

**For Immediate Release**

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**Chase Spearheads Practitioner/Funder Meeting on  
Education Investment**

*Texas backbone organizations serve over 48% of student population*

**Austin, TX – November 18, 2013** - E<sup>3</sup> Alliance is hosting the second annual **Texas CI Convening** for education backbone organizations and visionary funders. The event, sponsored by **Chase**, and planned by **All Kids Alliance, E<sup>3</sup> Alliance** and **Educate Texas**, will be held at **Austin Community College's Highland Business Center Campus** on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and is an invitation only event.

**CI** refers to a set of unique and compelling regional approaches to solving complex social issues. It means: community inspired, collective impact, civic infrastructure, and continuous improvement.

**Backbone organizations** are regional and community organizations that facilitate the CI work and function as a "communications hub" and coordinating organization for collective solutions, approaches and initiatives among schools, businesses, higher education, faith-based organizations, teachers, and parents, and the community as a whole. Although backbone organizations currently operate only in 12.5% of school districts in Texas, they are serving over 48% of student population in the state.

The CI Convening will bring together education backbone organizations from across the state as well as regional, state and national funders and thought leaders in collective impact to talk about investing in this approach, and in building a community of practice in Texas around successful practices. The convening is designed for senior level leadership at backbone organizations and regional and state foundations as well as for the "on-the-ground" data analysts, community organizers, facilitators and collaborative project managers.

Michelle Thomas, Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Community Relations, stated that Chase is sponsoring this convening because, "Building a strong future for Texas starts with investing in education. We can transform millions of lives by bringing together results-oriented organizations and funders who are determined to make a difference."

The convening will have two tracks:

- Track One: Investing in Human Capital
- Track Two: Sharing What Works

**Track One: Investing in Human Capital Track** is designed to promote a deep and broad conversation between Executive Directors of backbone organizations and funders of collective impact about the promise and challenge in investing in this approach. The discussion will be facilitated by **FSG Social Impact Advisors** and featured speakers will include representatives from such state and national foundations as: **the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Ford Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation and the sponsor funder, Chase.**

**Track Two: Sharing What Works** track is designed for our backbone practitioners and will feature both common issue and backbone function breakout sessions allowing Texas backbone organizations to share their "experiences and lessons learned". Discussions will focus on: **Building Sustainable Collaborations, Advancing Policy, Practicing Action Research, and Leveraging Existing Networks.**

**Shiloh Turner, Vice President of Community Investment at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, to keynote this event.** The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has been a visionary leader in building a network of regional foundations to unite around a common agenda in support of **StriveTogether's** education goals in the Greater Cincinnati Metro Area. Ms. Turner will share the steps the community foundation took, the lessons learned and what foundations in Texas might consider as they undertake investment in collective impact in education.