

## About SYNC

**Strengthening Systems for North Carolina Children (SYNC)** helps North Carolina communities that are disproportionately affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) further their understanding of how community systems and structures influence ACEs.

Community teams use systems thinking to create a tailored diagram of community-level factors within their geographic area that influence ACEs and use their diagram to develop an action plan to prevent and mitigate ACEs.

*We are disseminating quarterly newsletters to provide project updates and share highlights and success stories from participating communities. To view past newsletters, visit the [SYNC website](#).*

## SYNC Updates



We are in the process of finalizing our third SYNC team, which will start project activities in August. While this will be our final SYNC team, **we are working to develop a suite of SYNC products, including a manual and manuscripts, that communities can use to apply the SYNC program in their local area.**

## We Want YOUR Input on SYNC Product Development!



**TAKE OUR SURVEY**

The SYNC team plans to **identify cross-community themes** between the two communities who have participated in SYNC. We will share themes and methods in a manuscript and we would also like to **present the themes and methods in additional accessible ways**.

We want your feedback on how you would want to receive findings on cross-community themes between the communities who have participated in SYNC. Please **take our survey** to share how this information could be best shared with you and your colleagues.

## SYNC Planning Team Highlight: Kristen Hassmiller Lich



Kristen Hassmiller Lich, PhD  
*Associate Professor in  
Health Policy and  
Management at UNC Gillings  
School of Global Public  
Health*

I am a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy and Management at UNC Gillings where I conduct research, engage in practice-based work, and teach. As a SYNC facilitator, I help teams integrate systems thinking into their work; including during the strategic planning process, when decision-making on community priorities, or when bringing people together across larger systems. To address the most pressing public health challenges, we must appreciate the complexity of the systems producing these problems. Since understanding these complexities can be overwhelming, I am passionate about identifying practical systems thinking tools and helping people apply them into practice. I have been using, implementing, and innovating systems thinking methods for the past 20 years in communities across North Carolina, the U.S., and the globe. I have had the opportunity to integrate systems thinking into a variety of topics including ACEs, mental health, road safety, and cancer prevention.

## Funding Opportunity

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention seeks to provide funding to communities to develop coordinated and comprehensive community-based approaches to help children and their families who are exposed to violence build resilience, restore their safety, heal their social and emotional wounds, and prevent future violence and delinquency.

Learn more [here](#). This grant opportunity is not associated with SYNC.