Meet. Share. DO.

At Central Carolina Community Foundation, we know big ideas spring from small conversations and people invest in what they help create. When we come together as a community to listen to and learn from each other, we have the power to impact both neighborhoods and lives.

On October 24, 2018, thousands of residents from Richland and Lexington Counties gathered around tables with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and strangers to talk about issues, large and small, that impact our quality of life. Our region’s first On the Table initiative focused on facilitating organic, informal community conversations that will inspire action across our communities.

Throughout the day, conversations covered hundreds of topics. Hosts could focus on topics suggested by their guests or use guided conversation prompts that centered on community strengths, needs, and next steps. When their conversation ended, participants were asked to take a survey that would provide a deeper understanding of the issues they deemed most important to our community. The survey was conducted online by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies. This report showcases the results of that survey.

Our reason for initiating On the Table is simple: Central Carolina Community Foundation exists to enable and promote philanthropy that inspires, facilitates, and fosters a vibrant and engaged region.

Our initiative encourages residents to prioritize opportunities and discover how we can work together to make our community a better place. It brings diverse voices to the table to discuss who we are, where we’re going, and what we need to do to get there.

The conversations are only the first step. We hope the information in this report inspires you to move beyond the table – to continue to connect with your neighbors, learn about issues facing our community, and take a step today towards improving this place we call home.
On the Table created new connections across the community and increased participants’ understanding of issues affecting the community.

I spoke with at least one person that I did not already know 71%

I learned about important issues in my community 64%

The conversation helped me better understand how I can take action to help address issues and challenges in my community 59%

I exchanged contact information with at least one person who I did not already know 38%
The People (Who Responded)

*On the Table* engaged participants from all walks of life – representing diverse ages, races, interests, levels of civic engagement, and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>An Estimated</th>
<th>An Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following *On the Table*, 620 participants responded to the survey.

Hosts and participants represented a wide cross section of the community and engaged with *On the Table* through a variety of affiliations including nonprofits, universities, hospitals, corporations, small businesses, neighborhood associations, religious organizations, individual interests, schools, chambers, local government, and professional associations.

### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biracial/Multiracial</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate or Less</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-year or Vocational College</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year College Graduate</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Graduate</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reason Living in Area

- 33% Lived in area all/most of my life
- 20% Moved here to attend college
- 47% Moved here for a reason other than college

### 82% are involved in community and neighborhood activities

### Party Identification

- 24% Republican
- 50% Democrat
- 26% Independent

### 55% vote in every local election
Their Attitudes

In both counties, men and women who participated in On the Table are overwhelming hopeful about what the future holds for their community.

- **86%** believe the community is changing for the better
- **79%** have shared goals/priorities for our community
- **93%** would recommend Richland and Lexington Counties as places to live

### Across the region, the majority of participants see their community as more united than divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges.

- **79%** have shared goals/priorities for our community
- **93%** would recommend Richland and Lexington Counties as places to live

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### More HOPEFUL 79%

### More WORRIED 21%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Hopeful</th>
<th>Worried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 18 to 34</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35 to 49</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 50 to 64</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65/older</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of Color</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**My community is more UNITED:**

- **11%** Much more
- **59%** Somewhat more
- **30%** Much more
- **30%** Somewhat more

**My community is more DIVIDED:**

- **9%** Much more
- **4%** Somewhat more
- **61%** Much more
- **30%** Somewhat more

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Across the region, the majority of participants see their community as more united than divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges.

*Do you think people in your community are more united or more divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges?*

- **All Attendees**
  - 59% United
  - 27% Divided
- **Lexington County**
  - 69% United
  - 31% Divided
- **Richland County**
  - 70% United
  - 30% Divided

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*Do you think people in your community are more united or more divided when it comes to addressing important goals and challenges?*

- **All Attendees**
  - 59% United
  - 27% Divided
- **Whites**
  - 61% United
  - 27% Divided
- **African Americans**
  - 58% United
  - 27% Divided
- **All People of Color**
  - 57% United
  - 27% Divided
- **Democrats**
  - 58% United
  - 28% Divided
- **Independents**
  - 68% United
  - 10% Divided
- **Republicans**
  - 64% United
  - 9% Divided

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  - 27% Divided
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  - 57% United
  - 27% Divided
- **Democrats**
  - 58% United
  - 28% Divided
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  - 10% Divided
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  - 9% Divided

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Our Opportunity

*On the Table* survey respondents identified jobs, economic development, poverty, and economic security as the issues they want our community to address.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good jobs, economic development</th>
<th>37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty, economic security</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime, violence, public safety</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing (affordable, homelessness)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race relations, racism, discrimination</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local public and charter schools</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable healthcare</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social justice (civil rights, police violence)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and recreational areas</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing hunger and food insecurity</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug and alcohol addiction</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental issues</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment of immigrants</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good jobs and economic security are top priorities for all racial and ethnic groups. Participants of color also prioritized race relations and racism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>All People of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good jobs, economic development</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Good jobs, economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>33%</td>
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<td>Good jobs, economic development</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty, economic security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Race relations, racism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Walk-able and bike-able urban areas were top priorities for improving our community. So was supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.

White participants and participants of color have similar priorities but rank them differently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th>All People of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More walk-able/bike-able urban areas</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to riverfronts for recreation</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office with resources for entrepreneurs/small businesses</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nine in 10 say they will likely take specific action on an issue they discussed at *On the Table.*

98% say they are very or somewhat likely to take part in an *On the Table* conversation next year.
What’s Next?

Grants to Inspire Action

*On the Table* participants were excited and passionate about the fresh, innovate ideas to work together and improve our communities generated during their conversations on October 24. To help these ideas become a reality, we’re excited to announce *Beyond The Table* Grants!

Central Carolina Community Foundation will award $20,000 in quick action grants to support ideas that come from our inaugural *On the Table* conversations. To apply, visit www.OnTheTableCola.org

Save the Date!

*On the Table 2019* will be on Tuesday, October 22, 2019!

Visit OnTheTableCola.org to view the interactive dashboard of the full report.

Central Carolina Community Foundation, the Midlands’ local center for philanthropy, is a nonprofit organization serving 11 counties in the Midlands of SC by distributing grants and scholarships and linking the resources of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits, and area leaders to community needs. We were founded in September 1984 by business leaders who wanted to establish a permanent endowment that would enhance the lives of citizens in the Midlands. In addition to *On the Table*, the Foundation leads the Midlands Gives online giving challenge, Connected Communities grants, the One SC Fund, annual scholarships, and more.

For more information, visit www.YourFoundation.org or call 803.254.5601.