



**Leading on
Opportunity**

For Immediate Release

Leading on Opportunity Council Announces \$1.5 Million Investment from Bank of America

Funds will support the work of the Council to drive collaboration around issues related to economic mobility in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Dec. 11, 2017 – Today, the Leading on Opportunity Council (LOOC) announced its first financial commitment to support staffing and infrastructure necessary to carry out its work. The \$1.5 million pledge from Bank of America – payable over three years – was announced by Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan from the stage of the Charlotte Chamber’s annual Economic Outlook Luncheon.

“Charlotte-Mecklenburg can’t be a great place in which to live, work and play if opportunities abound only in some zip codes,” said Brian Collier, acting Executive Director of LOOC. “It’s in all of our best interest to ensure that every child has amazing opportunities to grow, learn and thrive. Bank of America has been a strong supporter of this work from the very beginning. Their commitment is an example of how our community needs to engage to drive economic opportunity for all,” Collier added.

The Leading on Opportunity Council has worked, with the support of the Charlotte- Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force co-chairs, to complete the first phase of work, putting in place an interim operating structure and, most importantly, bringing together a representative group of 19 Charlotte-Mecklenburg leaders spanning a range of disciplines and backgrounds – grassroots, nonprofit, government, philanthropy, business, neighborhood and faith – to have a voice on the Council. Additionally, the LOOC has undergone a rigorous search process to identify an executive director and are in the final stages of finding that leader.

About Leading on Opportunity

Following the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report, Leading on Opportunity was formed with a mission to convene and connect sectors across the community to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to improve economic mobility in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. As charged in the report, the organization will take a systemic approach to addressing the key determinants of early childhood education, college and career readiness, and family stability, while simultaneously focusing on the cross-cutting factors of segregation and social capital. The organization is comprised of an unprecedented collection of community, business and public sector representatives who will focus on transforming the recommendations from the report to actionable steps, while developing a data dashboard to monitor and track progress.

For more information, visit leadingonopportunity.org.

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