



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

2024 Annual Report Released



ANNUAL REPORT
2024

Find out what the OED team has been doing to strengthen the economy and increase prosperity throughout the City during the recent calendar year. Please visit OED's 2024 Annual Report for a full update: [2024 Annual Report](#)

Ready To Work Employer Spotlight: S.L. Williamson Co., Inc.

S.L. Williamson Co., Inc., a family-owned asphalt paving and road construction company in Charlottesville, Virginia, has been serving the community since 1949. As a third-generation business, they take immense pride in their craftsmanship, with many second- and third-generation employees who share their strong work ethic and attention to detail. Their projects range from pothole repairs to large-scale highway construction.

Recognized as a **Ready To Work** Employer, S.L. Williamson Co., Inc. stands out for offering competitive wages and benefits, maintaining low barriers to entry for new hires, and providing clear pathways for career growth. They are hosting a hiring event on **February 28 from 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM** with a variety of open positions available. Don't miss this opportunity to join their team!

Join S.L. Williamson Company —
Central Virginia's LEADING Road Construction Company!

ONSITE HIRING EVENT

Friday, February 28, 2025
1230 River Road, Charlottesville
(Across from the VFW)
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

S.L. Williamson Co. has open positions for a range of skills including field crew members, equipment operators, quality control technicians, mechanics and more, and offers competitive pay, 40+ hours a week, health and dental insurance, on-the-job training and a team-oriented atmosphere where you can grow and thrive.

Ready to begin a lasting career?
Join us Friday, Feb. 28

GO Start-Up Applications Due Today!

This is the final call for applications to participate in the GO Start-Up March 2025 cohort. Applications are due Friday, February 14th, by the end of the day. If you are interested or know of anyone ready to take their first steps to become an entrepreneur, complete the [online application form](#) today!

Save the Date!



The flyer features the City of Charlottesville logo at the top left. The main text reads "SPRING CAREER EXPLORATION" in a mix of bold sans-serif and handwritten fonts, with "EXPLORATION" in a larger, white, handwritten style. Below this, it says "March 21st 11am-2pm". At the bottom, there is a QR code and contact information: a phone icon with "(434) 970-3933" and an email icon with "jobcenter@charlottesville.gov". A small note at the bottom left says: "If you are an employer and interested in participating in the Downtown Job Spring Career Exploration. For more information and to register please use the QR Code."

The Downtown Job Center will be hosting a Spring Career Exploration event on Friday, March 21st from 11am –2pm at the Ting Pavillion located on the Downtown Mall. Up to 50 employers and community organizations will be on hand to share information about their career opportunities and resources. If you are an employer or community organization and would like to participate, you may register [here](#). For questions or more information email jobcenter@charlottesville.gov or call (434) 970-3933.

OED Spring Intern

This spring we are excited to have Helena Harris join the Office of Economic Development team for an internship opportunity. A 4th-year student at the University of Virginia where she is majoring in Economics and Spanish, Helena first found out about economic development during a Study Abroad semester in Valenica, Spain. As she was preparing to enter into her final semester at UVA, Helena decided she wanted to get some additional exposure and “hands on” experience in the realm of local economic development so she reached out to OED, inquiring about potential internship opportunities. Although her time in OED has just begun, she is already diving in, learning more about the work done in this office, how OED works with other economic development partners, and meeting with businesses in Charlottesville. Helena’s fluency in Spanish has proven to be extremely helpful improving communications with some Spanish-speaking members of the Charlottesville small business community. We are glad to have her as a member of OED this semester and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead for her!



Charlottesville City Business Survey



The Office of Economic Development is inviting all local businesses, both home based and brick and mortar, to participate in the **Charlottesville Business Survey**, now available on the **OED** website until March 31st. This survey is an opportunity for businesses to provide feedback, share their experiences, and express what resources or support they may need.

The survey will help OED better understand how to serve the business community. Whether you are a small startup, an established storefront, or an entrepreneur operating from home, your input is valuable in guiding the city’s efforts to foster a strong, supportive business environment.

The survey is open to all business owners and operators within the City of Charlottesville. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Keith Grooms (groomesk@charlottesville.gov or 434-970-3514) or Matt Johnson (johnsonmatt@charlottesville.gov or 434-970-3717).

Grant Season

As the new year begins, many entrepreneurs find it an opportune time to explore and prepare for various local and national grant opportunities. Start by conducting thorough research to identify grants that align with your business objectives and assess your eligibility for each. This approach will help you prioritize applications and concentrate on those with the highest chances of success.

The next step should be to ensure all your business documents are in order. This includes your business license, tax documents, and necessary registrations like SAM (System for Award Management), DUNS (Dunn & Bradstreet), and SWAM (Small-, Woman-, and Minority-Owned Business). Verifying and updating these documents will assist with a seamless application process and avoid unnecessary delays.

Accurate and complete financial records are essential. Organize your profit and loss statements, tax returns, and proof of revenue. Financial documents are often key components of grant applications, demonstrating your business's economic stability and growth potential. A strong and updated business plan and clear metrics will allow you to build a compelling case for why your business is the ideal grant recipient.

Lastly, as you prepare your applications, focus on crafting clear and persuasive proposals. Tailor your narrative to highlight how the funding will benefit your business and the community it serves. Applying this process to your grant search will help put you in the best position to be successful!



OED Fun Fact

It's Valentine's Day, but did you know that the holiday wasn't associated with romance until about a thousand years after it began. Today, traditional gifts include candy, flowers, jewelry or reservations at a restaurant. Get out there and celebrate Valentine's Day in Charlottesville!

Free Business Resources



The Albemarle County & City of Charlottesville Buy Local campaign highlights small businesses within the Charlottesville-Albemarle area through a multi-channel, multimedia promotional and educational campaign. To learn more about the campaign, click [here!](#)



The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center is a team of business and technical experts available to advise and assist entrepreneurs, confidentially and free of charge. They offer 1:1 assistance, curated research, access to technical experts and professionals, and timely events/training. To see upcoming SBDC events, click [here!](#)

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