

Nusenda Foundation

Albuquerque Living Cities Integration Initiative

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Challenge

The Integration Initiative (TII) focuses on racial and socioeconomic inclusion and is dedicated to improving conditions for low-income residents and residents of color while building a healthier and more diverse economy.

Innovation

The goal of TII is to accelerate job creation and economic mobility, particularly for low-income individuals and individuals of color who are traditionally left out of the business and financial mainstreams, through fostering innovation and entrepreneurship and through connecting resources.

Overview

TII has a vision to help Albuquerque reach its potential using innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate job creation and economic mobility. The program started in 2012 with discussions between the mayor of Albuquerque, the president of the University of New Mexico (UNM), and economic development leaders. The Nusenda Foundation's executive director shared these ideas to develop homegrown job creation strategies for marginalized populations with Living Cities, leading Albuquerque to become one of five TII awardees in 2014. Support for the project comes from public funding streams from the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, UNM, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration as well as private funding from Living Cities, the Kauffman Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, and Nusenda Credit Union, and in-kind and financial contributions from many local partners. Results include better-connected resources, a more diverse and thriving economy, and better data collection and analysis capacity to inform decisionmaking.

PUBLIC-SECTOR PARTNERS

City of Albuquerque, Mayor's Office; Bernalillo County, Economic Development Department; University of New Mexico; U.S. Economic Development Administration.

OTHER PARTNERS

Living Cities, Kauffman Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Albuquerque Community Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation.

