



# CIVIC IMPACT CORPS PILOT PROGRAM

*Engaging Charlotte's Leaders to Strengthen Nonprofit Resilience*

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The Robinson Center  
for Civic Leadership

## Agility Together

*Partnership with Share Charlotte, United Way, The Lee Institute, CELC*

### Workshops

- In-person and virtual
- Topics - scenario planning, board engagement, communications
- Monthly schedule – 6 in 2025, 2026 in development

### Digital Hub and Playbook

- Centralized resources, updated regularly

### Civic Impact Corps

- Expert volunteers in resilience, finance, agility, scenario planning

# Core initiative

## Strengthening Nonprofit Sector





The Robinson Center for Civic Leadership

# Core initiative

## Strengthening Nonprofit Sector

### NPO impact survey

- Partnership with UNC Charlotte and United Way
- Data/analysis on impacts of reductions to organizations and people
- Share as resource to community to inform action
- Preliminary data and analysis in October

### Sharing local, state, and national resources

- Nonprofit Summit with Share Charlotte
- NC Center for Non-Profits conference
- Legislative and policy impacts

### FFTC agility

- Alerts and Impact Updates to FFTC donors and constituencies
- Reviewing grantmaking and discretionary resources for highest impact
- Optimizing internal systems and operations

**FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS** A Critical Moment for Our Community and How You Can Help August 2025

Our nonprofit community goes above and beyond every day. We are inspired by their work and, as your community foundation, we are committed to helping them thrive.

**Today, our nonprofit partners are experiencing a critical moment shaped by rising needs, strained resources and growing uncertainty.** More than \$550 million in federal funding is at risk in Mecklenburg County, threatening essential services like food assistance, health care, housing and education, and after school programs. At the same time community needs are growing, nonprofits are faced with reducing staff, scaling back programs or suspending services altogether – with especially harsh impacts in rural areas.

**We strongly believe that collective action can make a powerful difference during this challenging time.** Whether you're an individual or corporate donor – or you lead a nonprofit providing critical services and are on the receiving end of donations – we're in a defining moment for how we respond together.

**Collaboration and the Path Forward**  
Recent cuts and anticipated future loss of federal support far exceed what philanthropy can replace alone. At Foundation For The Carolinas and the Robinson Center for Civic Leadership we are:

- **Partnering with United Way of Greater Charlotte, SHARE Charlotte, The Lee Institute, UNC Charlotte and others on the Agility Together Initiative**, which offers:
  - **Agility Workshops** that build nonprofit resilience on key topics such as collaboration, scenario planning and expanding revenue streams.
  - **Agility Corps** that offer nonprofits financial and organizational development volunteer experts.
  - **Agility Playbook** and digital hub is a central online location for nonprofit resources and guidance.
- **Actively communicating** to fundholders, donors and partners the need for making gifts to nonprofits now that can be used for any purpose (i.e. unrestricted gifts).
- **Awarding unrestricted grants** to nonprofits through our [Community Impact Funds](#).
- **Conducting a regional Impacts Survey** with UNC Charlotte, with key findings to be shared this fall.

**How You Can Help Right Now**  
Your generosity today and in the coming months can help nonprofits continue to serve those who rely on them most, while becoming better equipped to meet the needs that lie ahead. You have many ways to make a difference:

- **Give today** through your FFTC Donor Advised Fund or directly to local nonprofits. Many of our nonprofit fundholders are listed [here](#), and our team is available to help connect you directly with local nonprofits.
- **Make your donations unrestricted.** Unrestricted gifts give nonprofits the flexibility to use funds where most needed, such as critical gaps and essential operations.
- **Contribute to an FFTC Community Impact Fund** to leverage the expertise of local grantmaking experts to award funding where it's needed most.
- **Support the Agility Together Initiative** and the work of the [Robinson Center for Civic Leadership](#).
- **Organize your own donation drive.** Local food banks are reporting a sharp decline in donations. You can help restock pantries at nonprofits such as [Nourish Up](#) and [Second Harvest Food Bank](#).
- **Share this message** with your network.
- **Volunteer** through [SHARE Charlotte](#).

**Thank you for your partnership in this work.**

**A Few Figures, the Larger Landscape**

- Nearly 12 percent of Mecklenburg County's households are considered food insecure. Source: [Mecklenburg County's 2022-2023 Annual Report](#)
- Of the almost 13 percent of the state's population that relies on SNAP, commonly referred to as food stamps, four in five recipient families have children, seniors or adults with disabilities in them. Source: [SNAP in North Carolina](#)
- Worth Reading**  
In the August 3, 2025, Charlotte Optimist, Michael Graff reports and reflects on [The Great Nonprofit Desert](#).

# Launching: Civic Impact Corps

*A partnership of the Robinson Center for Civic Leadership and the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, in partnership with, SHARE Charlotte*

## Connecting leadership talent with community need

Executives • Retirees • Civic Leaders → Nonprofits seeking strategic support

**The right expertise, at the right time —helping nonprofits adapt, sustain, and thrive.**

**Pilot Program: November 2025 – April 2026**

Insights from the pilot will determine viability for full community launch in 2026.



# Civic Impact Corps

Engaging Charlotte's Leaders to Strengthen Nonprofit Resilience

**Agility**

*Rapid-response teams for  
urgent needs*

Mobilizing small teams of executives to address urgent and critical nonprofit needs

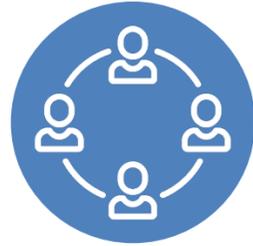
**Catalyst**

*Targeted, short-term projects*  
Deploying skilled professionals on targeted projects (4–12 weeks) to tackle defined challenges

**Advisory**

*Extended executive advisor*  
Pairing nonprofit leaders with seasoned executives for extended advisory and consulting engagements

# Why Participate?



## For Nonprofits

Nonprofits are facing unprecedented pressure—shrinking resources, rising demands, and organizational disruption.

Civic Impact Corps connects you with executive-level expertise to help your organization stabilize, adapt, and thrive.



## For Executives (Current & Retired)

Executives bring decades of leadership experience.

Civic Impact Corps offers a meaningful and flexible way to apply that expertise for community benefit—helping strengthen the organizations that strengthen our region.



## For Companies

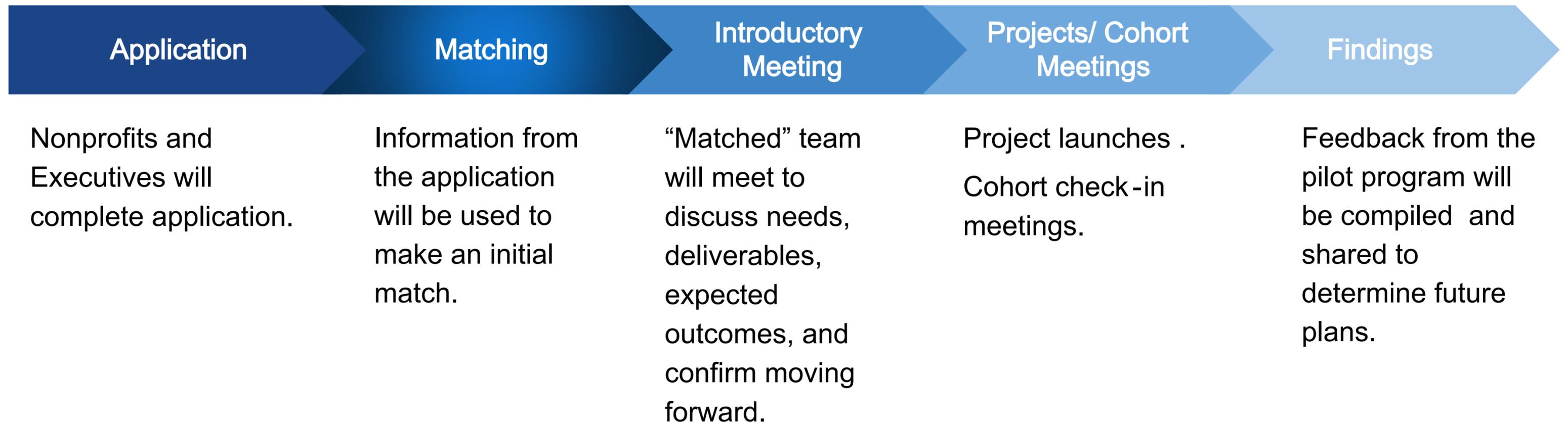
Companies are competing for and retaining talent in an era where purpose and engagement matter more than ever.

Civic Impact Corps provides a hands-on leadership experience that develops executives, strengthens company culture, and demonstrates authentic community commitment.

# Pilot Program Overview

## Civic Impact Corps pilot:

- Pilot will take place between November 2025 -April 2026.
- Currently recruiting a small group of nonprofit organizations and executives to participate.
- Insights from this pilot will inform the viability and potential launch of a full -scale program.



# Next Steps

- If you would like to participate in the pilot please complete an interest form
  - Nonprofit [interest form](#)
  - Executive volunteer [interest form](#)
- Those chosen to participate in the pilot will be contacted on or before 12/15.

## Pilot timeline\*:

Program	Application Due Date	Introductory Meeting	Project dates (Dates may vary based on project scope)
Agility Cohort 1	11/26	ongoing	11/24– 1/15
Advisory Cohort	11/26	Week of 12/1 & 12/8	12/15- 4/30
Catalyst Cohort	11/26	Week of 12/8	1/12 – 3/31
Agility Cohort 2	1/30	Week of 2/16	2/23- 4/3

- Questions: Contact Carrie Reeder at [carrie@engage4growth.com](mailto:carrie@engage4growth.com)

\*subject to change

**Q&A**