



NEWS RELEASE

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Justice Initiatives is proud to be recognized by Harvard's Kennedy School as a 2017 'Bright Idea' in Government.

Justice Initiatives (JI) Awarded \$10,000 from Unite Charlotte Grant to Aid in Rebuilding Community Trust

Charlotte, NC – JI is proud to be among the 20 Charlotte-area nonprofit organizations awarded \$10,000 in funding from the Unite Charlotte grant. The fund was established by United Way of Central Carolinas and Foundation For the Carolinas—in partnership with initial funders Wells Fargo and Duke Energy—to support projects and entities focused on bringing about unity and rebuilding trust in the Charlotte community in the aftermath of the unrest experienced in recent months.

The Unite Charlotte grant funds will promote institutional change through the support of our strategic objectives, which include: 1) The establishment of a public policy center in partnership with a leading college or university in North Carolina; 2) The funding of fellowships under the supervision of academic faculty to conduct the type of research representative of what a public policy center might offer in order to demonstrate the value of such; 3) The expansion of JI into other counties throughout the State in order to broaden the reach of our message with other community leaders and to gain their support for improving our state-funded court system; and 4) The facilitation of a citizen advisory group to become informed regarding the inherent structural inequities and resource limitations which compromise the ability of dedicated public servants/court officials to deliver a full-measure of justice, and to become the champions for rectifying these wrongs.

JI was formed in 2004 by a group of civic leaders, lawyers, business owners and concerned citizens in North Carolina who understand the rule of law is the bedrock of our civilized society, that a healthy court system is critical to safeguarding this foundation, and that the effective and efficient administration of justice is essential to a strong, prosperous and vibrant community. JI develops programming to address the deficits in the public's understanding and appreciation for the rule of law and the role of courts in our republican form of government. It demonstrates the interconnectedness between each individual's quality of life and the courts' ability to fairly adjudicate legal rights. JI seeks to ensure that the judicial branch receives the funding it needs to provide timely access to justice for all and defend against policies that undermine the independence, fairness, or integrity of the courts. JI, also, raises money to use as seed funding to initiate smarter and innovative judicial programs and services that build public trust and confidence in our courts and studies new ideas about justice and our courts with academic partners.

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