

**Central Carolina *On the Table* participants:
Hopeful about the Future and Engaged in their Community**

2018 Central Carolina Community Foundation *On the Table* participants who completed the post-conversation survey are optimistic about what the future holds for their community and see Richland and Lexington Counties in a positive light along several dimensions. They are actively engaged and believe they and other residents like them can have a big impact on making positive change.

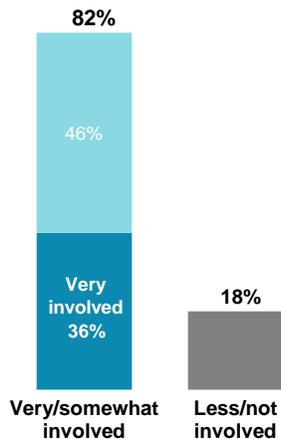
***On the Table* participants who completed the survey represent a small, highly engaged segment of the community:**

- ✓ 60% have lived in the area for more than 15 years, and four in 10 (41%) for more than 25 years.
- ✓ Nearly nine in 10 (88%) have at least a four-year college degree, with over half possessing post-graduate education.

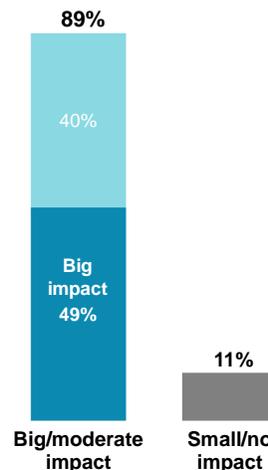
These participants see themselves as change-makers within the community:

- ✓ More than 80% are involved in community and neighborhood activities
- ✓ Even larger proportions (89%) believe that they and others like them can have an impact in making their community a better place to live.

How involved are you in community and neighborhood activities where you live?



How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?



A positive outlook and hope for the future: Participants approach the issues and challenges facing their communities with a strong sense of hope for the future and positive feelings and perceptions about their community.

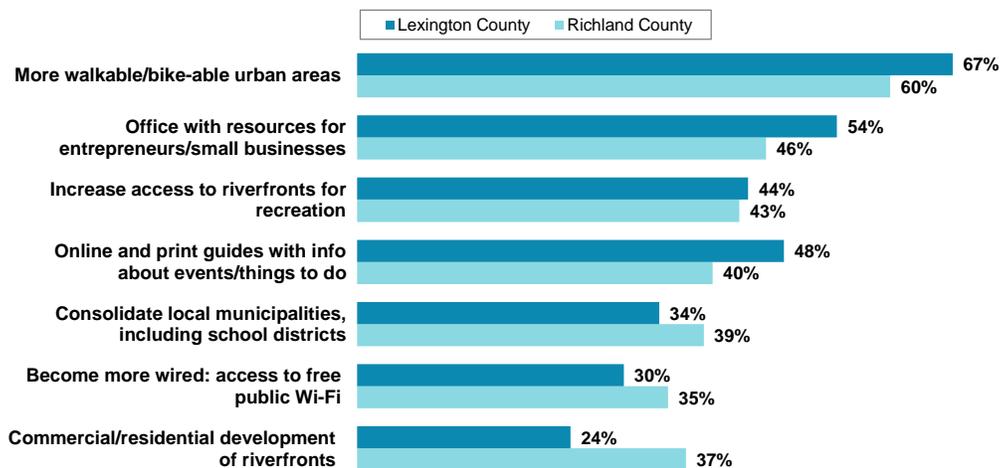
- ✓ Roughly eight in 10 (79%) are more hopeful about what the future holds for their community (compared with only 21% who are more worried). This strong sense of optimism prevails, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, or whether from Lexington or Richland County.

- ✓ 70% say their community is more united than divided (30%), and 79% say the people who make up their community have shared goals and priorities.
- ✓ An even larger proportion (84%) believe the area in which they live has a strong sense of community. Many believe this sense of community extends to new residents, with 85% of participants describing Richland and Lexington Counties as welcoming to people who relocate there.
- ✓ In fact, strong majorities believe their community is a good place to live for all kinds of different residents, from young to old, parents to non-parents, as well as racial and ethnic minorities.

Opportunities and Priorities for Change: Kitchen table economic issues are the most important priorities these *On the Table* participants want to see their community address. Desired community improvements include more walkable and bike-able areas and resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

- ✓ The need to address issues related to good jobs and economic development as well as poverty and economic security are top priority issues across the board.
- ✓ In terms of steps that can be taken to improve the local community, participants from both Richland and Lexington Counties place emphasis on creating more walkable and bike-able urban areas and establishing a one-stop office center to provide resources and support for entrepreneurs and start-up small businesses. Participants of color place a much higher priority on establishing a center to support entrepreneurs and small businesses than do their white counterparts.

Three top ideas that you think will do the most to help improve our community.



On October 24, 2018, Central Carolina Community Foundation hosted its 2018 On the Table conversations with generous support from the Knight Foundation. Central Carolina Community Foundation estimates that approximately 1,500 adults participated in the conversations. This memo presents key findings among 620 adults who participated in On the Table conversations and completed the post-conversation survey. The survey was conducted online by Hart Research Associates and Public Opinion Strategies.