

Winston-Salem Building Integrated Communities (BIC) Partnership “Cheat Sheet”

1. **What does BIC mean?**

BIC means **Building Integrated Communities**. Building Integrated Communities is an initiative of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that strengthens civic engagement, linguistic achievement, and economic and educational advancement for immigrants in NC municipalities. This statewide initiative helps North Carolina local governments successfully engage with immigrants and refugee populations to improve public safety, promote economic development, enhance communication, and improve relationships. In 2014, the Winston-Salem Human Relations Department competed for and was awarded this two-year partnership opportunity with UNC-Chapel Hill.

2. **Is BIC just for the Hispanic immigrant community?**

No; BIC is an inclusion initiative that is intended for all immigrant populations of persons in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The Hispanic community is emphasized because, based on the 2010 U.S. Census Data, Hispanics are the largest immigrant population in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The Latino Migration Project is one of many focus areas of Building Integrated Communities.

3. **What will be the outcome of the Winston-Salem BIC plan’s focus?**

The desired general outcomes are for organizations serving common populations to share resources and services for the betterment of Hispanics and the overall international community in Winston-Salem in high-impact lifestyle areas such as **fair and affordable housing choice, education, health care (including hunger), and transportation**. The desired overall outcome is to unite all agencies and organizations in Winston-Salem in order to pool resources in order to broaden and strengthen the service capacity. We hope to further educate the community regarding misconceptions, misinformation, and stereotypes regarding the international community, particularly the Hispanic community. By addressing key focus areas, the public will learn that barriers that impede the Hispanic population’s acclimation into our community also serve as opportunities for understanding and inclusion. As a result, the fear and stereotypes will slowly dissipate.

4. **Who are the lead community and city departments on this project?**

In addition to the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department serving as the lead organizer, key stakeholder organizations include the Hispanic League, Hispanic Interaction, the Indo-U.S. Cultural Association, Second Harvest Food Bank, Wake Forest University, Novant Health, the Winston-Salem Foundation, City Link, the City Department of Transportation, the International Center at Forsyth Technical Community College, El Buen Pastor, and Compassionate Winston-Salem.

5. **How can I obtain additional information?**

Please contact City Link 311 or the Human Relations Department at 734.1227.