



MDC is a nonprofit organization that has been publishing research and developing programs focused on expanding opportunity, reducing poverty, and addressing structural inequity for more than 40 years. Founded in 1967 out of N.C. Gov. Terry Sanford's North Carolina Fund, its original mission was to design job training programs to help poor and displaced workers in the transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy and from a segregated to an integrated workforce. Since then it has developed and implemented programs in areas including youth engagement, training and employment, community college improvement, rural economic development, strategic philanthropy, workforce competitiveness, school reform, and grassroots community leadership.

Notable programs include creation of North Carolina's Human Resources Development program for pre-employment training; design of the North Carolina Manpower Council; incubation of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center; incubation of the Foundation for the Mid South; creation and management of the Ford Foundation's seven-year Rural Community College Initiative; development and management of The Duke Endowment's six-year Program for the Rural Carolinas; and co-development and management as lead partner of the FEMA Emergency Preparedness Demonstration to help disadvantaged communities prepare for disasters.

Notable research includes *Shadows on the Sunbelt*, a study that challenged the value of industry recruitment to rural economies and encouraged more broad-based approaches to economic development; *America's Shame, America's Hope*, a commission headed by Kenneth B. Clark documenting the educational plight of at-risk youth that became the basis for a Bill Moyers PBS special and the foundation for a series of videos and manuals to help communities address the problem; *Building Community by Design*, a resource guide for community change leaders; and the biennial *State of the South* series of reports that have looked at issues ranging from global competitiveness to educational attainment to "passing gear" philanthropy in analyses of population, jobs, income, poverty and education in the South.

In recent years MDC has continued its work defining gaps and mobilizing leaders at all levels to create a will for change, using our tools and approaches to identify sustainable solutions to chronic problems, develop them into effective models, and then manage and incubate those models so they can be replicated at scale for maximum impact. Current work includes: The Work Supports Initiative, an outreach effort to connect low- and moderate-income Americans with work and income supports using a Web-based service called The Benefit Bank®, currently in operation in North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, and Maine, and under consideration in several other states; EITC Carolinas, a state- and foundation-funded resource network to help communities assist low- and moderate-income working families during tax season to reclaim and keep their earnings; Career Pathways for a Green South, a \$3.8 million, U.S. Department of Labor green jobs initiative; the Developmental Education Initiative, an \$18 million effort funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Lumina Foundation for Education to scale-up developmental (remedial) education innovations in community colleges; and Partners for Postsecondary Success, a three-year demonstration project in four cities (including Raleigh and Charlotte) funded by the Gates Foundation to create community partnerships to significantly increase the number of low-income youth who complete postsecondary credentials.

MDC recently incubated and spun-off Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a \$100 million-plus initiative to improve student success rates at the nation's community colleges. Founded by Lumina Foundation for Education and eight national partners including MDC, ATD has grown include more than 130 institutions in 24 states and the District of Columbia. MDC was the managing partner from 1994 through 2010 and incubated the national initiative until 2011 as it became a stand-alone nonprofit with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to programmatic and intellectual guidance on topics such as equity and data-based decision-making, managing the initiative required capacity in communications, research skills, and back-office management of dozens of grants and grantees.