CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Strengthening Community: A Community-Engaged Partnership Development & Renewal Funding Opportunity

Applications Open: Oct 19, 2026
Deadline: Friday, Nov 20, 2026
Awards Announced: January 2027

Do you have a community partnership that is ready to grow, deepen, or take a new direction?

The **Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE)** invites UNCG faculty to apply for a new professional development opportunity designed to help faculty and community partners **step back, strengthen their partnership, and plan what comes next.**

Up to $3,000 per team is available to support community partner participation.

This opportunity is designed for both **developing partnerships** and **established partnerships** that are ready for a refresh, renewed focus, or new phase of collaboration.

Community partners will learn and work alongside university partners to learn strategies for team development and resources development.

What Will Your Team Gain?

Selected faculty-community partner teams will participate together in professional development offered by the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement and the Office for Strategic Initiatives and Research Development throughout the spring. With dedicated time, resources, and guidance, teams will:

Session One: Develop Your Partnership Identity
Clarify who you are *as a partnership*, what you are working toward together, and what makes your collaboration meaningful.

- Deliverable from workshop: The partnership team will come away knowing its partnership name, aspirational vision, goals, roles, and collaborative processes

Session Two: Prepare to Secure Funding
Learn strategies for communicating the value and impact of your partnership in funding

proposals, connect with UNCG offices to support research/scholarship development, and explore opportunities to support your future work.

- Deliverable from workshop: The partnership team will have access to fund-finding platforms, identify specific funding sources with support from professional staff, and develop strategies for writing a successful proposal.

Session Three: Present Your Partnership Plan

Gather with teams and share your experiences in strengthening your partnership as part of the Strengthening Community grant process.

- Deliverable from session: The partnership teams will receive feedback from professional staff and other participants to strengthen their partnership processes and plans

Program Final Deliverable: Build Your Partnership's Future

- Create a concrete plan for your partnership's next steps, including aligning the pursuit of resources/funding with partnership priorities, values, and expected outputs and outcomes.
- Develop your partnership profile in Collaboratory, UNCG's database of community-university partnerships, as a tool for communicating your work and building visibility.

Who Should Apply?

UNCG faculty from **any discipline** who are working with a community partner and want to intentionally develop, strengthen, or renew their partnership are encouraged to apply.

We are especially interested in partnerships that:

- Are developing a new collaboration or entering a new phase of an existing partnership
- Have a clear opportunity to deepen or expand their work together
- Are interested in developing a shared vision and plan for the future
- See potential for securing funding or other resources to sustain or expand the partnership

Community partner stipends: Up to two $1,500 stipends per team is available for community partner participation. Funds are intended for community partners' use and **cannot be used to compensate UNCG faculty or staff.**

Key Dates

Application Process:

October 19 | Applications open |
November 20 | Applications due |
late November| Applications reviewed |
early-December| Teams notified |

Program Requirements: Participant teams (faculty and community partners) must attend all meetings (in-person at UNCG) to be eligible.

Wed, February 3, 10-noon | Partnership Identity |
Wed, February 24, 10-noon | Securing Funds |
Ths, April 1, 10-noon | Present your Partnership Plan|
Fri, April 23 | Final Partnership Plan due |

Ready to Invest in Your Partnership?

This is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and intentionally ask:

> **Who are we as a partnership? What do we want to accomplish together? And what do we need to do next? How do we secure the resources required to sustain our work?**

Bring your community partner. Bring your ideas. **ICEE will provide the space, professional development, and support to help you move your partnership forward.**

Apply by November 20, 2026.

APPLY HERE

Questions? Contact Dr. Emily Janke, emjanke@uncg.edu

Application Requirements

Applications should be written jointly by the faculty applicants and identified community partner(s). They must be submitted via UNCG's InfoReady by a faculty partner.

Applicants will be asked to provide the following:

1. Partnership Description

Briefly describe the faculty-community partnership, including:

- Who are the partners?
- What is the purpose of the partnership?
- How did the partnership develop?
- What work are you currently doing together?
- What experiences do the faculty/staff AND community partners have in securing resources (e.g., contracts, grants, donations, networks, in-kind services, etc.)

2. Partnership Development or Renewal

Describe why this is an important time to invest in the partnership.

For **developing partnerships**, describe the opportunity you see for building a meaningful, mutually beneficial collaboration.

For **established partnerships**, describe what you hope to strengthen, renew, expand, or reconsider through this program.

3. Goals for the Program

What do you hope to accomplish through participation in the program?

Please identify 2–3 specific goals for your partnership and how they align with the offered program.

What types and levels of resources are needed to sustain and/or scale the partnership? And, what kind of support for securing resources are you hoping to gain through this program for community and UNCG partners?

4. Community Partner Participation

Identify one to two community partners (ideally 2) who will participate and describe their role in the partnership and what they hope to gain from the professional development program. Describe their expected role in securing future funding.

5. Sustainability

Briefly describe any anticipated opportunities to establish critical relationships and networks, leverage processes or structures, and/or secure external funding or other resources to sustain or expand the partnership.

6. Commitment to Participation

A statement of commitment to attending the required three sessions and describing how the faculty member and community partner will work together between sessions.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a **multidisciplinary review committee**. The committee will consider:

- **Potential for partnership development or renewal:** The extent to which the program can meaningfully strengthen, develop, or renew the partnership.
- **Reciprocity:** Evidence of a collaborative relationship in which faculty and community partners contribute collaboratively to and benefit from the work.
- **Clarity of purpose:** A clear rationale for participating in the program and well-defined goals.
- **Commitment to participation:** Ability of both the faculty member and community partner to participate in the professional development activities.
- **Potential for sustainability:** Opportunities to continue, expand, or deepen the partnership beyond the grant period.
- **Potential for future sustainability:** Opportunities to develop resources, including relationships, processes, and funding to support the partnership's future work.

- **Cross-disciplinary learning:** Potential to contribute to and learn from a cohort of faculty-community partnerships representing multiple disciplines and community contexts.

Shortened Description

In the Strengthening Community grant, the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE) supports faculty and community partners in programming to step back, strengthen their partnership, and plan what comes next. This opportunity is designed for both developing partnerships and established partnerships that are ready for a refresh, renewed focus, or new phase of collaboration. Community partners will learn and work alongside university partners to learn strategies for team development and resources development.