



Mission: MDC helps organizations and communities close the gaps that separate people from opportunity.

Background: MDC is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Chapel Hill, NC. Founded in 1967 to identify and help remove barriers to progress for the South, MDC has been publishing research and developing policies and programs focused on expanding opportunity, reducing poverty, and building inclusive civic cultures in the American South for the past 40 years.

Our Organizing Formula:
Education + Work + Assets = the Pathway to Opportunity

Visit our Web site at
www.mdcinc.org

Address: 400 Silver Cedar Court, Suite 300
P.O. Box 17268, Chapel Hill, NC 27516-7268

Phone: 919.968.4531
Fax: 919.929.8557

New Projects and Initiatives

The State of the South 2007: Philanthropy As The South's "Passing Gear"

- *The State of the South* is a biennial report that addresses various aspects of the South's economic, educational, and social development. This year's report examines a range of fundamental inequities that hold our region back from being globally competitive. It recommends how the South's growing capacity for philanthropy can contribute to making the South work well for all its people. Along with data analysis found in each issue of *State of the South*, this report offers powerful examples of the transformational influence of philanthropic investment on our region. It provides a framework for how Southern leaders, states, communities, and donors can do more to address our collective challenges.

Disconnected Youth

- a research initiative, supported by the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, to gauge the scope of the problem of disconnected youth in the Triangle region of North Carolina, to catalog and assess current programs tackling the problem, and to suggest alternatives .

Rural People, Rural Policy

- a national, multiyear initiative launched by The Kellogg Foundation to equip local organizations to shape policy that improves the lives of rural people. The Foundation has hired MDC to help grantees further develop their networks and sharpen their skills in bringing about policy change. MDC also will design and coordinate peer learning sessions for the initiative.

Current Projects

► Education

Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count

- a multiyear national initiative to help more community college students succeed, particularly students of color and low-income students. Achieving the Dream emphasizes the use of data to drive change and focuses on measurable outcomes, especially closing achievement gaps. Fifty-eight community colleges in nine states participate in Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count , which is supported by six funders. MDC is the managing partner in this initiative that includes eight national partner organizations. Web site: www.achievingthedream.org.

Rural Leadership for Community Change

- a program to develop leadership courses for students to become leaders and change agents in their own communities. Faculty at six rural community and tribal colleges are developing a leadership curriculum that will prepare students to become leaders for community change. The new curriculum will combine classroom learning with hands-on community projects and will serve as a model for other rural community and tribal colleges across the United States.

► Work

Latino Pathways

- a demonstration project designed to increase job entry, retention, and advancement for Latino immigrants in two major North Carolina labor markets: Greensboro and Charlotte. The Latino Pathways project is forming community partnerships comprising community colleges, grassroots Latino organizations, employers, and other stakeholder groups to increase entry, retention, and advancement in living wage jobs for Latino immigrants.

Connecting People to Jobs

- an initiative to move low-skilled Southerners into skills training and better paying jobs at three sites in Virginia, West Virginia, and South Carolina, respectively. Supported by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. At each site, a grassroots organization, a community college, and employers collaborate to help disadvantaged adults get and keep decent jobs.

► Asset Building and Preservation, Community Development, and Consulting

EITC Carolinas

- a statewide resource network, with support from the Z. Smith Reynolds and Annie E. Casey Foundations, to help communities assist low- and moderate-income working families during tax season to reclaim their earnings and build their assets. Membership in the network is free and provides access to free resources, training, and promotional materials. Web site: www.eitc-carolinas.org.

FEMA Emergency Preparedness Demonstration Program

- a program to better prepare disadvantaged groups for future disaster events. A joint initiative of MDC and the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the demonstration program is supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help disadvantaged communities in six states and the District of Columbia prepare for disasters. MDC is the lead partner for the two-year program, which will alert residents to the hazards of natural, technological, and manmade disasters and communicate what they can do to be better prepared. In 2007, FEMA extended the program by a year and made an additional grant of \$500,000 to take the work into areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Reflective Practice for Philanthropic Organizations

- MDC has successfully piloted this process for a community foundation and a public grant maker and is now helping the board of the new Danville Regional Foundation develop its mission, goals, and grant making strategies. The Foundation, which has assets of \$220 million, resulted from the sale of the community hospital. Danville also is a site for the Achieving the Dream initiative as well as an economic development initiative funded by the Future of the Piedmont Foundation. MDC remains in an advisory role for the work of the Future of the Piedmont and is available to advise other nonprofit organizations through its reflective practice process.

Strategic Network for Community Philanthropy

- a Ford Foundation initiative to develop resources and community capacity to promote social and racial equality, particularly in the South. MDC is supporting local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations engaged in this initiative through a peer learning network, resource development, and technical assistance. Web site: www.snep.us.