

## We all benefit when everyone thrives.

Over the next decade, trillions of dollars of public and private sector funding will fuel new investments in infrastructure, transit, housing, health, and preparing for the challenges of climate change. In the past, local and regional infrastructure investments have been made in ways that divided neighborhoods and limited opportunities for people of color and low-income communities. Look at the data on health outcomes, employment, and economic and other risk factors: *Your ZIP code says a lot about your opportunity.*

In this critical moment, the way we build the places we live, work, and play should benefit everyone. As local leaders, community members, policymakers, and others determine how the next big wave of investments will be spent in their area, the **Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge**, or SPARCC, is supporting local efforts to make sure the investments are used to make their communities places where everyone thrives.

## SPARCC is empowering communities.

SPARCC is a three-year, \$90 million initiative to amplify locally driven efforts to ensure that major new infrastructure investments lead to equitable and healthy opportunities for everyone. SPARCC is investing in the ideas, energy, and momentum of local networks to positively shape our cities and regions for generations.

SPARCC is an initiative of Enterprise Community Partners, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Low Income Investment Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, with funding support from the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and The California Endowment.

## Who is participating?

In February 2017, following a competitive application process, SPARCC announced the selection of six initial sites:

- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Denver
- Los Angeles
- Memphis
- San Francisco Bay Area

These localities will each receive \$1 million in combined grant and technical assistance funds over the next three years to support their local efforts. Collectively, the SPARCC sites will have access to an estimated pool of \$70 million in financing capital, as well as \$14 million in additional programmatic support.

In each region, the SPARCC work will be led by multidisciplinary groups who are bringing together community residents, the public and private sectors, and local government to make sure that all residents have a voice in ensuring new infrastructure investments benefit everyone. While each SPARCC site is different, all six have proposed concrete strategies to make their communities more prosperous and equitable through solutions ranging from shaping regional transit expansion and revitalizing existing transit hubs, to reshaping and redirecting housing and land use.

Long term, SPARCC's goal is for other cities, communities, and regions to adopt similar approaches to achieving more just economic, health, and environmental outcomes, using the success of the first six SPARCC sites as a model.

## Why now?

Big infrastructure investments are coming or are already underway, and people of all races and incomes should benefit. At the national level, it has been estimated that we need to invest \$3.6 trillion on infrastructure by 2020.

Across the country, communities are making bold investments in 21st century infrastructure.

- In cities like Atlanta, Denver, and Los Angeles, major public transportation systems expansions are planned to better connect housing to jobs, ensure equitable development, and help reduce harmful pollution from an over-dependence on private transportation. In Chicago, local groups are investing in revitalizing communities near existing transit hubs.
- In the San Francisco Bay Area, significant funds have been dedicated to building and preserving affordable housing to help combat displacement.
- In Memphis, funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is supporting the "Greenprint" project – a regional initiative to connect hundreds of miles of greenway trails, open space, and infrastructure development over the next 25 years.

For more information on SPARCC and the selected sites, please visit [sparcchub.org](https://sparcchub.org).

# The SPARCC Regions

## Atlanta

TransFormation Alliance is a diverse group of organizations representing government agencies, business partners, metro Atlanta's transit agency, and the nonprofit community dedicated to creating thriving, mixed-income communities anchored by transit and linked to all the opportunities and amenities that make Atlanta great. Our mission is to change how transit and community development investments shape the future to offer all residents the opportunities for a high quality of life, linked by our region's critically important transit system. For more information, please visit [atltransformationalliance.org](http://atltransformationalliance.org).

## Chicago

L-Evated Chicago is a partnership of organizations committed to transforming the half-mile radius around transit stations into hubs of opportunity and connection across our region's vast transit system. We view station areas as the optimal location for planning, programming, urban design and development to converge to address the region's deeply rooted disparities in racial equity, public health, and climate resiliency. L-Evated Chicago's founding partners are: The Chicago Community Trust, Enterprise Community Partners Chicago, IFF, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Metropolitan Planning Council, City of Chicago Department of Public Health, Latin United Community Housing Association, Washington Park Development Group, and Arts + Public Life.

## Denver

Mile High Connects is a multi-sector collaborative working to ensure that the regional transit system fosters communities that offer all residents the opportunity for a high quality of life. The partnership formed in 2011 to ensure that FasTracks, the region's \$7.8 billion transit build-out, benefits low-income communities and communities of color by connecting them to affordable housing, healthy environments, quality education, and good-paying jobs. For more information on Mile High Connects, please visit [milehighconnects.org](http://milehighconnects.org).

Mile High Connects Partners are Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, The Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, The Denver Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, FirstBank, Ford Foundation, FRESC: Good Jobs Strong Communities, Gates Family Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Belgium Family Foundation, 9to5 Colorado, Gary Community Investments, Rose Community Foundation, Urban Land Conservancy, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo. Mile High Connects is housed at The Denver Foundation, the largest and most experienced community foundation in the Rocky Mountain West. For more information, please visit [denverfoundation.org](http://denverfoundation.org).

## Los Angeles

The Los Angeles SPARCC recipients include the California Community Foundation, LA Transit, Housing, Resources and Investment for a Vibrant Economy (LA THRIVES), and the Alliance for Community Transit Los Angeles (ACT-LA). Together, these partners are working to move the Los Angeles County region toward achieving equity of opportunity for every Angeleno by ensuring access to affordable, stable, high-quality homes, quality living-wage jobs, and affordable low-carbon transportation.

## Memphis

The Memphis Partners for Resilient Communities (Memphis Partners) – a coalition of groups representing the North Memphis community, local government, and philanthropy – formed in response to the SPARCC opportunity to ensure that several large public and private investments happening around North Memphis benefit this former industrial area's majority African American, low income population. The community members engaged in Memphis Partners and the SPARCC grant will influence policy and practice for greater equity, build the capacity of the partners to support meaningful coordination and engagement, improve connectivity and mobility of residents within their neighborhoods and across the broader region, and promote further investment in North Memphis neighborhoods. For more information on Memphis Partners, please visit [memphis-sparcc.org](http://memphis-sparcc.org).

## San Francisco Bay Area


Bay Area for All (BA4A) is aligning the work, vision, and focus of three nationally recognized collaboratives to build an equitable, healthy, climate-wise Bay Area. The 6 Wins for Social Equity Network (6 Wins), the Great Communities Collaborative, an initiative of The San Francisco Foundation, and Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) are joining forces to advance a shared vision of community-driven development in targeted, transit-rich neighborhoods across the Bay Area.

Initiative of Enterprise Community Partners, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Low Income Investment Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council

Funding support from the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and The California Endowment

 @SPARCCHub

 [info@sparcchub.org](mailto:info@sparcchub.org)

 [www.sparcchub.org](http://www.sparcchub.org)