



News Release

Friday, Aug. 24, 2018

ChangeLab Solutions Chooses Roanoke for Cohort Initiative

ChangeLab Solutions, a national nonprofit organization based in Oakland, Calif., has selected the City of Roanoke as one of eight communities across the country to participate in a cohort initiative. Roanoke College, located in the City of Salem, will be the anchor institution for the initiative, with Freedom First Credit Union as the co-lead.

This unique, cross-sector partnership will create changes in policies, systems, environments, and institutions to improve the health of residents in the City of Roanoke. The tools provided by ChangeLab Solutions will help to address all aspects of a vital, thriving community such as food, housing, child care, schools, transportation, public safety, jobs, and the environment. In addition, special attention will be given to residents who are at highest risk because they have the fewest resources.

ChangeLab Solutions works with neighborhoods, cities, and states throughout the Nation to create healthier communities. The organization will provide tailored technical assistance to include health and equity as priority areas of focus in the city's 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan.

More information may be obtained by contacting one of the following partner organizations:

Roanoke College:

- Dr. Liz Ackley, Brian H. Thornhill Associate Professor, cell: 615-969-9552; email: ackley@roanoke.edu

Freedom First Credit Union:

- Timothy Cerebe, Vice President, Community Development, cell: 540-589-4737; email: tcerebe@freedomfirst.com

City of Roanoke:

- Chris Chittum, Director of Planning, Building, and Development, 540-853-2356 (desk); 540-797-8686 (cell & text); email: chris.chittum@roanokeva.gov
- Wayne Leftwich, Senior City Planner, 540-853-1104; email: wayne.leftwich@roanokeva.gov

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