

C³ Frequently Asked Questions

The Collaboration for Community Change (C³) aims to enhance collaboration among nonprofit organizations to develop greater cost efficiencies and program effectiveness. The project will target high functioning nonprofits working in health, human services, education and arts/cultural fields in Richland and Lexington counties.

What is C³?

C³ was established in fall 2009 by nine funding partners in the Midlands to encourage the creation of a more effective, efficient and innovative nonprofit sector. This program is designed to support innovative new partnerships among nonprofits.

Who are the C³ Partners?

The partners are: Bank of America Charitable Foundation, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Central Carolina Community Foundation, Colonial Life, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Palmetto Health, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, The Cultural Council of Richland/Lexington counties and United Way of the Midlands.

How does C³ work?

Organizations seeking to form collaborations apply jointly to the C³ program. If accepted, C³ provides a Technical Assistance Team comprised of professionals with experience in nonprofit work to help organizations implement collaborations. The Team would provide:

- **Assessment** of current operations and the quality and function of existing collaborations.
- **Development** of specific recommendations for enhanced collaborations, cost efficiencies and strategic restructuring opportunities that would enhance the ability of the organizations to serve clients effectively and function well financially during difficult economic times.
- **Implementation** of strategic restructuring opportunities including advanced facilitated discussions between organizations. Additional assistance may include drafting legal agreements or policies and procedures, revising marketing materials and integrating programs and services.

What are some examples of collaborations?

- Assuming back office operations (such as reception, accounting, human resources, information technology)
- Sharing program staff
- Acquiring another organization or program from another organization
- Merger of two or more organizations

Does C³ make grants to agencies?

C³ does not provide program, capital, or operating support for the agencies. Grants are not provided directly to agencies; rather the services of the Technical Assistance Team are paid directly by the C³ program. As a pilot program, technical assistance would be available for approximately one year or less.

Does our organization have to be a nonprofit to participate?

At least one organization in the collaboration applying to C³ must be a 501(c)(3) or qualifying public charity.

What if our organization serves outside Richland and Lexington counties?

At least one organization in the application must be headquartered in Richland or Lexington County. The organizations may serve clients/customers outside of those counties or even state-wide.

How many organizations can apply together to C³?

Agencies must have at least one partner to apply to C³, but there is not a maximum.

Is there information available on types of collaborations?

The C³ website has links to articles and other types of information as you explore various types of collaborations. Visit the C³ website at www.uway.org/C3. Also, C3 will host a community workshop on Thursday, February 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at Colonial Life with a national-level expert Bob Harrington from La Piana Consulting on 'Strategic Restructuring for Nonprofit Organizations'. The workshop is free, but seating is limited and registration is required. Organizations may register at www.uway.org.

Does C³ 'match' agencies together to collaborate?

No, to apply to C³ organizations must have already entered into collaboration discussions. While it is preferred that each organizations applying will have approved staff and board leadership to enter into discussions via a formal, recorded vote at a board meeting this is not required to participate in C³.

If your organization is thinking of collaborating, but doesn't know where to start or doesn't have a partner you are encouraged to visit the C³ Web site to review resource links and then contact one of the funding partners to discuss your situation.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in C³, the first **application deadline is February 26, 2010**, with rolling application deadlines thereafter depending on available funding.

For more information and application materials:

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Visit the C³ Web site at www.uway.org/C3

Central Carolina Community Foundation

www.yourfoundation.org

Cultural Council of Richland/Lexington counties

www.getcultured.org

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

www.sistersofcharitysc.com