



# **CHARLOTTESVILLE FY26 VIBRANT COMMUNITY FUND REPORT**

**MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

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## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND:

The Vibrant Community Fund has continued to evolve and change to best meet the needs of citizens and local non-profit organizations. Some highlights from the FY26 process include:

- Offering broad funding priority areas: Education, Youth and Family, Economic Impact and Jobs and Health and Public Safety. Applicants had the option of choosing more than one priority area. New and Emerging organizations were folded into these groups and were reviewed under the context of being a new organization or new to this process.
- Categories are based on the City Council Strategic Plan
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion continued to be an integrated theme in the application process.
- Feedback sessions were held after the FY25 process to get participant feedback from applicants as well as reviewers.
- Continuing to recruit review team members to reflect the population of Charlottesville and to provide as much diversity in backgrounds as possible; stipends are provided for participation.
- Training for review team on conflict of interest and methods to evaluate applications, including regular office hours from staff.
- Application questions were edited for clarity and simplification based on applicant feedback.
- Financial and outcome questions were reviewed by city staff with specific experience in these areas
- Including a 'Fundamental' category for programs deemed essential to operate. These program applications are reviewed by City staff.

Review of the Vibrant Community Fund process is ongoing and will continue for future fiscal years.

### FISCAL YEAR 2026 INFORMATION

For FY26, the City received 80 applications for funding including 16 applications from Arts and Cultural organizations and six applications for Arts and Cultural Events. Arts and Cultural applications had been reviewed in a separate process in prior years. For FY26, those applications were included in the same application portal. There was one question there were asked that was different from the other applications applying under city priority areas. Arts and Cultural Event applications were moved to a separate funding process for FY26.

<b>Total Request Difference FY25/FY26</b>	
FY25 Total	\$ 3,774,961.00
FY26 Total	\$ 5,180,064.00
<b>FY26/FY25 Difference</b>	<b>\$ 1,405,103.00</b>
<b>Total Applicant Difference FY25/FY26</b>	
FY25 # Applicants in VCF	66
FY26 # Applicants in VCF	87
<b>FY26 Difference</b>	<b>21</b>

City staff recruited a diverse Vibrant Community Fund panel to review the applications. Members were divided between those with lived experience with human service organizations, those with human service knowledge, and those with grant-making knowledge. Non-staff panelists are offered compensation for their participation. All members received a thorough orientation, which included training on conflicts of interest. Office hours and ongoing support was offered to reviewers throughout the review process.

**OPERATIONAL FUNDING REVIEW PROCESS:**

Programs requesting operational grants submitted a full application, which included seven narrative questions, questions about outcomes and budget information. Panelists reviewed the applications using an objective rubric that evaluated:

- Strategies that address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
- Demonstration of need for the program,
- Understanding of participants,
- Strategies used to meet those needs,
- Evaluation plan and metrics used,
- Local collaborative efforts,
- Outreach activities
- Program participants involvement in evaluation and governance,
- Fiscal stability, historical outcomes and evaluation of current outcomes

Panel members reviewed and rated applications individually and as a group. They came to a final rating based on averages of each reviewer’s score. For FY26, in addition to the criteria listed above, reviewers rated applications on impact and feasibility as part of the 100-point scale. This causes scoring presentation to look different than in previous fiscal year recommendations. Applicants and reviewers were oriented to these changes prior to the application release. The tiered system of application recommendations are below in bold.

The Office of Community Solutions and Office of Budget and Performance Management conducted a review of each of the VCF applications in coordination with panel reviewers. This review included an analysis of each of the applications for alignment with city priorities, specifically alignment with City of Charlottesville Strategic Plan Framework. Applications were given bonus points for their alignment with the Strategic Outcome Areas. The maximum amount of bonus points an application could receive was ten (10) points, bring the total application score to 110. Strategic Outcome Areas were divided into three (3) tiers based on the City Manager's prior prioritization for his work plan. Points were awarded as follows:

Score: 0

Project does not align or indicate alignment with the Strategic Plan Framework

Score: 3

Tier 3 Priority: Partnerships, Education, Economic Prosperity, and Recreation, Arts, Culture

Score: 6

Tier 2 Priority: Transportation, Climate Action, and Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)

Score: 10

Tier 1 Priority: Affordable Housing (to include projects that aim to reduce homelessness), Public Safety, and Organization Excellence

For FY26, in addition to the criteria listed above, reviewers rated applications on impact and feasibility as part of the 100-point scale. This causes scoring to look different than in previous fiscal year recommendations. Applicants and reviewers were oriented to these changes prior to the application release.

- Tier 1**            93+ points
- Tier 2**            82-92 points
- Tier 3**            77-80 points
- Tier 4**            77 points and below

For Human Services applications, the City Manager’s proposed budget recommends funding at 88% of the requested amount for programs rated Tier 1, 47% for programs rated Tier 2, 28% for programs rated Tier 3, and no funding for programs rated Tier 4. This year, 66 organizations were funded through the Vibrant Community Fund operational grants review process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(City Budget Department is the final reference for funding decisions)**

<b>The Women's Initiative</b>	<b>Mental Health Counseling Program</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>
<b>Piedmont CASA, Inc.</b>	<b>Advocacy for Children in Foster Care</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle</b>	<b>Workforce Development</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 17,600.00</b>
<b>The Fountain Fund</b>	<b>Increasing Economic Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated People and their Families in Charlottesville</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>
<b>New City Arts Initiative, Inc.</b>	<b>New City Arts Initiative</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 32,560.00</b>
<b>Heart and Soul Fitness With Nicole</b>	<b>Heart &amp; Soul Fitness Community Wellness Initiatives</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 88,000.00</b>
<b>New Hill Development Corporation</b>	<b>BEACON Black Business Incubator</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 110,000.00</b>
<b>New Hill Development Corporation</b>	<b>Financial Capability Program</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 66,000.00</b>
<b>The Bridge Line</b>	<b>Day Program</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 22,000.00</b>
<b>Reclaimed Hope Initiative</b>	<b>Thrive: Family Support &amp; Respite</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 44,000.00</b>
<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes Food Pantry, Inc</b>	<b>Providing healthy food for community members living on limited income by purchasing proteins and produce and enhancing cold storage</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>\$ 50,,000.00</b>

VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment	VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment: School Services	Tier 1	\$ 88,000.00
ReadyKids, Inc	ReadyKids	Tier 1	\$ 156,082.96
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	Restorative Justice (Criminal Diversion & Community) (CV CJ)	Tier 1	\$ 66,000.00
Monticello Area Community Action Agency	Hope House	Tier 1	\$ 26,400.00
Cultivate Charlottesville	Cultivate Charlottesville	Tier 1	\$ 136,400.00
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle	Citizenship Instruction	Tier 1	\$ 5,280.00
Computers4Kids	Mentoring and 21st Century Skills with Computers4Kids	Tier 1	\$ 44,000.00
Elements of Peace	Elements of Peace	Tier 2	\$ 23,688.00
Stepping Stone Charlottesville	Stepping Stone Charlottesville	Tier 2	\$ 7,050.00
Community Investment Collaborative	CIC Microbusiness Programs	Tier 2	\$ 25,850.00
Madison House	VITA Free Tax Prep through the Cville Tax Aid Coalition	Tier 2	\$ 27,351.18
Second Street Gallery	Second Street Gallery 52nd Exhibition Season and Related Programming	Tier 2	\$ 21,150.00
The Front Porch Cville	The Front Porch - General Operating Funding	Tier 2	\$ 14,100.00
Piedmont Family YMCA, Inc.	YMCA Early Learning Center	Tier 2	\$ 35,250.00
Sexual Assault Resource Agency	Trauma Informed Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence	Tier 2	\$ 25,000.00

<b>100 Black of Men Central Virginia</b>	<b>M-Cubed and High School Scholars: Powering Up Through Self-Advocacy and Educational Initiatives</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
<b>All Blessings Flow, Inc.</b>	<b>Equipping families living with disabilities</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 16,450.00</b>
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Central Virginia</b>	<b>Year-Round Youth Development</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 116,000.00</b>
<b>MIMA Music, Inc.</b>	<b>Band Together Charlottesville</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 9,400.00</b>
<b>Piedmont Virginia Community College Educational Foundation</b>	<b>Network2Work@PVCC</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 42,300.00</b>
<b>Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.</b>	<b>Charlottesville Schools Restorative Services (CVCJ)</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 14,100.00</b>
<b>Wildrock</b>	<b>Wildrock Nature Play Out of School Time</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 12,126.00</b>
<b>Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.</b>	<b>Tutoring 5-8th</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
<b>Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.</b>	<b>Tutoring K-4</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
<b>Reclaimed Hope Initiative</b>	<b>Camp Hope: A Therapeutic Camp Experience</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 70,500.00</b>
<b>Virginia Discovery Museum</b>	<b>General Operating Support</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 18,800.00</b>
<b>Ben Hair Just swim for Life Foundation</b>	<b>Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 3,425.36</b>
<b>Center for Nonprofit Excellence</b>	<b>Center for Nonprofit Excellence - Nonprofit Capacity Building</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
<b>Community Healing Coalition, Inc.</b>	<b>Women's Support Groups</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 22,889.00</b>
<b>Legal Aid Justice Center</b>	<b>Civil Legal Services for Charlottesville Residents</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>

<b>The BUCK Squad/Central Virginia Violence Interrupters</b>	<b>Gun Violence Reduction</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 94,000.00</b>
<b>VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment</b>	<b>VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment: Adult Services</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 47,000.00</b>
<b>Charlottesville Community Bikes</b>	<b>Bikes for Charlottesville Residents</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 47,000.00</b>
<b>The Bridge Line</b>	<b>Case Management</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 15,040.00</b>
<b>City of Promise</b>	<b>LaunchPad at Trailblazer Elementary</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 94,000.00</b>
<b>HER SPORTS</b>	<b>Empowering Girls Through Youth Sports Development</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 11,750.00</b>
<b>Jefferson School African American Heritage Center</b>	<b>Eko Ise-After School Museum School</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 28,200.00</b>
<b>ReLeaf Cville</b>	<b>Green Team Leadership Program</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 14,507.02</b>
<b>The Paramount Theater</b>	<b>The Paramount Theater</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 23,500.00</b>
<b>Musicians United to Serve the Youth of Charlottesville</b>	<b>Music Resource Center</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 42,770.00</b>
<b>Hospice of the Piedmont</b>	<b>End-of-Life Care in Charlottesville</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 3,525.00</b>
<b>Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle</b>	<b>More Than A Meal</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 19,957.14</b>
<b>United Way of Greater Charlottesville</b>	<b>Financial Resiliency Task Force (FRTF) FIP 2.0</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 14,805.00</b>
<b>The Bridge Line</b>	<b>Residential Program</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 19,740.00</b>
<b>Wartime Fitness Warriors</b>	<b>Warriors Fund</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 70,500.00</b>
<b>Live Arts, Inc.</b>	<b>FY2026 Education Programming Support for Live Arts</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>\$ 16,000.00</b>
<b>Community Healing Coalition, Inc.</b>	<b>Music Inside Out Arts Camp</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>
<b>Empowered Players</b>	<b>Empowered Players All Stars</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>

<b>The Bridge Ministry</b>	<b>The Bridge Program and Training Facility</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 51,520.00</b>
<b>Vizion Sports Association</b>	<b>The One Vizion Scholars Program</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 14,448.00</b>
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge</b>	<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge Inc.</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 16,800.00</b>
<b>Light House Studio</b>	<b>Light House Studio Vinegar Hill Theatre Community Programs</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Partner for Mental Health</b>	<b>Partner for Mental Health</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 5,600.00</b>
<b>Sin Barreras Without Barriers, Inc.</b>	<b>Greater Equity and Inclusion for Charlottesville-area Latinx Community</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 14,000.00</b>
<b>The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia</b>	<b>The Fralin Museum of Art Education Outreach Programs</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>
<b>Light House Studio</b>	<b>Light House Studio Educational Programs</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Descendants of Enslaved Communities at UVA</b>	<b>Descendants of Enslaved Communities Community Engagement Support</b>	<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>
<b>The Rectors and Visitors of the University of Virginia</b>	<b>Cville Tulips</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Autism Sanctuary, Inc</b>	<b>Expansion of disability services</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Love: No Ego</b>	<b>The Courage to Be You: Youth Mentoring Program</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>The Arc of the Piedmont Inc. (EIN:540740243)</b>	<b>The Arc of the Piedmont</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Charlottesville Tomorrow</b>	<b>Charlottesville Inclusive Media</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Monticello Area Community Action Agency</b>	<b>Project Discovery</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	

<b>Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority</b>	<b>Resident Input Survey</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	<b>\$ 137,000.00</b>
<b>Musicians United to Serve the Youth of Charlottesville</b>	<b>MRC Certified Internship Program</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Renaissance School</b>	<b>Partnership Scholarship Program</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>The VILLEage</b>	<b>Charlottesville Black Knights</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Mediation Center of Charlottesville</b>	<b>Community Dispute Resolution Initiative</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	
<b>Animals Unlimited</b>	<b>Wildlife Friends sol science curriculum pk-3 &amp; 7th life science</b>	<b>Tier 4</b>	

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS:**

The following section contains summaries of applications in alphabetical order of the host agency. The summaries include a brief description of the program, amount requested, amount recommended (trial amount) and applicant’s response to funding impact.