

# **Request for Proposals**

# **Stronger Communities Initiative**

Collaboration • Innovation • Impact

November 2023

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# Timetable

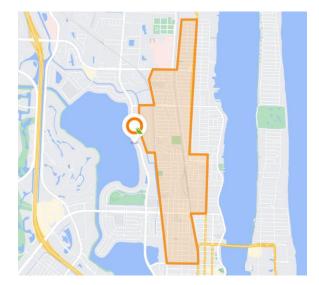
11/27/2023 Announce release of Stronger Communities Initiative Request for Proposals (RFP).

01/17/2024 LETTER OF INQUIRY APPLICATION DEADLINE – Letter of Inquiry applications must be submitted to be considered for funding, and must be submitted via the grant application portal on Quantum Foundation's website (https://quantumfnd.fluxx.io/)

- 01/17/2024 02/09/2024 Letter of Inquiry applications are reviewed by Quantum Foundation staff.
- Based on the review of Letter of Inquiry applications, notifications of application status 02/09/2024 will be provided to applicants (i.e., declination of funding or request for a Full Proposal application).
- **03/08/2024 FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION DEADLINE** Full Proposal applications must be submitted to be considered for funding, and must be submitted via the grant application portal on Quantum Foundation's website (https://quantumfnd.fluxx.io/)
- 03/08/2024 –Full Proposal applications are reviewed by Quantum Foundation staff and funding04/01/2024recommendations are developed for the Quantum Foundation Grants Committee.
- 04/2024 Quantum Foundation Grants Committee develops funding recommendations for the Quantum Foundation Board.
- 05/2024 Quantum Foundation Board reviews funding recommendations and makes funding determinations.
- 06/2024 Based on review of Full Proposal applications, notifications of funding status will be provided to applicants (i.e., declination or award of funding).
- 06/2024 Contracts are finalized.
- 07/01/2024 Funding begins.

### Overview

Quantum Foundation seeks proposals for projects designed to improve the community health of the Northwest, Coleman Park, Pleasant City, Northwood Hills, Pinewood Park, and North 45<sup>th</sup> Street communities of West Palm Beach. Community organizations providing supports and services focused on the social determinants of health: the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These determinants include various factors such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood environment, access to healthcare, social support networks, and the ability to engage in healthy behaviors. They play a significant role in influencing individual and community health outcomes, as they can either promote health and well-being or contribute to health disparities and inequities<sup>1</sup>.



Projects that are collaborative in nature, innovative in design, and have the potential for significant, measurable, and sustained impact will be at an advantage in seeking Quantum Foundation funding. Funding is available to support projects for one year. There is the possibility of additional funding for projects that are successful.

## Background

#### Context

The United States spends more on healthcare than almost any other country yet often underperforms on key health indicators, including life expectancy, infant mortality rates, and reducing chronic diseases. Driven by the knowledge that where you live affects how long you live; it is widely recognized that social determinants largely influence health disparities.

The health system is not designed to promote health and wellness, but to provide care once a person is sick. Achieving better health for all requires changing the environment, and health funders have a vital role to play in restructuring systems to advance health and well-being to achieve health equity.

Efforts to improve health in Palm Beach County have traditionally considered the healthcare system the key driver of health and health outcomes. However, there has been increased

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). Social determinants of health. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health

recognition that improving health and achieving health equity will require broader approaches to address social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health. These factors come together in place – in communities where people live, work, eat, play, and pray<sup>2</sup>.

As the foundation continues its journey of addressing social determinants of health, it looks to pilot a non-traditional initiative in which it will support community partners that are working together to address these factors.

#### **Quantum Foundation**

Quantum Foundation is a health foundation that was formed from \$135 million in proceeds from the sale of JFK Medical Center. The foundation's mission is to inspire and fund initiatives that improve the health of its communities. Its vision is for the people of Palm Beach County to experience a better life through quality health.

Now in its third decade of community investment, the foundation has assets of approximately \$150 million. Since its inception, Quantum Foundation has awarded \$165 million to thousands of Palm Beach County nonprofit grantees. Every dollar the foundation grants benefits local communities. These investments are made using the following guiding principles:

- We promote change by asking challenging questions to drive action.
- We don't have all the answers, but we work with others to find solutions.
- We value partnerships, and OUR work is mindful of the ultimate beneficiaries of THEIR work.
- We take strategic risks with our resources and make bold decisions in fulfillment of the foundation's vision and mission.

To achieve its mission and vision, the foundation funds projects that create impact in three areas, including Better Engagement in Health, Greater Access to Health Resources, and Stronger Connections for Healthy Communities. For more information on the foundation's funding areas, please see its website (www.quantumfnd.org).

#### **Community Health**

Recognizing that a multitude of factors influence an individual's health, the foundation is particularly attuned to addressing the social determinants of health. These include the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age as well as the forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life<sup>3</sup>.

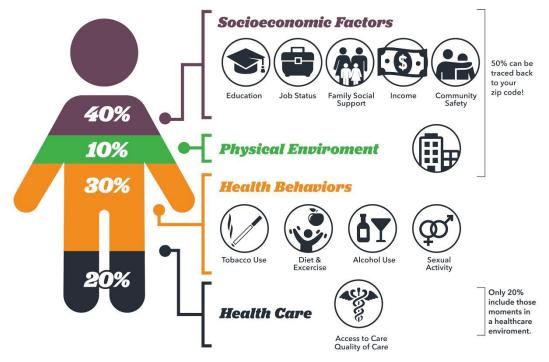
Quantum recognizes that 80 percent of people's health is affected by social factors, such as access to nutritious food, quality housing, education, and income security<sup>4</sup>. These social determinants vary from community to community, and some communities are more disadvantaged than others. Where a person lives makes a significant difference in health and influences health disparities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Social Determinants of Health at CDC. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/about/sdoh/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Healthy People 2030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Hood, C.M., Gennuso, K.P., Swain, G.R., et al. (February 2016). County Health Rankings: Relationships Between Determinant Factors and Health Outcomes. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 50(2), 129-135. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2015.08.024

The other 20 percent of people's health results from what happens in the healthcare system. Therefore, while access to healthcare is vital to overall health, healthcare alone is not enough to create positive health outcomes. As a result, Quantum is focused on supporting efforts that holistically address these social factors to improve overall health and wellness.



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

Since the establishment of Quantum Foundation's offices along Australian Avenue in West Palm Beach 15 years ago, the foundation has worked hard to be a good neighbor and to invest within these surrounding communities. Support of grassroots organizations and local communities through Quantum in the Community (QIC) grants as well as support for Northend RISE, a nonprofit geographically focused on the communities adjacent to Quantum offices, illustrates the foundation's local community focus.

Alongside significant financial investments in these communities, the foundation staff have developed deep relationships with key community stakeholders. As a result, the foundation has gained a clearer understanding of the landscape in these communities and is positioned to serve as a catalyst for improving the communities' health. However, the breadth of assets and depth of challenges provides a basis for robust community engagement. Listening to residents, the foundation can focus its efforts on those issues that are identified as most important by the communities' residents themselves, while catalyzing and activating community assets. Several studies with resident input have been conducted in the very recent past and serve to inform how the foundation may target its funding for the greatest impact going forward.

Understanding the communities' challenges, capitalizing on the communities' current assets, and building from the foundation's learned experience and its proximity to the communities, the

foundation proposes to invest in place-based strategies designed to further improve the health of these communities.

For more detailed background information, please see Appendix A.

#### Stronger Communities Initiative

With this goal in mind, the foundation has established the Stronger Communities Initiative (SCI). With a one-year investment of \$500,000, community organizations are encouraged to apply for funding to support transformational initiatives, programs, or approaches that bring about significant and profound positive changes in the well-being and overall health of a community and create sustainable impact on the health of one or more of these communities.

With a broad definition of community health, projects focused on supports and services such as, but not limited to, job training, youth mentorship, and development/out-of-school time programs, economic development, community organizing, transportation, social services support, safe and affordable housing, technology (digital health), health education, healthcare and mental health access, and wellness/fitness would all be considered – as long as they:

- Are provided to residents within the communities' boundaries.
- Are provided by a nonprofit organization, governmental organization, or other community group independently or in a collaboration of two or more organizations.
- Describe measurable project-specific activities and outcomes with a strong likelihood of objectively demonstrating impact.

#### Collaboration

Given the scale of issues related to the social determinants, no one organization can effectively address these issues alone. Therefore, the foundation is particularly interested in and will give preference to efforts that take a collaborative approach among two or more organizations. Applications for collaborative projects should be submitted by only one of the collaborative organizations on behalf of the collaborative. Applicants will be required to demonstrate how the respective organizations will contribute to the project, as well as provide a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

#### Assets and Innovation

Recognizing the unique landscape of each community, preference will also be given to projects that capitalize on community assets, align to the needs voiced by residents, and demonstrate innovation in the design of projects to address community-specific social determinants issues.

#### **Resident Engagement**

Community representation is a vital component of a quality proposal. Engaged communities are more likely to embrace and sustain impactful initiatives, as their input reflects local needs and preferences. Collaborative engagement builds trust, forging strong partnerships between stakeholders, including residents, organizations, government, and local representatives. This active involvement empowers individuals to take ownership of their well-being, fostering a sense of shared responsibility. Ultimately,

community engagement enriches the proposal's effectiveness, leading to more impactful and sustainable improvements in community health and overall quality of life.

#### Funding

Funding is available to support projects for one year. SCI is a pilot, however, there is the possibility of additional funding for successful projects through the foundation's regular grantmaking program. The potential for further funding will be based largely on the project's success as well as the availability of Quantum Foundation funding.

## **General Application Information**

#### Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, the applicant organization must be a 501(c)(3) as determined by the IRS and in compliance with all 501(c)(3) compliance requirements or be a governmental organization.

#### Funding Amounts

Applicants may request funding in amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per project. Applicants may request funding for more than one project by submitting one application per project for funding consideration.

#### **Application Submission and Review Process**

Only one application should be submitted per project. For collaborative projects, only one of the collaborative organizations should submit an application on behalf of the collaborative, with MOU(s) included in the application.

Community organizations that do not have 501(c)(3) status, but are interested in funding, must work with a 501(c)(3) or governmental organization to submit the application on their behalf and as their fiscal agent.

Applications must be submitted using the grants application portal available through the Quantum Foundation website at <u>https://quantumfnd.fluxx.io/</u>.

Quantum Foundation will be conducting a two-stage application process. The first stage is required and includes the submission of a Letter of Inquiry. The Letter of Inquiry is a concise description of the project for which the organization seeks funding. The following elements must be included within the Letter of Inquiry project description:

- Understanding of Community Assets
- Need for Project Services
- Project Approach and Design
- Scope of Services to be Provided
- Staff and Organizational Capacity to Provide the Services

For information about what is being requested within each of the elements, see **Appendix B**.

**The deadline to submit Letter of Inquiry applications is January 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.** Letter of Inquiry applications will be reviewed by Quantum Foundation staff. Applicants may be contacted regarding their Letter of Inquiry applications during the review process should staff have questions about their applications and/or be interested in a site visit. Application review criteria can be found in *Appendix B*. Based on the review, Quantum Foundation staff will decide which Letter of Inquiry applications will be declined and which will be moved forward to the Full Proposal phase of the application process. Applicants will be notified of the decision regarding their Letter of Inquiry applications by approximately February 9, 2024.

Organizations advancing to the Full Proposal phase of the application process must complete the Full Proposal application. Within the Full Proposal application, organizations must expand on the details of the proposal elements they provided within their Letters of Inquiry regarding the project for which they seek funding. Applicants will also be required to submit:

- Project Line-item Budget and Corresponding Budget Narrative
- Project Evaluation Model, with objective measures for project activities, outcomes, and indicators. A consultant is available to review applicants' Models prior to submission.
- All Sections (Summary, Assets, Need, Solution) and Components (Org Info, Grant Info, Budget, Eval Model, Docs 990, Audit, Org Budget, etc.) of the application
- Collaborative Partner Letters of Support, if applicable
- Memorandum(s) of Understanding
- Confirmation of Organization Support Letter from the organization's Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director
- Organization's IRS Determination Letter
- For organizations with organization budgets of \$100,000 or larger, the organization's most recent Audited Financial Statements.
- Project Sustainability

**The deadline to submit Full Proposal applications is March 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.** Full Proposal applications will be reviewed by Quantum Foundation staff. Applicants may be contacted regarding their Full Proposal applications during the review process should staff have questions about their applications and/or be interested in a site visit. Application review criteria can be found in *Appendix B*. Based on the review of Full Proposal applications, Quantum Foundation staff will develop funding recommendations. In April 2024, the Quantum Foundation Grants Committee will review staff recommendations and develop funding recommendations for the Quantum Foundation Board. These recommendations will be presented to the Quantum Foundation Board of Directors in May 2024, at which time the Board will make its final determination regarding funding. Applicants will be notified of the determination regarding their applications by approximately June 2024, with funding to commence on July 1, 2024.

#### Request for Proposals and Application Inquiries

Questions about the Request for Proposals as well as the Application Submission and Review process should be directed to <u>sci@quantumfnd.org</u>. Throughout the application and review

process, applicant agencies are asked to refrain from lobbying or discussing in any way their applications with Quantum Foundation's Board of Directors.

#### Post-Award Requirements and Disbursement of Funds

Quantum Foundation will require reporting (programmatic and financial) from all its funded projects. Funds may be disbursed as a lump sum or in a series of scheduled payments, depending on the size of the grant award.

# Appendix A Stronger Communities Initiative – Additional Background

#### Lessons learned from place-based philanthropy<sup>567</sup>

Within philanthropy, a movement is building to act on the idea that place – the communities where we live, work, and play – matters to health and wellness. Individuals make daily decisions that influence their health, and their surroundings heavily influence their options. Furthermore, many foundations are broadening their focus on health at the individual level to include health at the community level. This broader focus recognizes that people cannot be healthy if their communities are impacted by poverty, pollution, lack of jobs and/or job training, insufficient education, inadequate recreational opportunities, etc. As a result, many health foundations are increasingly adding a place-based approach to their philanthropy to improve the health of communities by addressing community challenges using existing community assets.

Lessons learned indicate that when place-based philanthropy succeeds, it does so because: (1) the funder has taken a broad definition of community health in order to seed a breadth of projects addressing issues such as education, economic growth, and community safety; (2) the goals of the initiative are clear; (3) the funder stays out of the natural dynamic of a changing community and allows the community (including residents and organizations) to define their needs and devise ways to address them; and (4) some level of community leadership is already in place.

Place-based philanthropy has also revealed and highlighted the importance of community assets. Approaching community change through the lens of community strengths and assets is necessary and optimal. Communities are rich with tradition and historical value, and contain invaluable community members, organizations, institutions, associations, networks, and other vital components. Allowing these assets to lead the movement for community wellness leverages the strengths and values already present in a community.

#### **Communities of Focus**

For decades, the residents within the Northwest, Coleman Park, Pleasant City, Northwood Hills, Pinewood Park, and North 45th Street communities of West Palm Beach have experienced significant disparities, ranging from materially higher disease incidence and comorbidities to lower life expectancy. These disparities reflect a history of racial inequities and underinvestment, contributing to a fragmented healthcare delivery landscape with limited resources.

Furthermore, while there are incredible efforts led by community residents and social serving organizations to meet the pressing needs of community members, conditions of poverty and poor health outcomes have persisted for generations. For example, Coleman Park, a community in the area of focus, has the lowest life expectancy of any Census Tract in all of Palm Beach County. The foundation

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Coulton, C. J., Chan, T., & Mikelbank, K. (January 6, 2010). Finding Place in Communities Making Connections; Applying GIS to Residents' Perceptions of their Neighborhoods. Annie E. Casey Foundation. Retrieved from https://www.aecf.org/resources/finding-place-in-making-connections-communities
<sup>6</sup> Policy Link. (2007). Why Place Matters: Building a Movement for Healthy Communities. Retrieved from https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/whyplace-matters-building-the-movement-for-healthy-communities

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ferris, J. M., & Hopkins, E. (2015). Place-Based Initiatives: Lessons From Five Decades of Experimentation and Experience. The Foundation Review, 7(4). doi:10.9707/1944-5660.1269

acknowledges this is no fault of community members, but the historic and contemporary practices and policies that put these conditions in place and have yielded these outcomes.

The concentrated poverty that exists in these communities has led to poor living conditions and low quality of life for residents. The maps below illustrate the communities of focus. Further, the charts provided offer a snapshot of the conditions in which the communities' residents live, and in comparison to Palm Beach County overall.

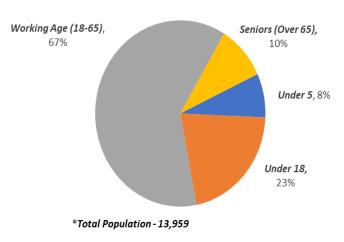
**KEY<sup>8</sup>:** Orange = Stronger Communities Initiative Zone



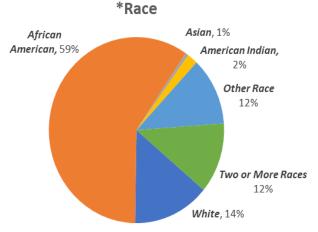


Green = Census Tracts used for data

#### **Demographics**<sup>9</sup>



\*Population, by Age

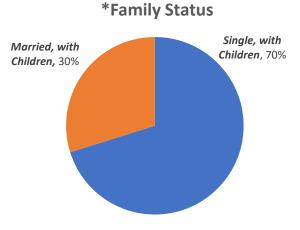


\*29% of residents identify as Hispanic

<sup>8</sup> US Census Bureau, 2020 Data

<sup>9</sup> US Census Bureau, 2020 Data.

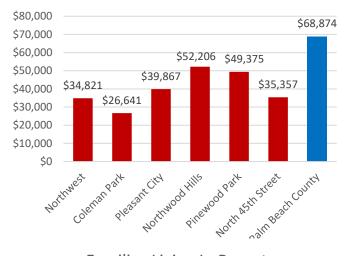
#### Demographics (Cont'd)<sup>10</sup>



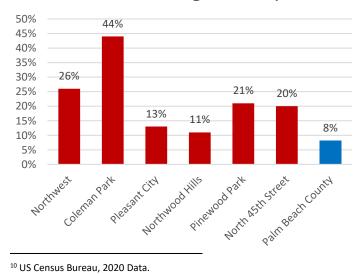
\*Total Families with Children - 949

#### Economics<sup>11</sup>

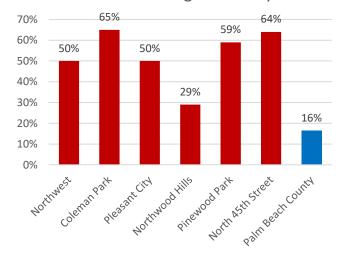




Families Living In Poverty



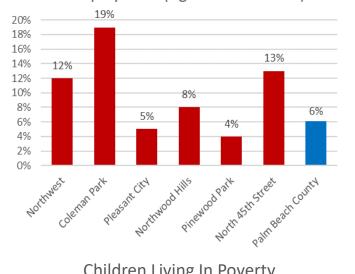
Children Living In Poverty

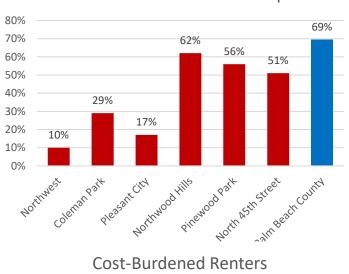


<sup>10</sup> US Census Bureau, 2020 Data.

<sup>11</sup> US Census Bureau, 2017-2021 Data.

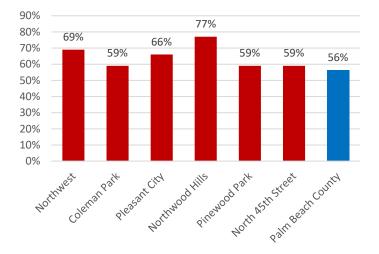
Unemployment (Aged 16 and Older)





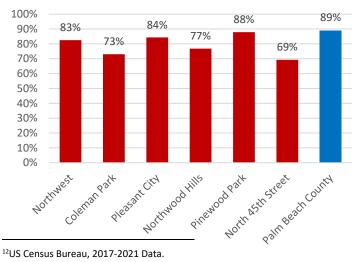
#### Household Home Ownership

**Cost-Burdened Renters** 

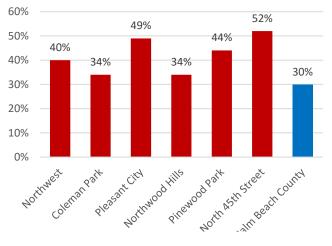


#### Education<sup>12</sup>

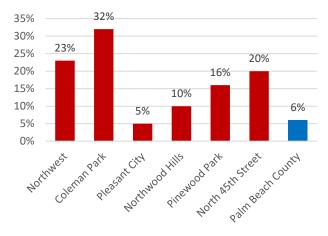
People with At Least a High School Diploma



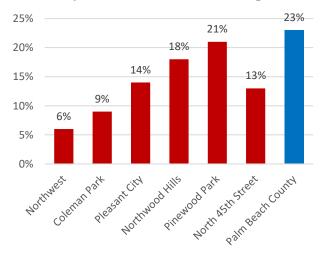
## **Cost-Burdened Homeowners**



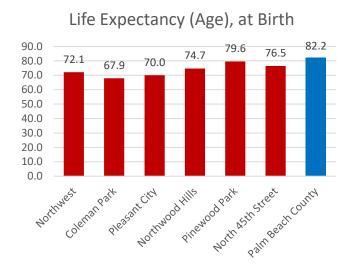
# Housing Units with No Vehicle Available



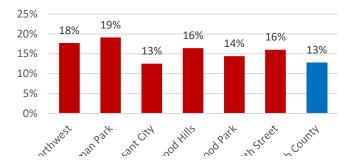
# People with a Bachelor's Degree



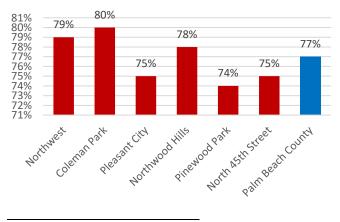
# Health<sup>1314151617</sup>



Adults with Diabetes

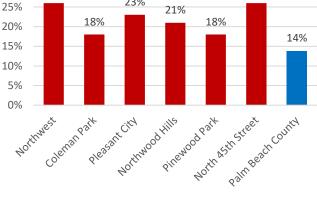


Adults Who Received a Routine Checkup Within the Past Year



<sup>13</sup> US Census Bureau, 2017-2021 Data.

- <sup>14</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2015.
- <sup>15</sup> US Census Bureau, 2017-2021 Data.

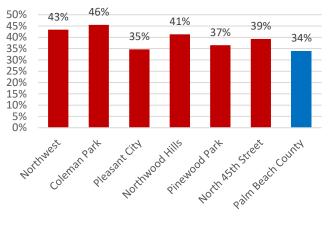


# 26% 23% 21%

30%

People Without Health Insurance



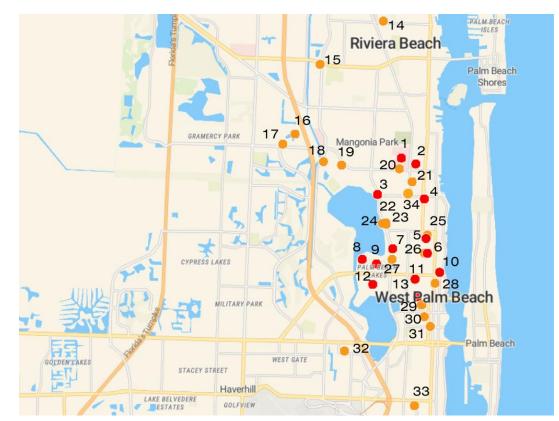


 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 16}$  PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019.

## **Community Assets**

While challenged, these communities also have numerous assets on which to capitalize. There are numerous community organizations, governmental agencies, and nonprofits providing services and supports to residents in these communities. There are parks, schools, hospitals, businesses, faith institutions, and strong community leaders. In addition to the stronger asset of this community, its people, below is a non-exhaustive list of additional assets:



- Key: Community Assets (Parks, Churches, Hospitals, Schools)
  - 1. St. Mary's Medical Center
  - 2. Fogleman Park
  - 3. Sunset Park
  - Triple H. Ministries 4.
  - 5. Blum Park
  - 6. Roosevelt Middle School
  - 7. Greater Antioch Missionary Baptist
  - 8. Do Right Church of God
  - 9. Gaines Park
  - 10. Good Samaritan Hospital
  - 11. Palmview Elementary
  - 12. Trinity United Methodist Church
  - 13. True Fast Outreach Ministries
  - 14. Martin Luther King Jr. Coordinating Committee
  - 15. Community Partners of South Florida
  - 16. Alzheimer's Community Care
  - 17. Monarch Health Services

- Nonprofits Serving the Target Area
- 18. Area Agency on Aging
- 19. Gulfstream Goodwill
- 20. Pediatric Oncology Support Team
- 21. Boys & Girls Club of PBC
- 22. The Lord's Place
- 23. Vita Nova
- 24. Urban Youth Impact
- 25. Neighborhood Renaissance
- 26. Extended Hands Community Outreach
- 27. Urban League
- 28. DePorres Place
- 29. Adiva Cares Foundation
- 30. Hospitality Helping Hands
- 31. Legal Aid Society of PBC
- 32. Family Promise of North Central PBC
- 33. Hacer Ministry Corp
- 34. Northend RISE

# **Quantum Foundation as Part of the Solution**

Since the establishment of Quantum Foundation's offices along Australian Avenue in West Palm Beach 15 years ago, the foundation has worked hard to be a good neighbor and to invest within these surrounding communities. Support of Quantum in the Community, Northend RISE, and other initiatives illustrate these investments.

Alongside significant investments in these communities, the foundation staff have developed deep relationships with key community stakeholders. As a result, the foundation has created an unparalleled level of understanding of the landscape in these communities and positioned it to serve as a catalyst for improving the communities' health. However, the breadth and depth of issues and challenges is enormous. Listening to residents, the foundation can focus its efforts on those issues that are identified as most important by the communities' residents themselves. A number of studies with resident input have been conducted in the very recent past and serve to inform how the foundation may target its funding for the greatest impact going forward.

# **Resident Voice**

#### Palm Beach County<sup>18</sup>

Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures is an alliance of Palm Beach County community partners that engages and aligns existing coalitions, networks, systems, and youth-serving organizations to support the healthy growth, development, and education of our children and youth prenatally through young adulthood, so that they can graduate from high school and succeed in life. In Spring 2022, the Birth to 22 alliance held a series of virtual conversations with community residents from disadvantaged communities across the county on topics including education, safety, health and wellness, employment, and economic access. During these conversations, the residents indicated that their biggest areas of concern were mental health, housing, education, and economic access.

#### Northend of West Palm Beach, Coleman Park, and Pleasant City<sup>19</sup>

In April 2021, Northend RISE and Palm Beach Atlantic University partnered on a community wellness survey. This was an opportunity to check in with residents, one year into the pandemic. Nursing and pharmacy students knocked on over 1,000 doors and conducted more than 125 interviews. During these conversations, residents identified the following health and wellness issues as top priority (listed in order).

- Mental Health/Stress Management
- COVID Information
- Nutrition
- Diabetes
- Hypertension

A survey conducted in 2022 among 434 residents identified these areas of interest for future community improvement in the following order:

 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\tiny 18}}$  PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> C. Glover, personal communication, April 4, 2023.

- Community Wellness (i.e., crime reduction, built environment that supports safe, physical activity, access healthy food)
- Education/Employment
- Housing

# Coleman Park<sup>20</sup>

According to Ontario Johnson, a community organizer in the Coleman Park community, the biggest issues identified by residents include a lack of:

- 1. healthy, affordable food options, particularly in the community's commercial districts
- 2. quality, affordable housing as well as support with property rehabilitation
- 3. homelessness services
- 4. local and accessible healthcare services for seniors as well as safe spaces to be physically active
- 5. mental health services
- 6. awareness of community resources
- 7. community space for educational and informational programming

# **Stronger Communities Initiative**

Understanding the communities' challenges, capitalizing on the communities' current assets, and building from the foundation's learned experience and its proximity to the communities, the foundation proposes to invest in place-based strategies designed to further improve the health of these communities.

With this pilot in mind, the foundation has established the Stronger Communities Initiative (SCI). With a one-year investment of \$500,000, community organizations are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that have the potential for transformational and sustainable impact on the health in one or more of these communities.

With a broad definition of community health, projects focused on job training, youth mentorship, leadership, and development/out-of-school time programs, economic development, community organizing, transportation, social services support, safe housing, technology (digital health), health education, and wellness/fitness would all be considered – as long as they:

- 1. Are provided to residents from within the communities' boundaries.
- 2. Are provided by a nonprofit organization, governmental organization, or other community group independently or in a collaboration of two or more organizations.
- 3. Describe measurable project-specific activities and outcomes with a strong likelihood of demonstrating impact.

Knowing that no single organization or provider can improve the communities' health independently, preference will be given to projects that are delivered by collaboratives of two or more organizations. Recognizing the unique landscape of each community, preference will also be given to projects that capitalize community assets and demonstrate innovation in the design of projects to address community-specific social determinants issues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> O. Johnson, personal communication, April 14, 2023.

# Appendix B

# Stronger Communities Initiative Application Review Criteria

The following criteria are used during the review of applications submitted to Quantum Foundation for funding support through the Stronger Communities Initiative Request for Proposals. Underneath each criterion are examples of the types and level of information required.

## Need for Assistance

- The need for assistance is clearly and adequately described using local data.
- The application describes why it is timely and/or urgent to address the identified problem, need, or issue.
- How the identified problem, need, or issue will likely be impacted by the project.

# Project Approach and Design

- The application clearly identifies the project's community (ies) of focus.
- The application clearly describes the proposed activities and why these activities are the best activities to address the identified problem, need, or issue.
- The project is well-designed, with activities organized in a way that is logical given the identified need and community(ies) of focus.
- The project reflects an innovative approach to addressing the identified problem, need, or issue for the community(ies) of focus.
- The project's activities integrate well with other relevant existing services.
- Given the project design, the likelihood that the project's stated outcomes will be achieved, considering the identifiable problem, need, or issue being addressed and the capacity of the organization and its partners.

# Evaluation

- The evaluation model clearly identifies quantifiable program activities, outcomes, and indicators.
- The proposed evaluation strategy will likely allow for the demonstration of program impact.

# Budget and Budget Narrative

- The total program budget is adequate to successfully implement/operate the project and address the identified problem, need, or issue.
- The total project costs are reasonable given the scale and scope of the project.
- The funding amount requested of Quantum Foundation is appropriate.
- The budget and budget narrative clearly describe how Quantum Foundation funds and other funds necessary to provide the project will be applied to the various project budget line items.
- The budget narrative is sufficiently detailed to justify each line item in the total project budget.
- The applicant has sought additional funders (pending and/or confirmed) and has secured sufficient funding to adequately implement/operate the project as described. Confirmation of secured funding is provided.
- The applicant's financial information (e.g., audited financials, 990, annual organizational operating budget) indicates that it will be a good steward of Quantum Foundation funds.

### Organizational Capacity

- The organization indicates a strong commitment to the project.
- The qualifications of the organization (and collaborative partner organizations) as a whole and key project staff suggest that the program will be implemented and managed successfully.
- The organization (and collaborative partner organizations) has developed appropriate relationships with key community stakeholders and/or other organizations doing similar or closely related work to address the identified problem, need, or issue. Letters from collaborative partners detailing their support for and role in the project are provided. Letters of support from other key partners, stakeholders, or other organizations are provided.
- Prior Quantum Foundation experience with this organization, key staff, and collaborative partner organizations, has demonstrated competency in the implementation/operation of project of similar size and scope as well as success in serving the community(ies) of focus and in achieving identified project outcomes and goals.

#### Sustainability

• The proposed strategy to continue funding of the program if Quantum Foundation funding ends is reasonable and realistic.

## Glossary

**Community Assets:** Resources, strengths, and attributes within a community that contribute to its wellbeing and can be harnessed to address challenges and promote positive outcomes.

**Community Health:** The overall well-being of a specific group of people, often within a defined geographic area, encompassing physical, mental, social, and environmental aspects.

**Census Tract:** A small, geographic subdivision of a county used for census and other statistical purposes, typically containing a few thousand residents.

**Digital Health:** The use of technology, such as digital devices, software, and data analytics, to improve healthcare delivery, diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes.

**Grassroots Organizations:** Locally initiated and driven groups, often focused on addressing community needs, advocacy, and social change at the local level.

**Healthcare System:** The network of individuals, organizations, and resources involved in delivering healthcare services to a population.

**Life Expectancy:** The average number of years a person is expected to live based on current mortality rates.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A formal agreement between parties that outlines the terms, expectations, and responsibilities of their cooperation or partnership.

**Place-Based Philanthropy:** A form of charitable giving that focuses on addressing specific issues within a particular geographic area or community.

**Social Determinants of Health:** These are the conditions and factors in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

**Underinvestment:** Insufficient allocation of resources, such as funding, attention, or infrastructure, in a particular area, leading to suboptimal outcomes.

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