



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

Congratulations to the Fall 2025 GO Start-Up Cohort!



The Office of Economic Development (OED) is proud to celebrate the completion of the Fall 2025 **GO Start-Up** cohort. Over the course of four weeks, this dedicated group of aspiring entrepreneurs participated in this introductory entrepreneurship series led by the OED's Entrepreneurship Program Specialist, Keith Grooms. The Fall cohort included six small, woman or minority-owned businesses, representing a range of industries, including mental health, logistics, bookkeeping, catering, cosmetology, and home décor.

During the four-week course, participants explored essential topics such as establishing a business vision, managing financials, and conducting market and product analysis. In addition, they benefited from the insight of local business owners and entrepreneurial service organizations who shared their experiences and resources.

We would like to thank and recognize **Community Investment Collaborative, Central Virginia Small Business Development Center, United Way of Greater Charlottesville, Mahogany and Friends**, and lastly, **Accounting Solutions** for their participation as resource partners during GO Start-Up.

We welcome these new and aspiring entrepreneurs to Charlottesville's growing business community and look forward to watching their ventures thrive! Please join us in congratulating them as they take the next steps on their business journeys!

DTM Tree Walk & Talk

The trees of the Downtown Mall have long stood as a treasured asset and vital contributor to the Mall's unique character, experience and economic success. Over the last thirty years, the trees reaching maturity correlated directly with increased activity on the Mall, and a corresponding increase in businesses and residences.

Charlottesville Department of Parks and Recreation invites the public to an educational walk focusing on upcoming tree maintenance on the Downtown Mall trees. Discussion will focus on the overall health of the Downtown Mall trees as well as management phases for future tree work on the Mall.

Educational Walk/Discussion meeting details:

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:30pm – 7pm

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 5:30pm – 7pm

Meet at 501 E. Main Street, at the Department of Parks and Recreation Administration offices at the lowest level of the Market Street Parking Garage on the Downtown Mall side.

Questions can be directed to Steve Gaines, Urban Forester at (434) 970-3587 or gainess@charlottesville.gov.

Last Call: Don't Miss NextGen Skilled Trades Day!

Time is running out to register for NextGen Skilled Trades Day, happening Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10 AM – 2 PM at Piedmont Virginia Community College. This free, community-wide event is your chance to get hands-on with the tools and technology that power today's trades.

The trades are in high demand—and they offer strong wages, job security, and opportunities for advancement. But don't just take our word for it. Come experience the tools, technology, and teamwork for yourself. You may discover a future career that excites you more than you imagined.

From testing your skills on welding simulators and running diagnostics on an electric vehicle, to trying out forklifts, dump trucks, and HVAC systems—this is your chance to explore the trades in a way you won't find anywhere else.

It's not just fun—it's a glimpse into the future. You'll also meet career counselors, workforce training experts, and CATEC and PVCC staff who can answer your questions about training programs, tuition assistance, and career pathways. Whether you're a high schooler exploring your future, a parent supporting a student, or a career seeker ready for a new path—this event is for you.

Don't wait—**register** today! Join us for a day of discovery, learning, and fun.



Start Your Career in Healthcare with GO CNA



Are you ready to begin a rewarding career in healthcare? The GO CNA program is your pathway into the fast-growing nursing field. In partnership with CATEC, this 144-hour Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) course prepares students to

sit for their nurse aide license upon successful completion.

Next class runs October 13 – December 17, 2025.

In this program, you'll build the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to thrive as a healthcare professional. Students learn how to:

- Take vital signs
- Assist patients with daily living activities
- Safely move and support patients
- Make beds and maintain a clean care environment

In the second semester, training moves beyond the classroom into clinical placements at local Charlottesville medical facilities, giving you valuable real-world experience as a Nurse Aide.

Why Choose GO CNA?

- Gain the skills to step into a high-demand healthcare career
- Learn directly from experienced instructors
- Become eligible to sit for the Virginia Nurse Aide licensure exam
- Tuition assistance may be available for those who qualify

Healthcare workers are in critical demand in our community, and this program is an excellent first step for anyone looking to make a difference while securing a stable career with advancement opportunities.

Don't wait -- spaces are limited! If you're ready to start your journey toward a career in nursing, sign up [here](#) today!

Available Property Spotlight

321 Hillsdale Drive currently has 3,500 – 26,660 square-feet of office space available for lease or sale. Previously used as a long-term headquarters location, the building offers flexible floor layouts designed to accommodate several office suite designs. If staying up and running even during power outages is a concern for you, a backup generator is located onsite to keep your critical operations going. The site has an abundance of available parking and is located in close proximity to Whole Foods and other shopping destinations. The property is represented by Jenny Stoner (jenny.stoner@thalhimer.com or 434-



234-2417) and John Pritzlaff (john.pritzlaff@thalhimer.com or 434-234-8416). Contact them today to schedule a walkthrough!

Find information on other available properties in the City of Charlottesville by visiting the Office of Economic Development's "Sites & Buildings" webpage. If you have commercial, retail, or industrial space available for lease or sale, let us know by emailing property information and any marketing flyer to ecodev@charlottesville.gov.

Get Ready for Grant Season



The funding landscape may have shifted in recent years, but there are still valuable grants available for a variety of businesses. For many entrepreneurs, grants can provide a powerful boost supporting innovation, growth, and sustainability without adding debt.

Grant funding often follows cycles, and preparation is key. By starting now, business owners can gather the right documents, strengthen their business plans, and identify which programs align with their goals. This preparation not only increases the likelihood of success but also reduces the stress that comes when deadlines are approaching.

To help local businesses navigate this space, **Rosi Beachy, a Central Virginia Small Business Development Center (CVSBDC) advisor and former grant writer**, will share insights on what opportunities are available, the best times to apply, and how to stay ahead of the curve.

The training will be held on Thursday, October 16th, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the CVSBDC office located at 300 Preston Ave, Suite 201. **Register here** to take advantage of this free and valuable resource.

OED Fun Fact

The City of Charlottesville has held a **AAA bond rating for over 50 years**, a rare achievement that fewer than 10% of U.S. cities maintain. This top-tier credit rating reflects the city's **strong, well-managed municipal finances** and enhances its ability to borrow at lower interest rates—benefiting everything from infrastructure projects to community services.

Free Business Resources



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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