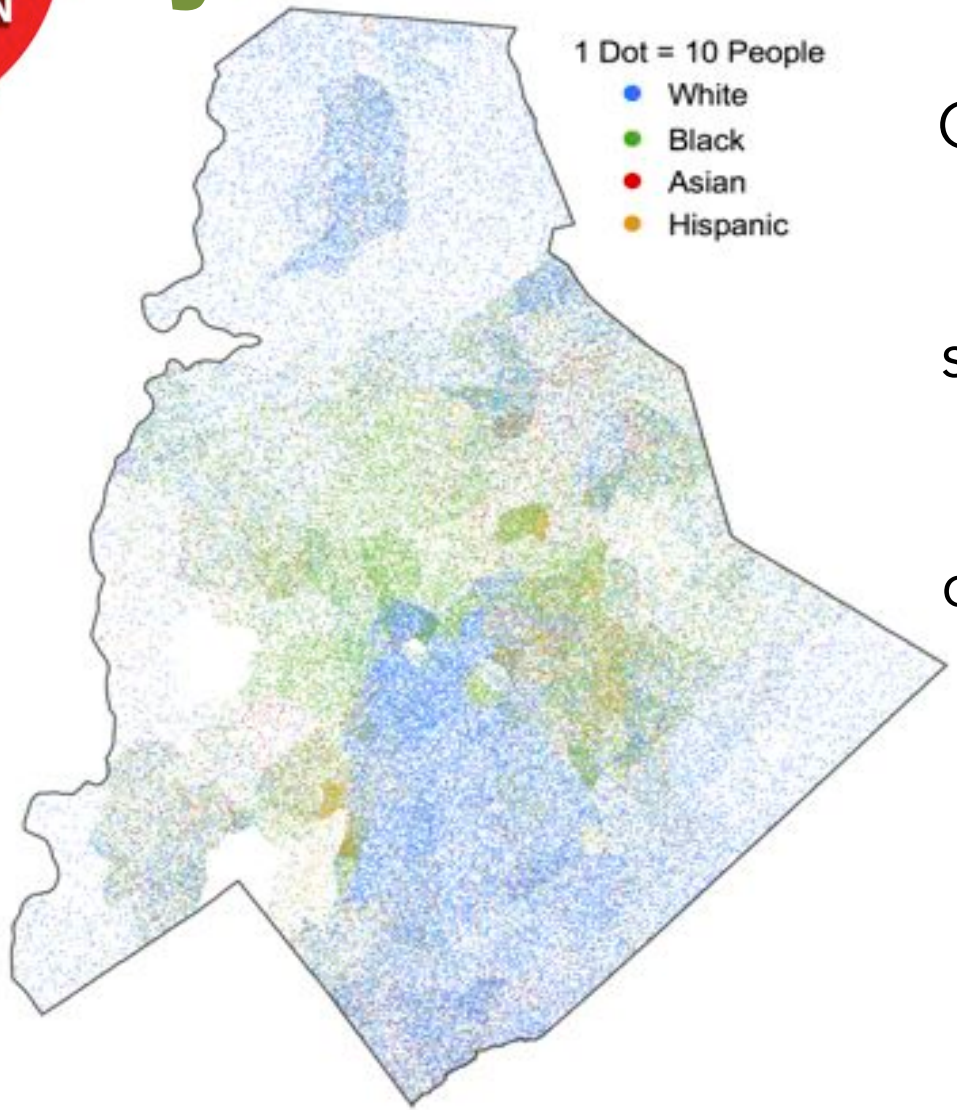
CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

5 Opportunity Indicators

Charlotte-Mecklenburg is challenged in all of the five major indicators for economic mobility

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

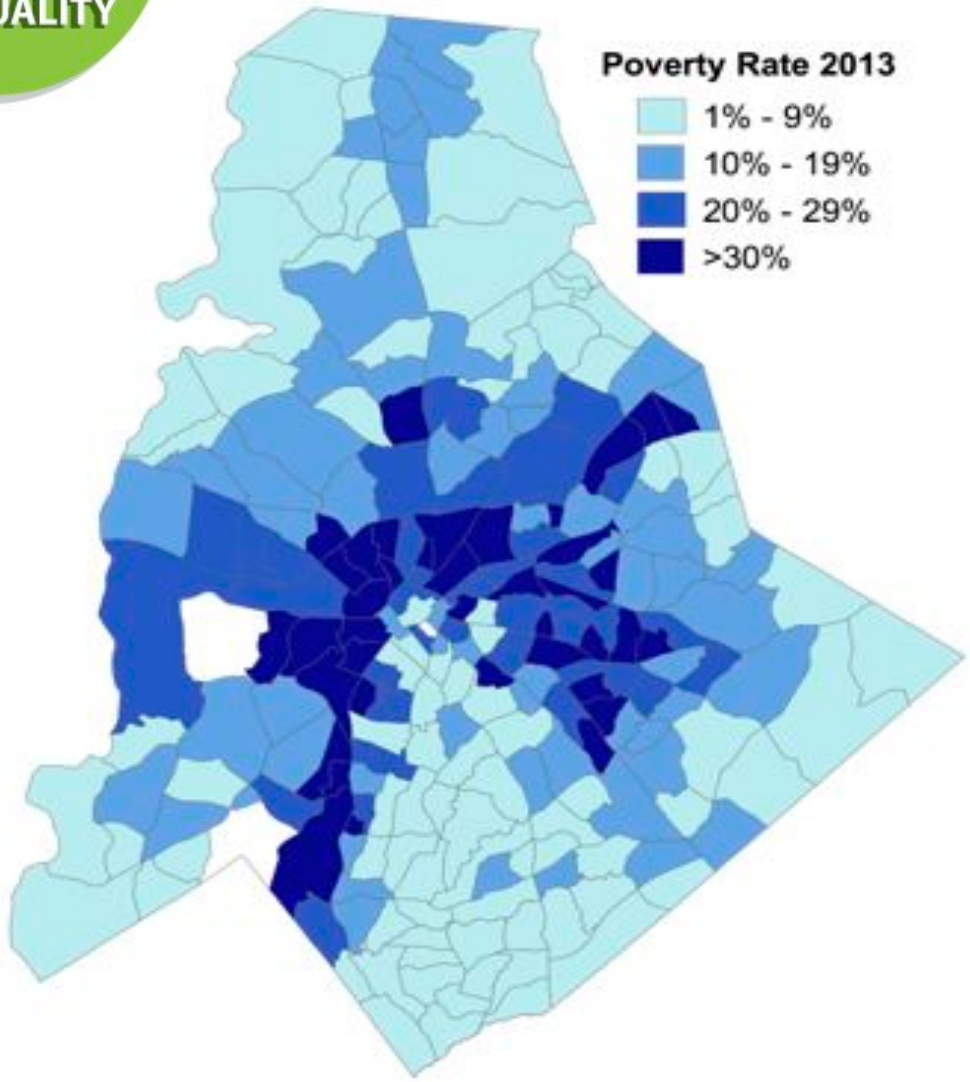
We Are Segregated by race and ethnicity



Our community is racially and ethnically segregated. High levels of segregation are connected to low levels of community economic mobility.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

We Are Segregated by income



There are concentrated areas of poverty and segregation by income level in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, which are both indicators of low community economic mobility.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey

We Are Segregated by income

How much income is enough to get by?

A family of three would need to make $23 an hour (3 times the minimum wage) to make a "living income" in Mecklenburg County.

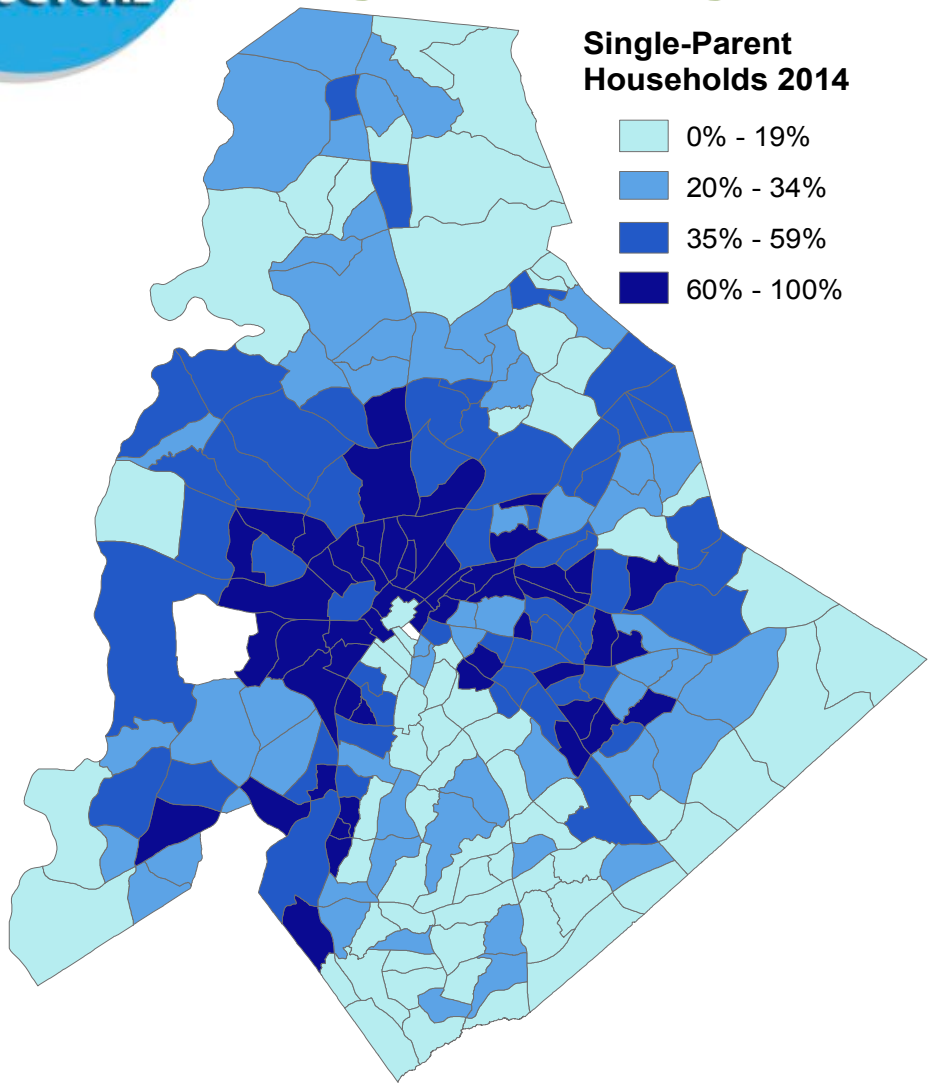
The Living Income Standard estimates how much income a working family with children needs in order to afford basic expenses in North Carolina. One in five families in North Carolina lives below the Living Income Standard.

Monthly expenses for a family of 3	
Housing	$793
Food	$361
Childcare	$1,339
Healthcare	$343
Transportation	$377
Other necessities	$296
Taxes (payroll and income)	$547
Total	$4,057
Annual total	$48,680
Hourly wage needed	$23

Data Source: NC Budget and Tax Center, Living Income Standard 2014

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

We Are Segregated by family structure

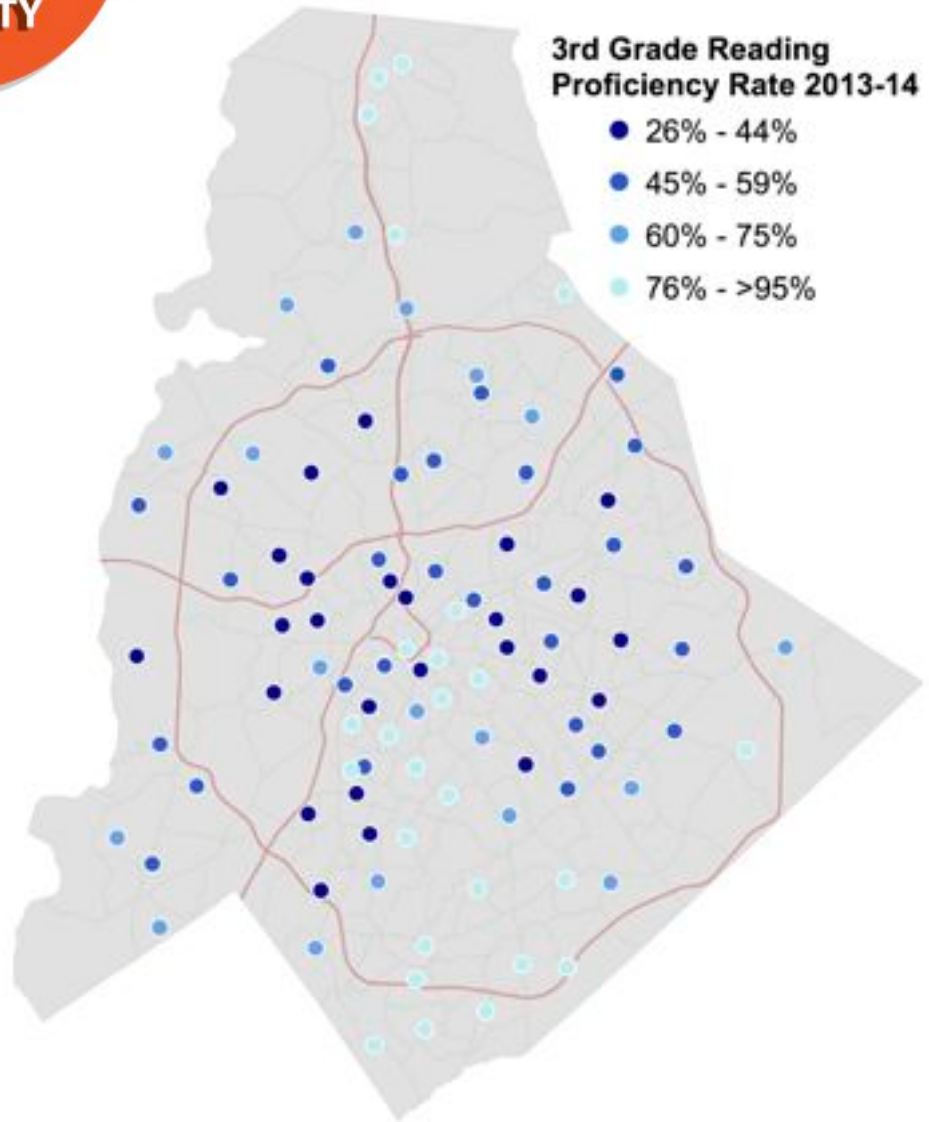


Even with hard work and the drive to succeed, single parent households face strong economic mobility challenges that can endure over generations.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey

We Are Segregated by educational achievement



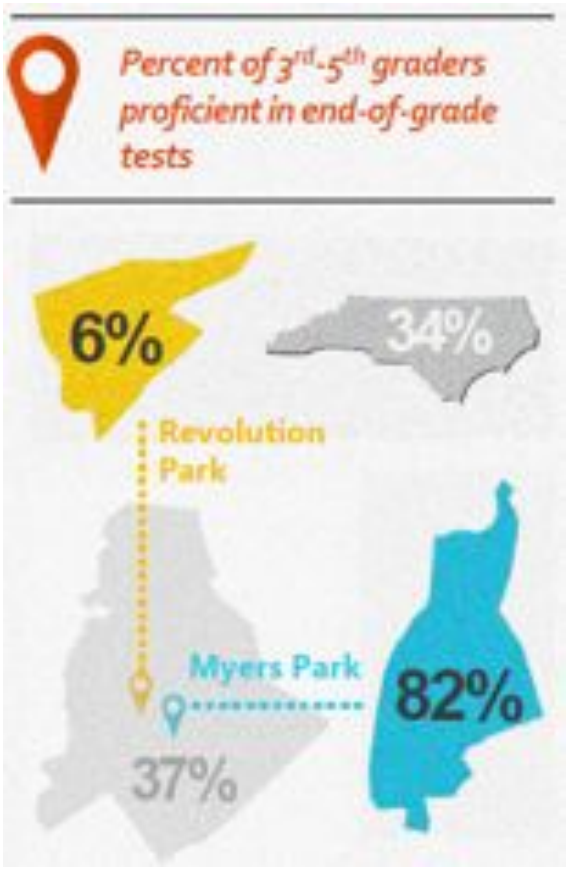
Students who read on grade level by third grade are 96% more likely to graduate high school, a key economic mobility indicator.

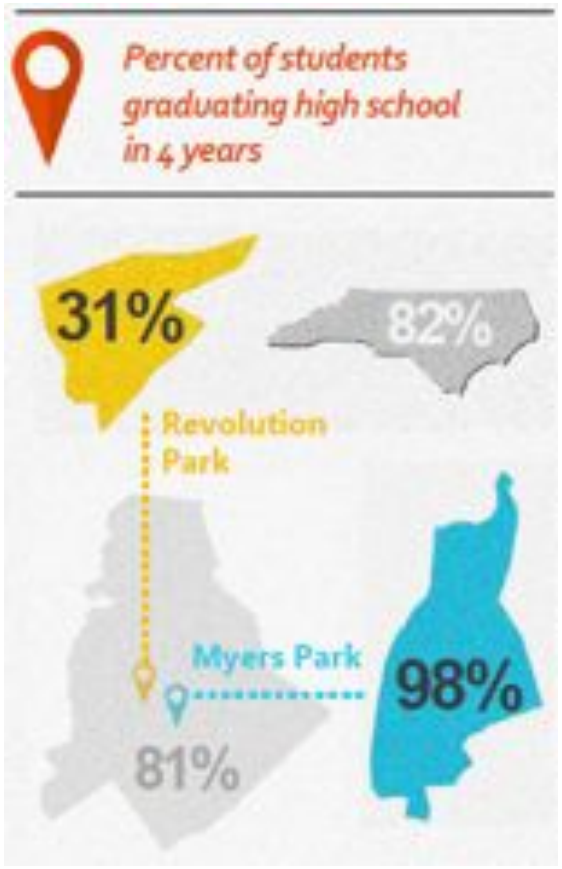
Currently, 38% of Mecklenburg's third graders are not reading on grade level.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Data source: North Carolina Department of Instruction, 2012-13

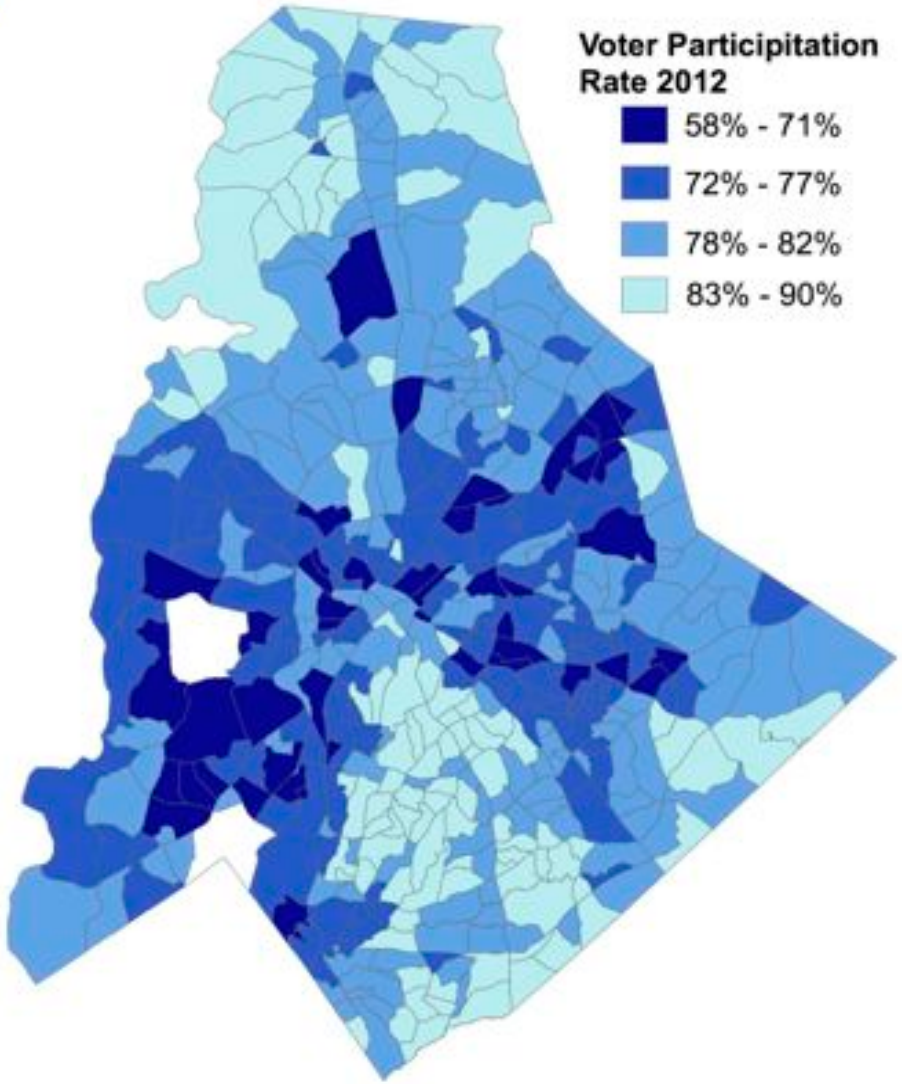
We Are Segregated by educational achievement





CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

We Are Segregated by levels of social capital



Voter turnout is an indicator of community connectedness and social capital.

Lower social capital is associated with lower economic mobility.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Data source: North Carolina Board of Elections

What We Are Doing

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

A Community Task Force

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Partners

the community +

FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS

MECKLENBURG COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE

John M Belk Endowment
ELEVATE THROUGH EDUCATION

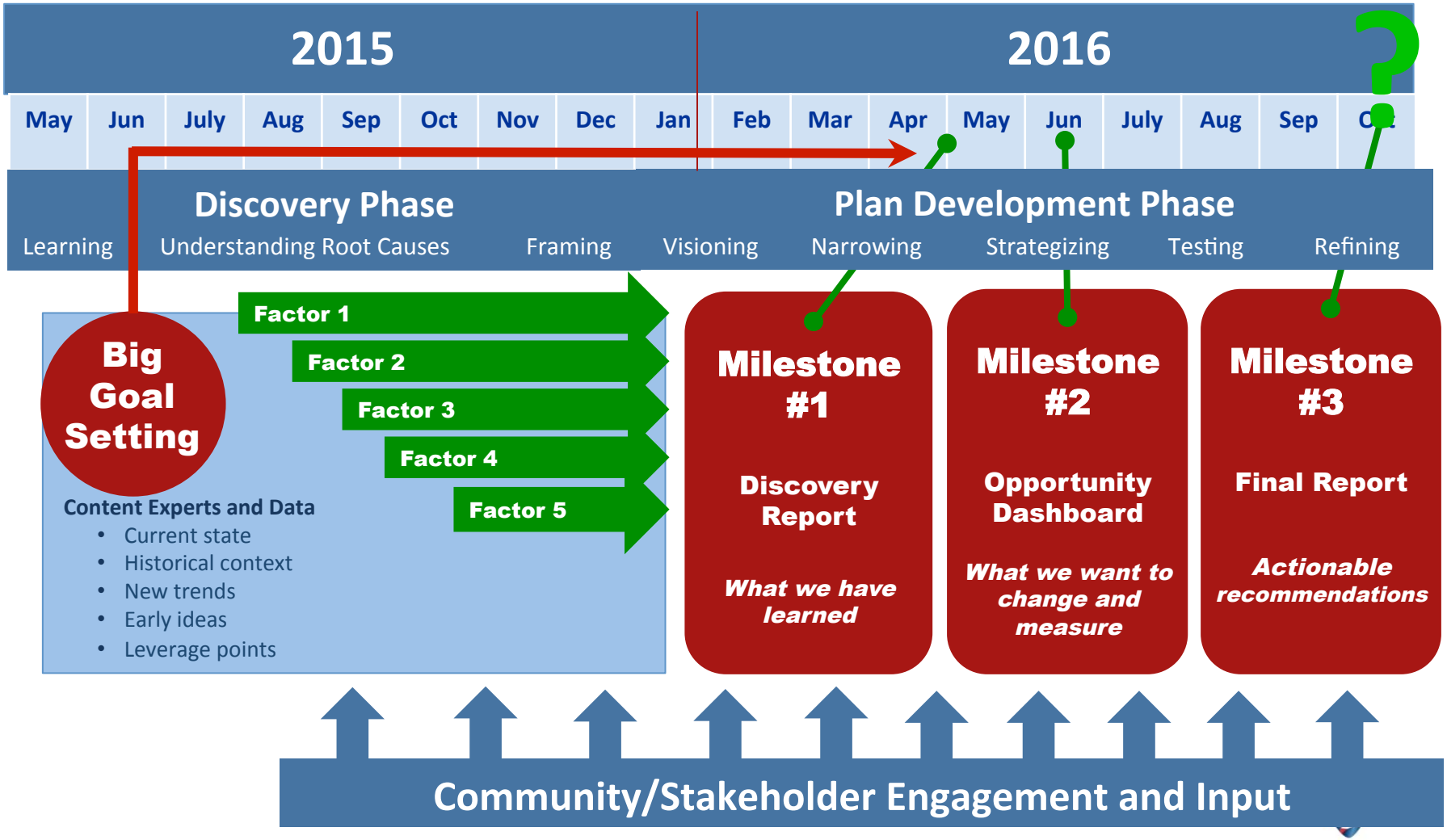
Knight Foundation
Informed & Engaged Communities

Z. Smith Reynolds FOUNDATION

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Process & Milestones



opportunitycharmeck.org

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

What We Have Learned

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG

OPPORTUNITY

TASK FORCE

Top Lessons from EXPERTS (so far)

1. Commit to the long haul
2. Think systems, not programs
3. No magic solution
4. Human, social, financial resources
5. Support single parents
6. Critical factors
    - Early childhood development
    - Quality childcare
    - 3rd grade reading
    - Family stability
    - Positive role models
    - Strong social connections

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE

Top Priorities from THE COMMUNITY (so far)

275 surveys, social media, the Opportunity website and community discussions

- Quality K-12 education
- Affordable childcare/after school
- Affordable housing
- Access to good jobs and living wages
- Transportation
- Connecting people across differences
- Mentors and positive role models

More details available…

5 Ways You Can Help

SURVEY
opportunitycharmeck.org

FOLLOW
facebook and twitter

HOST
small group discussion

ATTEND
listening tour

SHARE
what you have learned

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.

OPPORTUNITY

TASK FORCE

opportunitycharmeck.org

.CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG.
OPPORTUNITY
TASK FORCE