



# **CHARLOTTESVILLE FY27 VIBRANT COMMUNITY FUND REPORT**

**MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

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# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## 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 FY27 process include:

- Aligning priority areas within the application with the City Council Strategic Plan (Education, Economic Prosperity, Transportation, Climate Action, Public Safety, Recreation, Arts and Culture and Commitment to Justice, Equity Diversity and Inclusion)
- Orientations were hosted for applicants and interested review team members, as well as posted office hours. Technical assistance was offered to all applicants, as requested.
- 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 the Office of Budget and Grants Management with specific experience in these areas that included bonus points for alignment with Council Priority areas and financial stability.
- Including a 'Fundamental' category for programs deemed essential to operate. These program applications are reviewed by City staff.
- For FY27, the City received 84 applications for funding including 12 applications from Arts and Cultural organizations and 10 applications for Arts and Cultural Events. Arts and Cultural Event applications were moved to a separate funding process for FY27.
- Arts and Cultural Events applications were reviewed by a separate panel via the City Manager's office. Organizations that applied via a fiscal agent were not eligible for funding through the city grant process. Review of the Vibrant Community Fund process is ongoing and will continue for future fiscal years.

## 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
- Strategies used to meet those needs
- Evaluation plan and metrics used
- Local collaborative efforts
- Impact on need area and overall community
- Impact if unfunded or partially funded

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 FY27, in addition to the criteria listed above, reviewers rated applications on impact and feasibility as part of a 90-point scale.

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In an effort to ensure funding is being granted to organizations who are being good stewards of City funds, as well as ensuring the organization is utilizing grant funds to the best of their ability, projects are maximizing grant funds and leveraging other funding, projects are feasible, and the organization is in compliance with all reporting and grant requirements, City staff will reviewed each VCF application and awarded a maximum of 5 bonus points.

The Office of Budget and Grants Management conducted a review of each of the VCF applications. 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 will be given additional points for their alignment with the Strategic Outcome Areas. The maximum amount of additional points an application can receive is ten (10) points, bring the total application score to 105. Strategic Outcome Areas are divided into three (3) tiers based on the City Manager's prior prioritization for his work plan.

Points will be awarded as follows:

10 points—Tier 1: Public Safety & Housing\* (housing awards are offered through other city initiatives)

6 points—Tier 2: Transportation, Climate Action and Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

3 points—Education, Economic Prosperity and Recreation, Arts and Culture

0 points—Project does not align with Strategic Plan Framework

For Vibrant Community Applications, the City Manager's proposed budget recommends funding 91% of the requested amount for programs scoring 90% or higher, 48% for programs scoring 80%-89%, 27% for programs scoring 70%-79%, and no funding for programs scoring less than 70%. This year, 73 organizations were funded through the Vibrant Community Fund operational grants review process (this does not include Arts and Cultural Events.)

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
100 Black of Men Central Virginia	M-Cubed and High School Scholars: Powering Up Through Self-Advocacy and Educational Initiatives	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	
All Blessings Flow, Inc.	Equipping families living with disabilities	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 68,250.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 16,450.00	
American Red Cross of Central Virginia	Better Blood Matches for Sickle Cell Patients in Charlottesville: Targeted Drives & Donor Testing	\$ 22,695.00	\$ 20,652.45			
Autism Sanctuary, Inc	Workplace assistance program for high-need individuals with disabilities	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 200,000.00		
Ben Hair Just swim for Life Foundation	Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 7,288.00	\$ 3,425.36	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge - One-to-One Mentoring Program	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 60,060.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 16,800.00	
Birth Sisters of Charlottesville	Doula Services for BIPOC Birthing People	\$ 128,900.00	\$ 34,803.00			
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia	After-school & Summer Youth Development	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 72,850.00	\$ 116,000.00
Building Goodness Foundation	C'ville Builds	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 48,000.00			

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Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
Center for Nonprofit Excellence	Center for Nonprofit Excellence Nonprofit Capacity Building	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	
Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.	Tutoring for Grades K-5	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	
Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.	Tutoring for Grades 6-8	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	
Charlottesville Ballet	Charlottesville Ballet General Operating Support: Education Initiatives and CB Moves Community Engagement Programs	\$ 57,441.20	\$ 15,509.12			
Charlottesville Community Bikes	Bikes for Charlottesville Residents	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	
Charlottesville Tomorrow	The Community Growth & Visibility Program	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 30,000.00		
City of Promise	Expanding a Community School Model for Charlottesville Elementary Schools to Build Academic Achievement and Family Stability for Under-resourced Children	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 94,000.00	
Community Healing Coalition, Inc.	Music Inside Out Arts Camp	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,800.00	
Community Healing Coalition, Inc.	Wounded Healers Women's Support Group	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 0.00			

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Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
Community Investment Collaborative	Community Investment Collaborative (CIC)	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 26,400.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 25,850.00	
Computers4Kids	STEAM Mentoring for Equity and Opportunity	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	
Cultivate Charlottesville	Cultivate Charlottesville	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 136,400.00	
Georgia's Friends, Inc.	Georgia's Friends - Recovery Program for Women	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,500.00			
Heart and Soul Fitness With Nicole	Heart & Soul Fitness Community Wellness Initiatives	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 88,000.00	
HER SPORTS	Empowering Girls Through Youth Sports Development	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 11,750.00	
Hospice of the Piedmont	Hospice of the Piedmont - Compassionate End-of-Life Care and Grief Support	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,525.00	
Legal Aid Justice Center	Legal Services to Protect the Economic Stability of Low-income Charlottesville Residents	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 32,900.00	\$ 40,000.00
Light House Studio	Light House Studio Vinegar Hill Theatre Community Programs	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 12,150.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 20,000.00
Light House Studio	Light House Studio Educational Programs	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 12,150.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 20,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle	Citizenship Instruction	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,190.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 17,600.00	

## Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle	Workforce Development	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 11,040.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,280.00	
Live Arts, Inc.	FY2027 Education Programming Support for Live Arts	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 16,000.00
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc	Providing healthy food and nutrition education for food insecure neighbors	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Mahogany & Friends Foundation	Financial Wellness & Readiness Project	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 0.00			
Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle	More Than A Meal	\$ 58,200.00	\$ 52,962.00	\$ 42,462.00	\$ 19,957.14	
Mediation Center of Charlottesville	Mediation access for all	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 60,000.00		
MIMA Music, Inc.	Band Together Charlottesville	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,400.00	
Monticello Area Community Action Agency	Kindlewood Care Management	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,400.00			
Monticello Area Community Action Agency	Family & Community Services	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 0.00			
Monticello Area Community Action Agency	Project Discovery	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 20,000.00		
Musicians United to Serve the Youth of Charlottesville	Music Resource Center	\$ 95,500.00	\$ 25,785.00	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 42,770.00	
New City Arts Initiative	New City Arts Initiative	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 10,530.00	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 32,560.00	
New Hill Development Corporation	Financial Capability	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	

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Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
New Hill Development Corporation	BEACON's Black Business Incubator (BBI)	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	
Partner for Mental Health	Partner for Mental Health	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	
Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates Inc	Piedmont CASA	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 10,000.00
Piedmont Family YMCA	YMCA Early Learning Center at the Jefferson School	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 59,150.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 35,250.00	
Piedmont Family YMCA	YMCA School Age Programs in Charlottesville City Schools	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 59,150.00			
Piedmont Housing Alliance	Investing in Families	\$ 111,000.00	\$ 29,970.00			
Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic	Equitable Access to Dental Care	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,200.00			
Piedmont Virginia Community College Educational Foundation	Network2Work@PVCC	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 42,300.00	
ReadyKids, Inc	ReadyKids	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 177,367.00	\$ 156,082.96	
Reclaimed Hope Initiative	Reclaimed Hope Initiative	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	
ReLeaf Cville	Green Team Leadership Program	\$ 42,875.00	\$ 20,580.00	\$ 30,866.00	\$ 14,507.02	
Second Street Gallery	Second Street Gallery 53rd Exhibition Season and Related Programming	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 21,150.00	

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Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
Sexual Assault Resource Agency	Trauma-Informed Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 13,824.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	Central Virginia Community Justice (RJ)	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	
Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	Central Virginia Community Justice (CCS)	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 24,300.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 14,100.00	
Stepping Stone Charlottesville	Uplifting Families with Essentials For Children	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 18,200.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,050.00	
The Bridge Line	Day Program	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 15,040.00	
The Bridge Line	Case Management	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 15,360.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 19,740.00	
The Bridge Line	Residential Program	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 20,160.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	
The Bridge Ministry, Inc.	The Bridge Program and Training Facility	\$ 92,000.00	\$ 44,160.00	\$ 184,000.00	\$ 51,520.00	
The BUCK Squad/Central Virginia Violence Interrupters	Charlottesville Violence Interruption	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 94,000.00	
The Fountain Fund	Increasing Economic Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated People and Their Families in Charlottesville	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	
The Free Book Bus	Everyone on the Bus!	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,370.00			
The Front Porch Cville	The Front Porch - General Operating Funding	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 14,100.00	
The Love No Ego Foundation	Love No Ego Courage to Be You, Youth Mentoring Program	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 20,000.00		

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Organization	Program Name	FY27 Request	FY27 Recommendation	FY26 Request	FY26 Recommendation	FY26 Council Increase
The Paramount Theater	The Paramount Theater of Charlottesville, Inc	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,500.00	
The Uhuru Foundation	Transformative Futures: Reentry & Gun Violence Prevention Initiative	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 54,000.00			
The Women's Initiative	Mental Health Counseling Program	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 21,120.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	
United Way of Greater Charlottesville	Prosper, Pathways to Prosperity, formerly FRTF FIP 2.0	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 15,120.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 14,805.00	
VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment	VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment - School Services	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 88,000.00	
VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment	VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment - Adult Services	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	
Virginia Discovery Museum	Virginia Discovery Museum General Operating Support	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,400.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 18,800.00	
Wartime Fitness Warriors	Wartime Fitness Warriors Fund	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 70,500.00	
Wildrock Inc.	Wildrock Programs during Out of School Time	\$ 9,300.00	\$ 4,464.00	\$ 25,800.00	\$ 12,126.00	

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## 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 and applicant's response to funding impact.

### **100 Black of Men Central Virginia**

**M-Cubed and High School Scholars: Powering Up Through Self-Advocacy and Educational Initiatives**

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$24,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The 100 Black Men of Central Virginia strengthens the Charlottesville community by empowering African American male students and supporting a diverse group of scholars through leadership development, scholarship, and fellowship. Grant support sustains year-round academic, enrichment, and family engagement programs that build confidence, skills, and lifelong success.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Yes, our organization continues to seek funds from multiple sources to sustain and expand programming. We have secured \$80,000 from the Batten Foundation, which is in the final year of a three-year renewable grant, \$10,000 from the Anne and Gene Worrell Foundation, which is a reduction of \$10,000 from 2024, and \$5,000 from Flow Auto, which is earmarked for the 2025 Back to School Bash. Pending and future requests include \$10,000 from BAMA Works, which provided \$5,000 for 2024–2025 programming; \$10,000 from CavFutures, which provided \$5,000 for 2024-2025; \$6,400 in chapter dues; and approximately \$8,000 from individual donations. We will also seek matching funding from Albemarle County.

Even with these combined sources, additional funding is essential to sustain and expand access for students and families in Albemarle County and Charlottesville. Each year, the number of scholars seeking participation exceeds available resources. When funding falls short, we must reduce both the number of students served and the range of services provided.

During FY24 and FY25, a funding shortfall in our Vibrant Community Grant request directly impacted program capacity and the number of scholarships awarded through our High School Scholars Program. Further reductions occurred as philanthropic priorities shifted. The Anne and Gene Worrell Foundation, a long-standing supporter of K-12 education, has shifted focus to health and wellness, eliminating a key \$10,000 contribution. Without this support, we have had to consolidate activities and rely more heavily

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on volunteers and in-kind donations.

If new or renewed funding is not received, our capacity, particularly for scholarship awards, will decrease by approximately 20% to 25%. This reduction would limit the number of \$1,000 scholarships awarded and restrict student participation in summer programs, college visits, and lab-based learning. Rising costs for supplies, certified teachers, and administrative support further challenge our ability to expand offerings.

To mitigate these risks, we will continue to diversify our funding pursuits through corporate partnerships, community giving, and grants focused on educational equity and youth development. Our goal is to sustain year-round programming and ensure no student is turned away due to financial limitations. Through collaboration with donors, partners, and families, we remain committed to advancing equitable access to quality education for all scholars in Central Virginia.

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**All Blessings Flow, Inc.**

Equipping families living with disabilities

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$75,000**

**Recommendation: \$68,250**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

ABF offers multiple programs to improve access and health outcomes for children, adults, and seniors with disabilities. We collaborate closely with healthcare teams to provide assessment, training, and desperately needed adaptive equipment and supplies to marginalized and underserved families with limited means and access. We seek \$75,000 to help provide services to 780 Charlottesville residents.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

## Funding Impact

In the past three years, All Blessings Flow's annual client base has more than doubled. Providing for the needs of hundreds of additional clients requires many more resources.

In addition, after four major expansions, we were informed this year that the favorable lease for our warehouse space would not be renewed. After searching for a new space for months without success, our landlord recently renegotiated a new lease, but informed us our rent would increase by over \$100,000 annually.

We are blessed to have over 12,000 sq feet, which we need to operate our multiple programs, house our equipment and supplies, and serve our many clients. However, to remain sustainable moving forward, we will need more staff hours, equipment, parts, supplies, etc., to meet the growing demand, while also covering the significant rent increase. We are seeking funding from this grant to help us meet these increased operating expenses.

If ABF is not selected for funding, we will try to find other sources, but we are at a crucial juncture with the new lease and the need for additional resources. The potential support through the VCF Grant could help us meet some of our increased expenses and leverage funding from other possible sources. If we do not find additional funding, we may be unable to fund current staff positions, which will reduce the services we can deliver.

## Funding Impact Quantified

To quantify the impact of VCF funding, we are requesting approximately 12% of our cash budget (\$75,000) to serve 780 unique Charlottesville residents. The program cost to the City is less than \$100 per resident served. The contribution from the City will be matched by community in-kind donations of \$413,000+ of healthcare resources and services that City residents will receive at no cost (which equals

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

more than five times return on investment). In addition, we plan to leverage this VCF grant as a match for other funding sources.

As noted, funding from this grant will be used to cover a portion of programmatic expenses used to serve Charlottesville residents. However, to further quantify the impact, the requested funding will help fund three part-time staff positions (total annual salary expense = \$83,953) or help fund our rent increase (additional rent expense = \$108,528).

Despite the increased budget, our commitment to the community remains steadfast. We are determined to continue helping hundreds of Charlottesville families through our various programs, meeting their needs in tangible ways. As we continue to see, the needs in the City are great, and we hope we never have to turn away any family in need.

We hope the City will continue to partner with us through this VCF Grant to serve the Charlottesville community. We offer essential services to people with disabilities that no similar organization provides, benefiting hundreds of Charlottesville families and improving the lives of our disadvantaged and underserved neighbors.

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## American Red Cross of Central Virginia

### Better Blood Matches for Sickle Cell Patients in Charlottesville: Targeted Drives & Donor Testing

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$22,695**

**Recommendation: \$20,652**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

\$20,000 will fund 4 sickle cell-focused Red Cross blood drives @ \$5,000 each. \$2,695 will cover testing for 35 first-time donors who identify as Black/African American/Mixed Race @ \$77 per test. In partnership with local organizations, this project aims to boost turnout from donors who are Black/African American/Mixed Race and improve matched blood access for local patients with sickle cell.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Full Funding Is Not Received:

The American Red Cross is committed to serving Charlottesville's sickle cell patients—this work will continue, but the scale and reach of the program will depend on available resources.

- **Alternate Funding:** We will pursue support from corporate sponsors, foundations, and community partners to fill funding gaps.
- **Reduced Program Scope:** Without full funding, we may need to scale back from four to two or three drives annually, reduce sickle cell trait testing, and limit community education and outreach efforts.
- **Staffing Impact:** Funding shortfalls could prevent hiring event or outreach support, reducing our ability to reach and engage new donors.

Grant Matching and Strategic Value

This request is not currently a match for other grants, but City support would strengthen future proposals by showing local investment in health equity.

Why City Support Matters

- **Health Education:** Many Black/African American/Mixed Race donors are unaware they carry the sickle cell trait. Testing and education can improve personal and family health outcomes.
- **Youth Engagement:** City support can help expand programs to Charlottesville High School, which currently lacks a Red Cross blood program—an opportunity for youth leadership and donor development.
- **Public Health & Equity:** City partnership would help close gaps in compatible blood supply, reduce health disparities, and show a strong commitment to racial equity in healthcare.

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## Autism Sanctuary, Inc

Workplace assistance program for high-need individuals with disabilities

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville \$60,000**

**Recommendation: \$16,200**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will create paid, supported jobs for Charlottesville residents with developmental disabilities in agriculture, land management, and poultry operations. This program provides job coaching and support, essential equipment, and a pathway to sustainable employment for individuals with high support needs, fostering economic independence

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Autism Sanctuary does not receive the requested funds, the direct and quantifiable consequence will be the inability to launch this vital jobs program, leaving a critical service gap in our community unaddressed.

Specifically, without the funds for salaries, no new jobs can be created for Charlottesville residents with developmental disabilities. Without the funding for essential equipment like a log splitter and poultry processing supplies, the skills cannot be learned and later transferred to competitive employment sites, and the work cannot be performed safely, efficiently, or at a scale that would be economically viable. Without funding to become a DARS contractor, the program cannot achieve long-term financial sustainability and will remain dependent on short-term, precarious grant funding, preventing us from making long-term commitments to our employees.

In short, the program's expansion would halt before it begins. Services would not decrease from their current level, but our ability to meet the growing demand would be eliminated, and the waitlist for our employment services, which is already forming, would inevitably grow.

While we would continue to seek alternative funding sources, this VCF grant is uniquely positioned to provide the foundational local support needed to unlock other, larger opportunities. This request serves as a critical component of the required 1:1 match for our pending \$159,391 Farmers Market Promotion Program grant from the USDA. The City and County's investment is instrumental in securing over \$150,000 in federal funds that will directly benefit our community. Failure to secure this local funding would jeopardize our ability to accept the federal award, resulting in a significant loss of external investment in Charlottesville's local food system and disability services infrastructure.

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## Ben Hair Just swim for Life Foundation

Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$20,000**

**Recommendation: \$9,600**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Ben Hair Just Swim for Life (BHJSL) organization is in need of funding to rent pool space to continue to provide free and low cost lessons to the underserved and marginalized populations in our community. During FY27, we will need to pay for pool rental and lifeguards for 9 months of the year (5 hours/week in the Fall/Spring and 2 hours/week in the Winter).

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

It is expensive for our organization to acquire pool space without funding. We are regularly reaching out for grants to support the work that we do. We rely on grants to support our programs, and the need continues to grow. We are not able to meet all of the requests from the community for swim instruction during the Fall/Winter/Spring as we do not have enough pool space at this time.

It is also important to recognize that any funds received will also but help defray the costs of hiring and training instructional staff and lifeguards.

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## Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge - One-to-One Mentoring Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$66,000**

**Recommendation: \$60,060**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

BBBSCBR creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Through active mentoring, we provide children ages 6-18 with the emotional/social support and guidance necessary to support strong academic achievement, healthy family/peer relationships, avoidance of risky behaviors, and self-confidence and awareness, all while building resiliency.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

BBBSCBR in addition to the 74 youth served FY2025 through September 30, 2025, we have nearly 60 youth on the waiting list. In order to move these youth into active mentoring relationships, we need to increase program staff capacity. If BBBSCBR does not receive any or all of the funds requested, there is the potential we will have to scale existing services as well as continue to defer significant new enrollments.

BBBSCBR employs an annual fund development plan that includes corporate, foundation, government, and individual giving strategies as well as special events. Organizationally, we are working to expand our fundraising efforts by building the pipeline of prospective donors, expanding a major gift society, utilizing a signature event (the annual pickleball tournament) as a friend, fund, and awareness raiser, and more.

We are continually researching, cultivating, and soliciting new funding opportunities while stewarding existing relationships. With the FY2024 realignment of contracted fund development services to an in-house director of philanthropy, BBBSCBR committed the organization to reimagining its fundraising efforts in a significant manner.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Birth Sisters of Charlottesville

Doula Services for BIPOC Birthing People

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$128,000**

**Recommendation: \$34,803**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

\*Stipends for core doula services for 60 clients. \*Mental health support programming for doulas. \*Rent for current location to continue client visits and programming, the Welcome Womb Boutique, doula programming and client centered educational and self-care events. \*Birth Sister Doula Training for 5 additional doulas \*Client/Doula Advisory Board – This board would review partnership, collaboration,

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

\*Less BIPOC women would receive our core services (prenatal, labor & delivery, postpartum, extended postpartum), while demand has increased year over year. See our Impact Report in documents.

\*Less capacity to provide emotional and mental health support programming for doulas, while the need for this support is increasing due the increase needs of clients relative to the social determinants of health.

\*Would need to secure other funding for rent for current location to continue client visits and programming, the Welcome Womb Boutique, doula programming and client centered educational and self-care events.

\*Reduced number of additional doula would receive Birth Sister Doula Training, while demand for our services are increasing.

\*Postpone Client/Doula Advisory Board OR have members provide their expert advice and insights uncompensated.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia

After-school & Summer Youth Development

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$125,000**

**Recommendation: \$60,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia provides a Year-Round Youth Development Program for all youth, ages 5 to 18. The Club is open every day after school from 2:30-6:30pm and all day during the summer from 8:00am-5:30pm. Research- and evidence-based programs align with the Club's priority outcomes of Academic Success, Health & Well-Being, Character & Leadership, and Life & Workforce Readiness.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Funding from the City of Charlottesville provides essential operating support for Cherry Avenue. If the Club were not to receive funding from the City, it would negatively impact Club members, families, and staff. The actual cost to BGCCVA of serving one Club member for one year is around \$2,500. Without the requested funding, 50 fewer families—nearly 9% of the Club's membership—in the City would benefit from the Club's programs and a safe and affordable out-of-school-time opportunity for City youth. Additionally, funding from the City serves as an endorsement of the Club's programs and leverages additional support from individuals, businesses, and other localities. For many alternative funding sources, the Club is asked if the local government is a financial supporter of the organization.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Building Goodness Foundation

C'ville Builds

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$48,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

C'ville Builds delivers high-quality, urgently-needed construction and renovation services for low-income homeowners, nonprofits, and small businesses in Charlottesville. Funds support the materials, specialized labor, and project management needed to complete projects that improve housing stability, expand nonprofit capacity, and foster small business growth, creating lasting impact citywide.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

C'ville Builds will continue operating through private and foundation support. However, without City investment, our capacity to meet rising demand will remain limited. City funding would expand the number of projects we complete each year, enable faster responses to urgent repair requests, and allow us to serve additional groups that face barriers to stable housing and service facilities.

Demand for construction has grown dramatically as more local nonprofits, small businesses, and low-income homeowners turn to BGF for help. In 2024, C'ville Builds completed a record 48 projects in the Charlottesville area. In 2025, because of an additional \$50,000 in private funding, we have already completed nearly 80 projects—including 31 nonprofit facility improvements, 46 home repairs and accessibility ramps, and 2 small business renovations. This immediate impact demonstrates how effectively resources are translated into community benefit. Yet need continues to outpace available funding. With City support, BGF could significantly increase our annual project volume, reaching more residents, strengthening more community nonprofits, and ensuring that every neighborhood benefits from safer, more resilient spaces.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Center for Nonprofit Excellence – Nonprofit Capacity Building

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$13,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

CNE strengthens Charlottesville’s nonprofit sector through leadership development, consulting, training, and convening. Funds will expand equitable access to capacity-building assistance and targeted, responsive programming like the Emerging Leaders and Board Academies, helping nonprofits of all sizes manage change, advance equity, and deepen their impact in the community.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

CNE ‘s FY26 and FY27 fundraising strategy prioritizes balanced growth of grants and increasing both corporate partnerships and individual giving. This diversification in our funding creates a strong base for long-term stability, allowing CNE to continue delivering high-quality capacity-building services to nonprofits throughout Virginia.

Without investment from the City of Charlottesville, CNE will be compromised in its ability to meet the demand for services from nonprofits that serve city residents. CNE’s FY26 budget includes \$523,864 in projected fundraising revenue, of which \$333,863 represents a revenue gap for which new fundraising is already in progress. Without City support, this gap would increase to approximately \$383,863, forcing CNE to reduce the number of Charlottesville-area training, leadership programs, and consulting engagements available to local nonprofits. These reductions would directly impact community capacity and potentially weaken the city’s nonprofit safety net, particularly among small and BIPOC-led organizations that depend on subsidized participation.

Continued City partnership would not only stabilize CNE’s Charlottesville-based programs but also demonstrate a shared commitment to sustaining the organizations that safeguard the city’s public health, economic stability, and overall quality of life. Continued investment ensures that the region’s nonprofits—many of which serve the city’s most vulnerable populations—receive the guidance and tools they need to thrive.

By working together, the City and CNE can protect and strengthen Charlottesville’s nonprofit ecosystem, ensuring that the organizations delivering vital community services continue to do so with stability, equity, and excellence.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.**

Tutoring for Grades 6-8

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$45,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Abundant Life offers free, individualized, after-school tutoring for students in Grades 6 to 8 from the Prospect Avenue area. Trained volunteers lead sessions, while staff collaborate with teachers and families to align learning goals. City support will help fund personnel expenses for our Community Liaison and Tutoring Assistant, allowing us to expand programming to more students in FY2027.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If we do not receive the full amount requested, we will need to significantly reduce the number of middle school students we serve through our tutoring program. Fewer staff means fewer student-tutor matches, fewer personalized lesson plans, and fewer opportunities for the academic growth and mentorship our students need and deserve. This outcome would directly impact children from low-income, immigrant, and refugee families at Charlottesville Middle and Walker who already face significant educational barriers.

Our top expense is staffing to run effective, relationship-based tutoring: our Program Coordinator, Lesson Planners, and part-time support staff. These dedicated individuals, many of whom reside in Charlottesville, play a crucial role in providing consistent, high-quality support to students and their families. Unfortunately, inflation continues to drive up the cost of wages and employee benefits. We work hard to steward every dollar wisely while also ensuring our staff can earn sustainable wages and benefits that allow them to remain invested in our work.

While we will pursue additional funding from partners such as BAMA Works, the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign, and local churches, many longtime supporters have had to scale back their contributions due to economic constraints. If necessary, we will adjust our programming to match available resources; however, doing so will mean turning away students, scaling back enrichment activities, and forfeiting opportunities to help middle school youth build momentum toward long-term academic and personal success.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries, Inc.

Tutoring for Grades K-5

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$45,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Abundant Life offers free, individualized, after-school tutoring for K-5 students from the Prospect Avenue area. Trained volunteers lead sessions, while staff collaborate with teachers and families to align learning goals. City support will help fund personnel expenses for our Elementary Coordinator and Tutoring Assistant, allowing us to expand programming to more elementary students in FY2027.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If we do not receive the full amount of funding, we will need to reduce the number of elementary school students we serve through our tutoring program. Fewer staff means fewer student-tutor matches, fewer personalized lesson plans, and fewer opportunities for the academic growth and mentorship our students need and deserve. This outcome would directly impact children from low-income, immigrant, and refugee families at Tall Oaks Elementary who already face significant educational barriers.

Our top program expense is staffing, including our Program Coordinator, Tutoring Assistant, Lesson Planners, and part-time support staff. These dedicated individuals, many of whom reside in Charlottesville, play a crucial role in providing consistent, high-quality support to students and their families. Unfortunately, inflation continues to drive up the cost of wages and employee benefits. (Virginia's health insurance costs are projected to increase 11.2% in January 2026, with additional increases likely in the following years. We work hard to steward every dollar wisely while also ensuring our staff can earn sustainable wages and benefits that allow them to remain invested in our work.

While we will pursue additional funding from partners such as BAMA Works, the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign, family foundations, and local churches, many long-time supporters have had to scale back their contributions due to economic constraints. If necessary, we will adjust our programming to match available resources; however, doing so will mean turning away students, scaling back enrichment activities, and forfeiting opportunities to help elementary school youth build momentum toward long-term academic and personal success.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Charlottesville Ballet

Charlottesville Ballet General Operating Support: Education Initiatives and CB Moves Community Engagement Programs

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$57,441**

**Recommendation: \$15,509,12**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

City funding of \$57,441.20 will sustain Charlottesville Ballet’s CB Moves and Keith Lee Dance Fund (KLDF) programs by supporting teacher salaries, scholarships, and program delivery, providing over 9,300 annual arts experiences for City residents through free and subsidized classes and sensory-friendly performances that advance equity and wellness.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

CB sustains programs through a strong and diversified funding model that blends earned income, private philanthropy, foundation grants, and limited government support. The organization’s FY25–26 operating budget totals over \$2.2 million, supported by:

- Earned income of over \$1.5M (70% of total budget) coming from tuition, ticket sales, and performance fees, providing a stable foundation for operations and an economic engine for the region.
- Private philanthropy and foundations of over \$469K (21%), including anticipated support from the Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, Manning Family Foundation, CACF’s Prana Fund, and Twice Is Nice Foundation.

CB operates with a proven record of fiscal responsibility. In FY25–26, 62% of expenses are allocated to payroll and teaching artist wages, 17% to facilities and equipment, and the remainder to programming, marketing, and administration—all essential to maintaining accessible, high-quality arts and wellness programming.

If the City of Charlottesville does not provide funding, CB would continue its core operations but would need to scale back free and subsidized community programs. Specifically, reductions could include limiting the number of CB Moves outreach sessions, decreasing school and library events under Once Upon A Ballet, and reducing complimentary ticket distribution for at-risk populations like seniors, veterans, and families experiencing homelessness. Funding shortfalls would limit CB’s ability to meet the growing demand for scholarships through the KLDF in FY27, reducing access to dance education for low-income and historically excluded students.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

City support directly sustains CB Moves initiatives and enables CB to maintain free community performances that bring professional dancers into schools, libraries, and public spaces. These initiatives embody the City's Recreation, Arts, and Culture priorities and its JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) commitment by removing barriers to participation and ensuring the arts remain accessible to all.

To offset any potential loss in funding, CB will seek increased private foundation and corporate support; however, sustained local public investment remains essential for long-term stability. Historically, every \$1 in public funding enables CB to leverage an additional \$4–\$6 in private or matching funds, amplifying the community impact of each dollar invested. Although CB has not yet received direct operating support from the City, we have partnered with Charlottesville City Schools for the past five years to deliver arts residencies and outreach programs valued at over \$10,000 annually. City investment would formalize this successful collaboration, expand its reach, and help ensure that inclusive, community-centered programming remains accessible to everyBODY in Charlottesville.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Charlottesville Community Bikes

### Bikes for Charlottesville Residents

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$48,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Charlottesville Community Bikes (CCB) requests \$100,000 from the Vibrant Community Fund to provide 1,150 refurbished bikes and 10 mobile bike clinics for Charlottesville residents in FY2027. These programs promote sustainable transportation, recycle bicycles, and provide essential mobility solutions for underserved communities through free bikes and repair services.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Over the years, our programs have grown significantly, and we have been able to support this growth through a mix of revenue streams, including shop revenue, individual donations, grants, foundation support, and in-kind contributions. While this approach has enabled us to sustain our current operations, securing increased Vibrant Community Funding would allow us to accelerate the expansion of our programs and better align the City's priorities with the programs we are already delivering for City residents.

If we are not awarded this grant, we will continue to serve the broader community under our current model. However, with this grant, we would be able to enhance and expand our services for Charlottesville residents, placing a stronger focus on targeted outreach and service delivery to meet their specific needs.

Without this funding, CCB would need to allocate more staff time toward seeking additional resources, limiting our ability to scale up and serve more residents. A reduction in available funding would directly decrease the number of Charlottesville residents we can provide with bikes and repair services, as staff and materials would need to be reallocated to maintain current programming levels. For our Kids' Bike Program, that means kids who come to the shop for a bike may not find one in their size and may have to return several times, which creates burdens for financially challenged families. For our Referral Bike Program, that means teens and adults may need to wait a month to receive their new bike instead of only a week, which extends the period during which it is harder to get to school, work, or medical appointments. For our Mobile Bike Clinics, that means we may only be able to visit a low-income neighborhood once a year instead of once a season, which delays repairs on bikes for six additional months.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Charlottesville Tomorrow

### The Community Growth & Visibility Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$30,000**

**Recommendation: \$14,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Charlottesville Tomorrow will partner with the City of Charlottesville to pilot the Community Growth & Visibility Program, offering free or subsidized marketing opportunities to local small businesses and nonprofits — especially those led by or serving underrepresented communities — while strengthening the local news ecosystem.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Without this funding, we won't be able to offer the Community Growth & Visibility Program to the community. This program is designed to make equitable access to media and marketing opportunities possible for small local businesses and nonprofits, who might not otherwise have the financial capacity to advertise or the design support to create and market their advertising campaigns.

Without the City's support, we would need to rely on traditional, full-cost sponsorship and advertising opportunities, which often exceed the budgets of smaller local organizations. As a result, participation in the program would likely be limited to larger, more established organizations, undermining our goal of supporting inclusive economic growth and community representation.

This funding would cover:

- Subsidized sponsorship credits for qualifying small businesses and nonprofits;
- Staff capacity to coordinate outreach, application review, and reporting;
- Administrative and design costs to ensure each business receives effective, professional visibility.

Ultimately, while we continue to serve local organizations through our regular sponsorship opportunities, the absence of this grant would limit the inclusivity and reach of this effort (despite the fact that we try to provide as many discounts as possible). With this funding, we have the opportunity to strengthen Charlottesville's small business and nonprofit ecosystem and ensure that our community is seen, supported, and celebrated.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## City of Promise

Expanding a Community School Model for Charlottesville Elementary Schools to Build Academic Achievement and Family Stability for Under-resourced Children

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$96,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

By connecting families to high-quality, community-based resources and providing in- and out-of-school academic support, City of Promise and our partners will increase literacy scores and attendance rates for low-income, BIPOC students at Trailblazer and Tall Oaks Elementary Schools—and expand services into the summer to create greater continuity and impact, and prevent learning losses.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Expanding this program and leveraging additional partnerships to create a community schools model in Charlottesville to support low-income and BIPOC student engagement and achievement is a key goal for City of Promise over the next two to five years. As such, it is a top fundraising priority. This program has already attracted multi-year support from the Adivans Foundation, with additional support from the Batten Family Fund, J & E Berkley Foundation, and the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. If we do not receive the full amount that we are requesting from the Vibrant Community Funds, we will continue to seek funds from other sources, including private foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors. If we are unable to meet our funding goals, we may need to delay expansion of the summer school program or pare down program offerings. This may include cutting community engagement efforts around absenteeism.

However, if we are successful in meeting our funding goals, then we anticipate being able to leverage our funding and partnerships to gradually and thoughtfully expand our community schools approach throughout the City of Charlottesville.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Community Healing Coalition, Inc.**  
Music Inside Out Arts Camp

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$12,500**

**Recommendation: \$6,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

One spring and one summer arts camp will give up to 25 Charlottesville youth impacted by incarceration or foster care a safe, creative space to heal and belong. A fall reunion will bring families, board, and volunteers together to celebrate growth and community. Funds cover meals, transportation, supplies, and staff.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Community Healing Coalition does not receive any or all of the funds requested, we will still move forward with Music Inside Out Arts Camp, but at a reduced scale. Fewer funds would directly impact the number of children we can serve, the stipends provided to counselors, and the level of transportation and art supplies we are able to offer. Most importantly, this would mean fewer system-impacted youth would have access to the safe, trauma-conscious, restorative spaces that help them build confidence, belonging, and hope. For example, without full funding, capacity may need to decrease from 24 campers to approximately 12–15.

To close the funding gap, we would intensify our fundraising efforts through board-led initiatives, individual donor campaigns, and crowdfunding platforms. We would also increase outreach to local churches, businesses, and community partners for in-kind donations such as meals, supplies, and space. Additionally, we will continue to strengthen our donor base to build more sustainable support year-round.

Our partnerships with organizations like Community Attention Youth Internship Program, One Stop Cville, and others would help us recruit volunteers to fill any gaps in staffing. While reduced funding would limit the scale of services, we are committed to ensuring the core restorative and trauma-conscious elements of the camp remain intact.

This funding is not currently being used as a match for other grants, but receiving it would strengthen our ability to leverage future funding opportunities and in-kind contributions, increasing the program's reach and long-term sustainability. In short, every dollar invested expands access and equity for youth who are too often left out of community spaces.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Community Healing Coalition, Inc.

Wounded Healers Women's Support Group

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$40,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Monthly restorative support circles for women impacted by incarceration, foster care, and/or reentry, providing a safe and healing space to connect. Free meals, transportation support, and childcare remove barriers. A 3-person childcare team creates a “play land” for kids, making this an intergenerational healing space.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Community Healing Coalition (CHC) does not receive any or all of the requested funds, the program’s capacity to provide consistent, trauma-conscious gatherings with childcare, food, and program materials would be reduced. We would likely need to scale back the number of women and children served each month and limit or eliminate certain supportive elements, such as meals or supplies, that make the space accessible and welcoming. As a last resort, we may need to shift from a monthly to a bi-monthly model, though this would significantly reduce the program’s impact and continuity of support.

We would intensify our fundraising efforts by engaging our board in increased personal giving and hosting targeted community fundraisers. We would also seek additional donations and sponsorships from local churches, businesses, and individual donors, as well as pursue in-kind support to help offset costs (e.g., donated food, beverages, and materials).

While this VCF request is not currently serving as a required match for another grant, receiving these funds would help CHC leverage other funding opportunities and sustain critical support spaces for women impacted by systemic trauma. Without these funds, our ability to expand services and sustain reliable program delivery would be limited, though we remain committed to continuing the work at a reduced scale if necessary.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Community Investment Collaborative

Community Investment Collaborative (CIC)

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$55,000**

**Recommendation: \$26,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

CIC is a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) founded in 2012. CIC strengthens economic prosperity by providing comprehensive support to underserved entrepreneurs through our 16-week business education workshop, microloans now up to \$100k (recently raised from \$50k), ongoing mentoring, and networking opportunities, creating jobs and building wealth in our community.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

In December 2024, CIC's Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan for 2025-2027 that charts an ambitious path forward to expand our impact serving under-resourced entrepreneurs. To sustain our current programs and achieve our planned growth in lending and entrepreneurial support, we identified the need to raise \$1.3 million in new operating funding over the next three years. Of this total, approximately \$360,000 represents new funding needed for FY 2027 to maintain and grow our work with Charlottesville entrepreneurs.

Navigating an Uncertain Funding Environment: This strategic growth occurs during an increasingly uncertain funding landscape, particularly at the federal level. We project a continued decline in federal and state government grants—from \$1,270,391 in FY25 to \$974,500 by FY27.

We are actively pursuing multiple strategies to close this shortfall through foundation grants, corporate partnerships, individual giving growth, and increased earned revenue. However, reducing or eliminating the City's \$55,000 contribution would compound this challenge and undermine our capacity to maintain our long focus on Charlottesville residents effectively during this critical transition period.

Impact of Reduced Funding: Without the full City request, we would need to:

- Reduce the number of Charlottesville residents served through our 16-week workshop (currently 30-40 annually across cohorts)
- Extend wait times for processing loan applications, delaying critical financing for entrepreneurs
- Reduce mentoring capacity, affecting the quality and frequency of ongoing support
- Limit networking event opportunities, reducing market access for our entrepreneurs
- Path Forward with City Partnership: We believe we can successfully close the \$360,000 funding gap and achieve our strategic plan goals with the City's continued support at the requested level. This local partnership demonstrates community commitment and organizational stability—factors that strengthen

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

our competitiveness for federal and foundation grants. We have successfully used previous City funding as matching support (including for our SBA PRIME application) and will continue leveraging local dollars to secure additional resources.

By maintaining this partnership during a period of federal uncertainty, the City ensures that Charlottesville's most under-resourced entrepreneurs—71% of whom live below 80% area median income and 52% of whom are BIPOC—continue to have access to the education, mentoring, and capital they need to build sustainable businesses and generational wealth.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Computers4Kids

### STEAM Mentoring for Equity and Opportunity

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$45,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

C4K connects youth from underrepresented communities with 1:1 STEAM mentors who support hands-on, student-driven projects year-round. Funds will support mentoring, technology access, and skill-building experiences that help youth develop confidence, creativity, and pathways to future education and careers.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

For 25 years, C4K has sustained high-quality, equity-centered programming for low-income youth through strong community support, strategic investments, and lean operations. If we do not receive funding from the city, we will continue to reach out to a substantial database of individual, foundation, and corporate supporters so we can persist in our mission to serve low-income youth in the Charlottesville area.

This summer, C4K hired its first Development Director. Although it will take time to develop our plan, we are confident that she will be able to help us diversify our funding sources, deepen donor relationships, and create new, sustainable revenue streams. We do, however, face notable challenges. Last month, we learned that in FY27, we will no longer receive support from our largest donor, Best Buy, which not only provides financial support but also a technology refresh program. Through their partnership, we have also received software donations that will also come to an end (likely before FY27). The loss of this partnership will create a significant funding gap.

C4K operates efficiently, with the most significant expenses being rent and staff salaries. By engaging more than 100 volunteer mentors annually, we deliver robust programming while keeping costs low. In FY25, volunteer mentors contributed 2,160 hours (valued at \$72,360), and in-kind donations significantly offset technology costs.

Losing City of Charlottesville funding would significantly affect access and capacity. C4K's transportation initiative (\$37,674 annually, FY25) ensures youth without reliable transit can participate in C4K programs. Without city funding, we would be forced to consider reducing the number of days we can provide transportation to C4K, which would result in a decrease in youth participation. We would also have to delay purchasing new technology and upgrading existing software, which would reduce the quality of STEM learning.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

These outcomes would limit access to transformative educational opportunities and reduce our ability to meet the goals for youth development and workforce readiness in Charlottesville.

C4K will continue its mission with determination, but without city funding, our reach and capacity will be diminished. With your continued partnership, we will sustain and expand equitable access to high-quality STEAM education.

As a grassroots organization serving only the Charlottesville-Albemarle area, local government investment is vital for sustainability and credibility. City support signals to private donors and foundations that C4K is a valued, trusted community partner.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Cultivate Charlottesville

Cultivate Charlottesville

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$96,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will support staffing, infrastructure, and community leadership development across three urban farms and nine school gardens. This includes youth internships, food production and distribution and advocacy rooted in equity and food justice, serving over 3,000 students and 500 residents annually in Charlottesville.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If we do not receive any or all of the funds requested, Cultivate Charlottesville will take several steps to sustain the Urban Agriculture Collective's core activities, though some program elements may need to be reduced or delayed.

First, we will intensify efforts to secure alternative funding through active grant applications currently pending proposals such as CACF's PB&J and Prana Funds, Virginia Foundation for Health Youth, Farm to School, etc. Additionally, we will expand grassroots fundraising initiatives to deepen individual donor support and community investment, aiming to diversify revenue streams.

However, without this grant, we anticipate the following impacts:

**Staffing:** We may need to reduce hours or delay hiring for some full-time positions critical to food production, outreach and youth leadership programs. This could result in a 20-30% reduction in staff capacity, impacting program scale and responsiveness.

**Infrastructure:** The construction and operation of the greenhouse may be delayed or scaled back, limiting year-round food production capacity and climate resilience.

**Program Scale:** Paid internships, leadership stipends and community workshops could be reduced by up to 25%, constraining leadership development and resident engagement. In the event of deeper budget cuts, we may face the difficult necessity of cutting entire programs, such as the City Schoolyard Garden (CSG), which would significantly impact our educational reach and youth engagement.

**Food Distribution:** While we remain committed to providing fresh produce, distribution volume and geographic reach may decrease, impacting the number of households served.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

Despite these challenges, our longstanding relationships and diversified funding portfolio, including over \$740,000 in confirmed FY26 commitments, position us to maintain essential services. We will continue to adapt our program model, prioritize community-led initiatives and seek strategic partnerships to preserve momentum.

Ultimately, while a reduction in funding would necessitate difficult choices, Cultivate Charlottesville's deep roots in the community and commitment to food sovereignty will guide us to sustain core impacts and continue growing power and justice in Charlottesville's most marginalized neighborhoods.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## **Descendants of Enslaved Communities at UVA**

Living Legacies: Building Community through Preservation and Connection

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$15,000**

**Recommendation: \$4,050**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Our proposed project involves the support of a 2027 intergenerational, community-focused calendar of programming. This includes our annual Descendants Day and Liberation and Freedom Day gatherings, as well as regional roundtable discussions, and other educational and connectivity-focused events like our oral history project, "Grounded."

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

This funding will enable us to sustain current programming as well as start new programming that has been deemed a direct interest of our communities and demand of participants. Without it, we will have to address the identified needs of our attendees on a lessened scale. For example, we will not be able to meet the 30% increased demand for tours, and we will not be able to hold 10 oral history interviews as planned. Our events will not be able to accommodate as many attendees and

DEC continues to pursue fundraising of all forms (grants, private donations, philanthropic support, etc.) and this aggressive strategy will continue.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Georgia's Friends, Inc.**

Georgia's Friends - Recovery Program for Women

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$13,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will support day programming, Joy Projects, and recovery support at Georgia's Friends, offering women in recovery structured wellness workshops, peer mentoring, life-skills training, and community engagement activities that build confidence, stability, and purpose—excluding all housing costs.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Georgia's Friends does not receive all requested funds, the organization will work to maintain essential recovery supports but would likely need to scale back day programming and Joy Projects that rely on flexible, non-restricted funding.

Specifically, we may need to reduce group workshop frequency and/or limit community engagement events that enhance social connection and skill-building for residents.

No reductions would occur to core housing operations; however, staff time allocated for program coordination could decrease by approximately 5–10 hours per week, reducing the individualized support we provide to residents.

We would actively pursue alternative funding from private donors, local foundations, and corporate sponsors to fill the gap. This request is not serving as a match for other grants but is critical to sustaining equitable, trauma-informed programming that complements our housing model and supports long-term recovery outcomes for women in Charlottesville.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Heart and Soul Fitness With Nicole

Heart & Soul Fitness Community Wellness Initiatives

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$13,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Heart & Soul Fitness seeks funding to expand its wellness initiatives for marginalized individuals in our community, offering low-cost fitness classes, mental wellness workshops, & nutritional education. The funds will support outreach, marketing, specialized instructors, maintaining facilities, & purchasing equipment, aiming to improve health outcomes for vulnerable communities.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

A lack of funding would significantly hinder Heart & Soul Fitness's ability to deliver essential health and wellness programs that many Charlottesville residents depend on. Without support from the Vibrant Community Fund, our capacity to offer equitable, high-quality, and affordable classes would be severely limited, reducing the reach and impact of our community health efforts.

Reduced funding would force cuts to low-cost fitness classes and wellness workshops that serve low-income and marginalized residents, decreasing opportunities for movement, social connection, and emotional well-being. Class fees may need to rise to offset costs, creating barriers for those who benefit most from accessible wellness programs. Additionally, limited resources would restrict community outreach, reduce program variety, and impact our ability to retain skilled instructors, core elements that sustain our welcoming, inclusive environment.

Our new partnerships with SilverSneakers and Active & Fit, which expand access for older adults and individuals with limited means would also be at risk. While national reimbursements help offset costs, they cover small fraction of what it takes to deliver high-quality instruction, maintain facilities, and ensure participant support. VCF funding bridges this gap, allowing Heart & Soul Fitness to sustain inclusive, community-based programs that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being for all who call Charlottesville home.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## HER SPORTS

Empowering Girls Through Youth Sports Development

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$75,000**

**Recommendation: \$36,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will support HER SPORTS programming by covering essential costs including staff wages, participant scholarships, food and nutrition, sports equipment, transportation, and facility rent. This funding ensures continued access to affordable, high-quality programs that educate, empower, and uplift girls and families through sports-based learning.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If HER SPORTS does not receive all or part of the requested funding, we will continue to operate with the same determination and resourcefulness that has sustained us since our founding, but the scope, consistency, and capacity of our programs would be significantly affected. The VCF represents a crucial opportunity to strengthen stability and equity for HER SPORTS as we continue addressing the disparities women and girls face in access to sports, leadership development, and funding.

Without these funds, HER SPORTS would seek alternative support through private donations, local business sponsorships, community fundraising events, and additional grant opportunities. We would engage board members, parents, and community partners to identify new sources of financial support. However, many of these efforts take time to secure, and a gap in funding could delay program delivery, reduce participation capacity, or limit access to essential resources such as healthy snacks, transportation, and safe facility space.

One of the most immediate impacts would be on our ability to maintain consistent, high-quality programming. HER SPORTS currently rents spaces from multiple community partners to run the HUSTLE Academy, sports leagues, and workshops. Without this grant, we would continue “rotating” between facilities—limiting our ability to establish a reliable home base. Having a dedicated facility is critical to program consistency, participant safety, and long-term sustainability.

Staffing would also be affected. The grant would help cover the salary of our Executive Director, who manages all program operations, partnerships, and fundraising efforts. Without this funding, compensation may need to be reduced or delayed, limiting her ability to dedicate full-time leadership to the organization. In addition, plans to bring on a co-facilitator for the HUSTLE Academy—who would provide academic and emotional support to girls during sessions—would need to be postponed. This would reduce our ability to provide individualized mentoring and small-group engagement that are key to program success.

HER SPORTS remains fully committed to its mission, even under financial constraints. If full funding is

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

not received, we would adjust by scaling program sizes, reducing frequency of workshops, or modifying events while ensuring that no girl is denied participation due to financial hardship. We would also intensify our efforts to attract in-kind donations, volunteer coaches, and shared-use partnerships to offset costs.

Ultimately, the VCF would make a transformative difference. It would allow HER SPORTS to stabilize operations, maintain fair compensation, and expand equitable access to education-based sports programs for girls across Charlottesville. Without it, HER SPORTS would persevere—but our reach, efficiency, and consistency would be limited during a time when the need for safe, empowering, and affordable spaces for girls has never been greater.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Hospice of the Piedmont

Hospice of the Piedmont - Compassionate End-of-Life Care and Grief Support

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$10,000**

**Recommendation: \$4,800**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

For 45 years, Hospice of the Piedmont has been providing hospice, palliative care and grief support to the Charlottesville and the Central Virginia community. Our mission is to guide life's final journey with expertise and empathy. As our region's only nonprofit hospice provider, we care for all who need it regardless of their ability to pay.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

We intend to utilize the Vibrant Community Fund grant to maintain and grow the many philanthropic programs designed to assist community members in the City of Charlottesville as they experience end-of-life and loss. Hospice of the Piedmont currently seeks county grant support, community foundation support, and private philanthropy to support programs not covered by insurance and will continue to do so if not awarded funds.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## **Legal Aid Justice Center**

Legal Services to Protect the Economic Stability of Low-income Charlottesville Residents

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$48,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

By educating and representing people in matters of consumer, employment, education, and health law, LAJC helps individuals navigate safety-net systems, access benefits, protect income and assets, and overcome problems that directly threaten their health, employment, and economic security. Our work has a clear and direct impact on the financial stability and health of low-income Charlottesville

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Every dollar invested in legal aid programs produces measurable economic impacts for the household and greater community as well as other benefits that are not as easily quantifiable. Last year, our program returned 17 dollars for every dollar the city invested in us and our funding ask to Charlottesville represents less than 20% of the cost of the direct services we provide to low-income Charlottesville residents. We secure grant funding and donations from state and local sources, private foundations, local bar associations, universities, and individuals in order to fund our programs at a level that enables us to address the problems of our client communities. We also receive significant in-kind support from local attorneys who assist with client representation in pro bona cases.

We currently disproportionately serve Charlottesville area residents relative to the number of low-income people who qualify for our services in the communities where we have offices. This disproportionality is due to the significant local grants and private contributions we receive to provide services in Charlottesville. If our local support decreases, overtime we will shift our resources to better align with the presence of poverty statewide.

LAJC has a robust fundraising plan and seeks funding from a multitude of sources including individuals, private and community foundations, businesses, and local and state government.

## **Light House Studio**

Light House Studio Educational Programs

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$45,000**

**Recommendation: \$12,150**

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Light House Studio's (LH) Educational Programs provide tuition-free digital filmmaking workshops for youth across the City of Charlottesville, ages 8 to 21. We remove barriers to access for arts education through in-school and after-school workshops with school and non-profit partners. Through LH workshops, students become active creators rather than passive consumers of digital media.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The City of Charlottesville's VCF funding plays an important role in ensuring we are able to work with diverse partners. City support is important and significant for Light House because it allows us to work with nonprofit and school partners located within the city. Yet the city's support does not cover the full costs of all we do in the city, and we have lost other sources of government funding in 2025 that have helped to match the city's support in the past.

Over the years we have continued to grow our partnerships, and most of our partners return every year. It would be difficult to cut someone out. Charlottesville's schools only offer one dedicated class in "multimedia arts." As students move from elementary to middle to high school, visual arts education participation in school drops from 92% to 23%. This is where LH collaborations fill a niche that is meaningful to a lot of organizations. Filmmaking is a modern form of self-expression that allows students to explore storytelling, cinematography, sound, editing, acting etc. Young people who are not studio artists, for example, often find an outlet in filmmaking.

If we do not receive full funding from the City of Charlottesville, we would have to consider limiting the number of city partners we work with. We are always also seeking and pursuing additional funding from other organizations and/or individuals. If longer-term funding is not received, we would look at reducing staff.

Our funding is diversified with revenues coming from foundation, corporate and government grants, event fundraising, and private contributions. Our full budget for community partnerships is over \$200,000. In addition to funding from the City of Charlottesville, we are pursuing grants from Albemarle County, Bama Works, Hilltop Foundation, and the Wardle Family Foundation. We have already secured funding from the Manning Family Foundation, DN Batten Family Foundation, Anne and Gene Worrell Foundation, and PYMWYMI Fund.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Light House Studio

Light House Studio Vinegar Hill Theatre Community Programs

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$45,000**

**Recommendation: \$12,150**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funding supports Light House Studio in operating the Vinegar Hill Theatre (VHT). Located on the downtown mall, VHT provides a versatile, 183 seat venue for community organizations to host film screenings and discussions. We offer discounted rentals for independent filmmakers, schools, organizations, and small businesses, as well as screening student films created through our educational programs.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Community feedback tells us that the residents of Charlottesville want VHT as their community theatre. People often share with us their memories of the theatre, and the value they place on being able to come to the theatre still. It is an iconic landmark, anchoring one corner of the Downtown Mall.

In 2025, our costs for the Theatre are projected to be \$137,105. The theatre revenue and support does not match its expenses, so we cover the costs of operating VHT through General Operating Support. We need to work towards generating additional revenue (through more rental events) and receiving additional support for the VHT. The amount we are requesting this year, \$45,000, reflects the amount we give back to the community in the form of free and discounted rentals. We work with organizations to find a rental fee that will work within their budget, allowing organizations to screen films and host events that they otherwise would not have been able to offer.

If we do not receive funding from the City of Charlottesville, we would work to cover expenses through other funding sources including Albemarle County. From 2023 - 2025, received an anonymous gift that allocated \$10,000 to VHT each year. However, if we were unable to cover expenses, we would have to turn away some of the nonprofit organizations and artists who currently receive steep discounts. Theatre screenings are the last LH activity to return post-Pandemic. In 2019 it cost \$67,000 annually to operate the Theatre, and we raised \$38,000 through rentals, ticket sales and concessions. We covered the remainder of the expense through general operating support. Program support also contributes toward theatre costs, and we apply our Virginia Commission for the Arts general operating grant towards VHT expenses. In 2025, our income from rentals and concessions is \$32,833 to date (with more expected in concessions sales before the end of the year). In 2026 we will continue to increase LH film screening

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

offerings and we are expecting \$35,000 income from ticket and concessions sales and rentals. We continue to look for new theatre-specific funding sources.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle**  
Citizenship Instruction

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$9,000**

**Recommendation: \$8,190**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

City funds will support individualized and small-group citizenship instruction for 30 local lawful permanent residents. Services include English and civics tutoring, study materials, and USCIS interview preparation to cover the "100 questions" on the Citizenship test. As the USCIS test is likely changing, it is imperative that those who are pursuing Citizenship achieve it as soon as possible.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If LVCA does not receive the requested city funding, we will need to limit participation by Charlottesville residents in order to meet the high demand for services from others who provide financial support. Demand for citizenship instruction far exceeds our current capacity, and we must align enrollment with available funding sources.

In that case, our focus would shift toward serving residents of partner localities whose contributions help offset program costs. We would continue seeking support from private foundations, local churches, and the Virginia Literacy Foundation to sustain services for students outside the city.

City support ensures that Charlottesville residents—many of whom are long-time community members working and raising families here—have equitable access to free citizenship preparation. Without this funding, those residents would likely be placed on waiting lists or deferred to future sessions.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville/ Albemarle Workforce Development

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$23,000**

**Recommendation: \$11,040**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Literacy Volunteers' Workforce Development Program offers free, one-to-one tutoring to improve reading, writing, and English-speaking skills for adult learners in Charlottesville. Funds will support individualized educational plans, job-related instruction, and skill-building to help students learn English, gain employment, and achieve self-sufficiency.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Literacy Volunteers does not receive the full funding requested for the Workforce Development Program, we would need to make several difficult adjustments. We would pursue alternative sources—including local foundations, individual donors, and state or federal opportunities—but our staff capacity for development work is limited, and we already raise close to half a million dollars each year. Securing replacement funds would take time, and there is no guarantee they could be obtained at the same level.

This uncertainty is compounded by the fact that some of our other grants originate at the federal level. In recent years, those funds have been delayed, restricted, or cancelled altogether, leaving significant gaps in our budget. Local government support is therefore critical to sustaining consistent services, particularly while federal funding streams remain unstable.

Without adequate funding, we may need to reduce the number of students we serve, lowering enrollment goals by as much as 25%. Staff hours or positions could also be reduced, limiting the availability of our office space—an essential, safe meeting location for students and tutors. As a last resort, we may need to consider a nominal registration fee for students, though this would conflict with our mission of providing equitable services to low-income and marginalized populations.

Local government funding is also used as a match for other grants. Reduced funding would not only diminish the number of students we could serve but could also weaken our eligibility for future awards from the state or private foundations that require proof of sustained impact.

In short, without sufficient support, LVCA would be forced to scale back vital services that help adults gain the literacy and job skills needed for self-sufficiency.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Live Arts, Inc.**

FY2027 Education Programming Support for Live Arts

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$30,000**

**Recommendation: \$8,100**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Live Arts requests a \$30,000 grant to expand its FY2027 educational programming--which includes seasonal camp programs and a variety of year-round workshops--with new activities to increase accessibility, diversity, and outreach for youths aged 6 to 17 in the Charlottesville community. Funding will support teaching interns, supplies, scholarships, outreach, and production of the Teen Summer Show.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Grant support from the City's Vibrant Community Fund is critical to maintaining the quality and accessibility of Live Arts' Youth Education Programming. A \$30,000 award would allow us to continue offering year-round theater education, student scholarships, professional teaching stipends, and an annual teen production without interruption.

If the full amount is not awarded, Live Arts will need to make difficult adjustments. We would likely need to reduce the number of teaching artists and camp counselors, which would decrease class sizes and overall enrollment capacity. It would also mean fewer opportunities for mentorship and individual attention for students. Furthermore, a reduction in program quality or scope could make it more difficult to attract future foundation support, since funders often evaluate program scale and reach when making award decisions.

This request does not serve as a match for other grants; instead, it fills a funding gap created by 1) the recent cancellation of our \$20,000 NEA grant, 2) a \$6,820 decrease in general operating support from VCA, and 3) reduced contributions from private foundations.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc

Providing healthy food and nutrition education for food insecure neighbors

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$45,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Loaves & Fishes seeks funds to purchase food and to support our nutrition education program so every person who visits the pantry receives healthy, culturally-preferred groceries and assistance with how to prepare them. High food costs and reduced or lost SNAP and Medicaid benefits will increase visitors, and with shrinking food donations, we must purchase more than ever before.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Loaves & Fishes sustains our operations by annually budgeting for anticipated expenses, including new programs and program growth, and fundraising from a diverse base of private individuals/families, corporate, foundation, nonprofit/civic and faith community partners, and local government grants. In 2024, 64% of Loaves & Fishes' annual revenue was from individuals/families, 21% from foundations, 4% from corporate contributions, and 3% each from faith communities, other nonprofit organizations, our City of Charlottesville Vibrant Community Fund grant, and investments.

Loaves & Fishes picks up in-kind food donations from 7 local grocery stores, orders USDA commodities, donated food, and purchases food from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and other vendors, and receives food donations from area processors, farms, and shippers. Total food donations in 2024 were valued at \$5M.

In order to continue providing enough nutritious food, Loaves & Fishes has budgeted \$200,000 (17% of our total budget) for food purchase in 2025, but with reductions in SNAP and Medicaid benefits increasing pantry visitors, our total food purchase budget for 2026 is \$400,000. Loaves & Fishes has secured funding to support food purchase in 2025 from the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation (\$30,000), CavFutures Foundation (\$15,000), Lewis G. Schaeneman Foundation (\$10,000), BeatDiabetes (\$36,509), Bank of America Foundation (\$7,500), and the Manning Family Foundation (\$25,000). Direct funding to Loaves & Fishes ensures that pantry visitors receive fresh, healthy food and allows us to share our best practices with other organizations distributing food across the BRAFB network.

Loaves & Fishes' goal is always to get the most value out of our community's donations, so when we must purchase food, we seek the best possible price - wholesale or lower, while also prioritizing purchasing from local sources. In 2024, a \$40,000 gift made it possible for us to purchase 200 lbs. of

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

locally processed beef from the Greene Co. Agricultural Coalition; 7 weeks of fresh produce from a local farm (Bellair); cereal, milk, yogurt, and cooking oil from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank; and 4,860 ½ gallons and 1,728 gallons of 2% milk and 5,680 dozen eggs from Dutt & Wagner in Abingdon, VA. Loaves & Fishes devotes 86% of our annual budget to our programs to provide free food for anyone who comes seeking assistance and the cost to provide one week of food is less than \$7 per person. Funding awarded towards Loaves & Fishes is effectively direct support to community members experiencing food insecurity.

We are working to expand and diversify our funding sources and are continuously researching and seeking new funding so we aren't reliant on any single source to function. If the Vibrant Community Fund is unable to support Loaves & Fishes at the level requested and other funding sources also are not obtained, we will adjust our budget to reduce our expenses.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Mahogany & Friends Foundation

### Financial Wellness & Readiness Project

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$60,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

At Mahogany and Friends, we make financial literacy exciting, accessible, and inclusive for all children. Through our nonprofit, the Mahogany & Friends Foundation, we advance equity and opportunity in Charlottesville. Funds support our Financial Wellness & Readiness Project—bringing hands-on, family-centered financial education to ALICE families and underserved communities.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Without the requested \$60,000 VCF investment, Mahogany & Friends Foundation would be forced to reduce programming by nearly 60%, serving 200 residents instead of 500.

Reductions if Unfunded:

Budget Does It: 150–175 youth (vs. 350 projected)

First Job Ready: 30 youth (vs. 120 projected)

Mahogany's Parents: 40 adults (vs. 80–120 projected)

Charlottesville Middle School program: Deferred to FY28

Staffing: Return to volunteer-only delivery, reducing consistency and evaluation capacity

Funding Continuation Plan:

We would seek support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors, but most funding cycles require 6–12 months—delaying service delivery. Municipal investment provides critical stability and signals citywide commitment to financial equity.

Why We're Positioned to Succeed:

Proven Demand: Over 450 families reached without city funding; founder has financially advised 150+ households.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Established Partnerships: One formal MOU and four Letters of Support with trusted organizations.

Efficient Model: Partner facilities and volunteers ensure a low-overhead, program-focused budget.

Built for Sustainability: Ongoing evaluation, demographic tracking, and curriculum documentation.

Experienced Leadership: Founder is a licensed financial advisor; Board brings nonprofit, finance, and community expertise.

Path Forward:

FY26: Prove and refine model

FY27: Scale to 500+ residents with VCF support

FY28+: Sustain and expand through diversified funding

To date, Mahogany & Friends has built trust, partnerships, and measurable community impact—all without municipal support. The VCF investment ensures equitable access, stable staffing, and growth to meet Charlottesville's increasing demand for financial literacy.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle More Than A Meal

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$58,200**

**Recommendation: \$52,962**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Requested funding covers three months of meals for 2026 based on projected costs. We deliver hot, ready-to-eat meals directly to homebound neighbors who cannot prepare food independently. With 564 clients served in 2025 so far, and averaging 250 meals daily, this grant ensures continued access to nutrition and wellness checks that prevent hospitalizations and combat deadly social isolation.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Current Funding Structure:

97% of our annual funding comes from our community, including generous contributions from individuals, businesses, and other local organizations

Music for Meals, our annual fundraiser, raises nearly 20% of our annual budget

We receive no federal funding for our operations

The requested amount from both localities would cover three months of meals based on our projected 2026 meal costs and anticipated client growth. This funding is critical to maintaining service quality and accessibility as demand continues to increase. If Meals on Wheels does not receive the requested funding, we will not be able to expand our services as the aging population grows. We rely heavily on our local community for support, including our County and City. Without their support, we will be able to maintain our current workflow, but will garner a waitlist, like 1 in 3 Meals on Wheels around the country are facing.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Mediation Center of Charlottesville

Mediation access for all

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$30,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

We will use City funds to provide no-cost mediation services to low-income Charlottesville residents who are engaged in conflict with the expectation that mediation will prevent violence.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

We are seeking this funding to support a broad outreach campaign and to fund a sub-group of Charlottesville residents needing mediation, who have not filed in court and are low or very-low income. Without these funds, we will likely conduct less outreach, and of necessity have to turn down some requests for mediation.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**MIMA Music, Inc.**

Band Together Charlottesville

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$20,000**

**Recommendation: \$9,600**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The proposed project will provide MIMA afterschool music programs in seven low-income housing communities: Madison Ave., 6th Street, Westhaven, Michie Drive, Riverside Ave., South 1st Street, and Greenstone on 5th. We will provide two programs in each community over the 2026–27 school year. Each program will include 10 hour-long sessions and serve up to 20 youth participants.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The requested funding covers approximately half of the anticipated cost of delivering these programs, with the other half covered by private foundation, state agency and individual/business donor support (see attached project budget). The pending grants from the Rea Charitable Trust and the Virginia Commission for the Arts require a 1:1 match. If we are denied some of the requested or pending funding, we may be able to fundraise from additional foundations or individual/business supporters. If funding from these alternative sources are not forthcoming, we will first reduce the length of the proposed programs and then, to maintain a minimal length of six hour-long sessions per program, the number of programs delivered.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Monticello Area Community Action Agency**  
Family & Community Services

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$32,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funding from the city and the county will be used in many different ways, to build a stronger program with more staff to assist with client needs, to provide access to financial assistance, educating client's so they are able to reach economic prosperity, and to help in urgent situations. Outside of direct work with clients this opportunity would allow MACAA to extend their reach in the city.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Without funding from Charlottesville and Albemarle County Monticello Area Community Action Agency will potentially have to revert to turning away clients in those localities. We as an agency would not be able to hire more staffing to cover that service area and the programming that we are intending on participating in. We are seeking funding from Albemarle County, Nelson County, Fluvanna County, and Louisa County but the funding from those localities will be restricted.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Monticello Area Community Action Agency**  
Kindlewood Care Management

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$20,000**

**Recommendation: \$5,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

This proposal seeks funding to support a Family and Child Services Worker at the Kindlewood Early Learning Center, a mixed income childcare center for the families of Kindlewood . Modeled on the Head Start Family Services framework, this position will provide early, continuous, and comprehensive educational supports that strengthen each child’s learning trajectory and promote family stability.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If funding for the Kindlewood Early Learning Center (KWELC) is not secured, the staff will continue to support families to the best of their ability by connecting them with available community resources. KWELC will contract with external providers to deliver services that cannot be offered in-house, ensuring children and families still receive essential developmental and support services. However, without dedicated funding, families may face increased challenges, having to navigate multiple service providers and locations to access the help they need. This added burden could reduce participation, delay interventions, and strain already vulnerable households, underscoring the critical importance of sustained investment in early childhood infrastructure.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Monticello Area Community Action Agency**  
Project Discovery

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$13,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Project Discovery assists first generation students and those from low to medium income households. The program combines college campus tours, cultural experiences, and a nationally recognized curriculum to improve social and emotional skills, study skills, time management, financial planning, and insightful decision making when preparing for post-secondary education to students and families.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

MACAA Project Discovery will be impacted by the funding request not being granted or partially granted. MACAA Project Discovery provides free services to include transportation and meals for all participants attending all college campus visits, extracurricular activities and cultural experiences. The program aims to remove the barrier of finances for students and families to be able to participate in the activities and services offered. The program would potentially look to other funding sources to assist in providing additional college campus visits and cultural experiences if the funding request was denied.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Musicians United to Serve the Youth of Charlottesville**  
Music Resource Center

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$95,000**

**Recommendation: \$25,785**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

This grant is requested to support providing our general after-school programming to 70 Low-Income city resident youths for one year. This program includes unlimited access to snacks, rehearsal facilities, lessons and workshops, recording services, and mentorship. We provide a safe, diverse, and creative community for teens to learn, grow, and make music together.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

This request amount is equal to the cost of serving the 70 City resident youths who come from low-income households in a typical year, a number derived from a multi-year average of membership and attendance records. This figure is also equal to about 6 months of our total salaries and wages in our current budget. Depending on the shortfall in our funding request, we may have to reduce staffing, which in turn reduces the number of participants we are able to serve.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## New City Arts Initiative

New City Arts Initiative

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$39,000**

**Recommendation: \$10,530**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

New City Arts requests general operating funding for our arts and culture programs that—alongside coalition and community building work—support Charlottesville area artists and arts audiences through free events and exhibitions at our low-commission gallery on the Downtown Mall (part of the First Friday Art Walk), artist grant funding, free studio space, artist fellowships, and arts education.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

80% of our operating budget is dedicated to programs. Our small staff team includes the equivalent of 2.875 FT arts and culture workers. We leverage a lean operating budget for substantial impact through partnerships and resourcefulness, prioritizing resources for artists and care for staff. New City's FY26 organizational budget is \$450,641. Our FY27 request for \$39,000 represents 8.95% of our projected FY27 total revenue. This request is not a match for other grants, though diversified revenue projections are detailed in our budget section.

Our Executive Director's time is primarily devoted to program support, though this is the only position that also includes development. If we do not receive any funds or substantially less funds than our request, we would likely need to trim programming temporarily in FY27 until new funds are raised from donor-advised funds, individuals, and new exhibition sponsorships. In assessing what to cut, our board would do everything possible to prioritize staff and artist well-being.

We appreciate the unique opportunity to apply for meaningful support from the Vibrant Community Fund, which is one of the very few funding opportunities whose grantmaking priorities specifically include arts and culture in Charlottesville.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## New Hill Development Corporation

BEACON's Black Business Incubator (BBI)

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$150,000**

**Recommendation: \$40,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Black Business Incubator (BBI) is a core BEACON initiative, created to reduce systemic barriers to entrepreneurship and support the development of thriving Black-owned food businesses in Charlottesville. BBI operates from the BEACON Kitchen, providing affordable access to professional-grade space, equipment, and support. Funding will support marketing services, stipends and program operations.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

New Hill is actively pursuing funding from multiple sources, including the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, state agencies, private foundations, and national funders. In the past year, we received significant local and national investment to complete construction of the BEACON Kitchen, and that local commitment has strengthened our ability to secure operating support for the Black Business Incubator (BBI). We currently have approximately \$500,000 in outstanding funding requests for BBI operations and anticipate that, even with partial support from this request, we will secure sufficient funding to sustain the program through blended revenue and grants.

The City's investment remains critical as a signal of local partnership and confidence, which leverages additional public and private support. City funding demonstrates that Charlottesville values equitable entrepreneurship, strengthening our competitiveness for state and federal opportunities.

If full or partial funding is not received, New Hill will continue to operate BBI but will need to adjust the scale and intensity of programming. Potential impacts may include:

- Reducing the number of participants accepted per cohort;
- Streamlining one-on-one coaching hours to prioritize entrepreneurs most in need;
- Deferring certain enhancements—such as expanded marketing training or early launch of BEACON Made—to future funding cycles; and
- Reallocating staff time across programs to maintain essential operations.

Even in this scenario, core BBI functions will continue through braided funding and strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Community Investment Collaborative (CIC), Compass Group's Food Works, and United Way's Envision Program. These collaborations help ensure that entrepreneurs

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

continue to receive critical training, financial coaching, and paid experience opportunities.

New Hill remains committed to the long-term success of BEACON and will continue building earned revenue through BEACON Flavor Catering and future BEACON Made operations to further stabilize funding. City investment enables us to operate at full capacity—offering not only business training but also the transformational access, infrastructure, and capital readiness needed to close Charlottesville’s racial wealth gap.

In short, City support is not simply program funding—it is catalytic investment in an enduring local ecosystem of inclusive entrepreneurship and shared prosperity.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## New Hill Development Corporation Financial Capability

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$13,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will support the Money Coach and bookkeeping services within the Financial Capability Program, providing one-on-one coaching, credit and money management education, and financial systems support to individuals, families, and BEACON entrepreneurs to build financial stability and business readiness.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The Financial Capability Program is core to New Hill's mission, and we are committed to sustaining it regardless of this funding outcome. We are actively pursuing support from multiple sources, including the City, Albemarle County, United Way's Envision initiative, and private philanthropic partners. City funding also strengthens our position as we apply for upcoming state and federal opportunities, where local investment serves as a signal of community commitment and increases our competitiveness.

If full or partial funding is not awarded, the program will continue; however, the scope and depth of services will be adjusted to match available resources. Without full support:

- Access to one-on-one coaching would be limited, and fewer community members would be able to begin or continue financial planning and credit-building sessions.
- Depth of support per participant would decrease, with coaching shifting toward group-based sessions rather than individualized milestone planning and follow-up tracking.
- Staff time would need to be stretched across multiple programs, reducing our ability to offer timely financial assessments, bookkeeping support, and business readiness coaching for BEACON entrepreneurs.
- Leverage opportunities may be delayed, as this funding is positioned to serve as a match and demonstration of local partnership for two pending grant applications.

Despite these adjustments, New Hill will maintain a braided funding approach and continue building partnerships with CIC, City of Promise, United Way's Envision Program, and other agencies to uphold core program services. However, City investment allows the program to operate at a level that achieves generational impact rather than limited, incremental assistance.

City support is not just program funding—it is an investment in a long-term community wealth

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

infrastructure that advances Charlottesville's commitment to justice, equity, and inclusive economic prosperity.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Partner for Mental Health

Partner for Mental Health

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$20,000**

**Recommendation: \$5,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

PMH will continue developing its Community Navigation for persons with mental illness across its four programs and work to strengthen the mental health safety net. If adequate funding is awarded, PMH will be able to provide longer-term community support for jail re-entry of individuals with mental illness.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

PMH is a lean organization having given up its office space two years ago, having our senior Navigator (and previous interim Executive Director) also serve as Program Director, and the Executive Director being paid only half time. Although three of our programs are funded through contracts with the City, County, and ACRJ, that funding does not fully cover our overhead or expenditures we make for client services.

Additionally, support for the Therapeutic Docket Navigators is an underfunded mosaic of grant funds that flow through OAR coupled with PMH funds. We recently learned the Therapeutic Docket was awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice. This grant was co-written by OAR and PMH but had to be submitted through the City. . However, collectively, the funding streams do not fully cover PMH costs.

As you know, federal grants are in disarray. PMH had planned to apply for two grants through the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in the spring of 2025. Unfortunately, that avenue was closed. The first was for the Therapeutic Docket program and we planned to partner with OAR, which manages the Docket. Until January, when the funds were depleted, we had that grant in a partnership with Region 10 and OAR and indications were we would be successful in getting it again. However, that grant was frozen and it is unclear whether it will be open again in the spring. The second grant opportunity through BJA, and one of the few open to non-profits, was a Jail Re-entry grant. Although we have a contract with ACRJ for one full-time Re-entry Navigator, that support covers relatively short-time support after inmates are released into the community--perhaps a month..

Whether we receive the requested funding or receive less than our request, we will continue to aggressively seek other funding opportunities, although as you know, the non-profit world is scrambling to fill in the gaps that have resulted from frozen federal funding. The Executive Director will continue to

# **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

work for half pay to ensure continued support for staff and we will delay another year serious discussions of an employee retirement plan. We will continue to put our clients first.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates Inc**  
Piedmont CASA

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$10,000**

**Recommendation: \$4,800**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA Volunteers) help to secure the safety, stability, permanence, and professional services needed by children forced into the foster care system due to abuse and/or neglect. This is achieved through independent investigation, advocacy, and thoroughly researched Court reports which Judges depend upon in determining the best interests of these children.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

PCASA is submitting this \$10,000 request for a Vibrant Community Fund Grant to help ensure that we can sustain our organizational capacity to support and supervise our staff and our Advocates so that they can continue to be effective advocates for children and youth, particularly those children referred to us within the City of Charlottesville.

At times in the past six months, PCASA's waitlist has been as high as 80 children. While we have brought that number down significantly, we must maintain our recruitment and training efforts to bring new Advocates in the door to meet the rising need and to replace retiring Advocates. This waitlist weighs heavily upon our staff, but without the resources to conduct additional training and outreach, we are unable to serve these children. We simply do not have the necessary staff and Advocates to do so. It is the children who suffer when our funding is cut, and these are children in our community.

Nevertheless, PCASA's long-term sustainability is dependent upon having a broad base of support, so we consistently pursue diversified funding. In a typical year, approximately 41% of our funding comes from individual donors, 39% from local, state, and government sources, 13% from foundations, clubs, and churches, and 6% from events.

Fundraising through government sources and private donors has been consistently down through our prior fiscal year and continuing into this one, but we were able to increase the funding we received through our events and from our foundations, clubs, churches, and corporations.

The support of the City of Charlottesville is more important than ever as fundraising continues to be an issue and the number of children needing our help continues to grow. Economic support from the City is also an endorsement that helps us obtain additional crucial support from local individuals, foundations,

# **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

organizations, and corporations. The children of Charlottesville deserve nothing less.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Piedmont Family YMCA

YMCA Early Learning Center at the Jefferson School

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$65,000**

**Recommendation: \$59,150**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The YMCA Early Learning Center is the largest area nonprofit child care provider for low-income youth ages 0-5, offering a high-quality, full-day, year-round licensed early childhood education and school readiness program to prepare at-risk and under-resourced children to meet kindergarten readiness benchmarks and support economic self-sufficiency and workforce development for area families.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

A blended funding stream is required to operate the YMCA Early Learning Center, which has a 71% subsidy rate and prioritizes care for economically disadvantaged families.

Our current financial model includes \$90,000 (5%) in federal funding, \$879,186 (53%) in state funding, and \$188,615 (11%) in local grants. Only \$501,930 (30%) comes from direct program service fees.

The average cost of child care is \$14,063 per child per year. If we do not receive any or all requested funding from Vibrant Community, we will continue to apply for funds from other sources, which vary significantly from year to year. If funds are not available to cover subsidy tuition and scholarships, we unfortunately reduce the number of families that are provided scholarships. Lack of City/Vibrant Community funding could impact 54 or more children and families living in the City of Charlottesville. The YMCA Early Learning Center engages children and provides much-needed child care for working parents up to ten hours a day, five days a week, fifty-two weeks a year. 54 City of Charlottesville children translates into 140,400 hours. Our direct-service hours with these children are tremendous, and the impact on parents is life-changing.

The YMCA Early Learning Center's FY27 request of \$65,000 will provide tuition assistance through scholarships to a projected 54 Charlottesville City residents. If we cannot secure this funding, we must reduce the number of families offered scholarships. This will primarily affect low-income, at-risk children and their parents who rely on our childcare services to attend school and/or work.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Piedmont Family YMCA

YMCA School Age Programs in Charlottesville City Schools

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$65,000**

**Recommendation: \$59,150**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

YMCA School Age Programs partner with Charlottesville City Schools to provide (1) after school in all seven (7) elementary schools for 400+ students, (2) summer school academies to combat summer learning loss for 250+ students, and (3) summer enrichment camps for 600+ students. These programs combine academic support with necessary child care for low-income working families.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the YMCA provided 341 after school scholarships totaling \$813,470 to Charlottesville families, 257 summer school academy scholarships totaling \$137,831 to Charlottesville families, and 177 summer camp scholarships totaling \$128,812 to Charlottesville families. 775 Charlottesville families receive a scholarship totaling \$1,080,113.

If we do not receive any or all requested funding from Vibrant Community, we will continue to apply for funds from other sources, which vary significantly from year to year. In prior years, we received funding directly from Charlottesville City Schools to support COVID-relief efforts. This funding is no longer available, which is why we are approaching City Council as well as local funders and philanthropists. A \$65,000 request to Council represents 3.8% of funding needed to administer the programs. Furthermore, with government funding uncertain, DSS funding has been frozen, with no new families receiving subsidy support.

If funds are not available to cover subsidies and/or scholarships, we unfortunately reduce the number of families that are provided financial assistance. Lack of City/Vibrant Community funding could impact 775 or more children and families living in the City of Charlottesville. This will primarily affect low-income children and families.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Piedmont Housing Alliance**  
Investing in Families

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$111,000**

**Recommendation: \$29,970**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Launching the Investing in Families program to provide dedicated case management for households earning below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI), delivering wraparound services, including financial coaching, career advancement, resource navigation, food security, emergency assistance, and eviction prevention, to help families achieve long-term stability and economic mobility.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If the requested funds are not fully received, the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) will continue providing its essential core services (financial counseling, employment coaching, and benefits navigation) to stabilize and strengthen low-income households. However, without full funding, the FOC will be unable to launch the new Investing in Families Case Management initiative at the intended scale, limiting the program's ability to serve an additional 100 families with intensive, wraparound support. Piedmont Housing Alliance is actively pursuing alternative funding sources including private foundations, corporate partners, and philanthropic organizations to close any potential gaps. The organization's proven record of securing diverse and competitive funding positions it well to sustain existing programming even amid fiscal challenges.

Current staffing and core services will be maintained; however, without full support, expansion to additional public and affordable housing communities will be delayed.

This request is not serving as a formal match for other grants, but local investment is a vital lever in sustaining and scaling the FOC's impact. City support enables Piedmont Housing to expand access to financial stability services for families earning below 50% of the Area Median Income, ensuring that the most economically vulnerable residents have equitable pathways to stability and opportunity.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## **Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic** Equitable Access to Dental Care

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$2,500**

**Recommendation: \$1,200**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds will insure access to oral health care for low-income uninsured and Medicaid-covered Charlottesville residents through PRDC's Affordable Care program. Patients will receive exams, cleanings, X-rays, fillings, sealants, root canals, extractions, crowns, and other essential dental services.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If PRDC does not receive all or part of the requested funding, the clinic will be forced to reduce the number of Charlottesville residents served through the Affordable Care Program. Fewer patients would be able to receive reduced-rate care, resulting in more Charlottesville children and adults remaining in pain rather than obtaining essential treatment and comprehensive oral health care.

As a nonprofit safety-net clinic, PRDC operates on what we call an "upside-down" business model—our patient population consists primarily of individuals whose care reimbursement rates do not cover the actual cost of services. Charitable contributions and grants bridge that gap and make equitable access possible.

Importantly, PRDC can only offer its Affordable Care Program to residents of communities that provide financial support to help offset the cost of these services. Without funding from the municipality and local grantors, Charlottesville residents may no longer qualify for discounted care under the program.

The need for care is far greater than the amount of funding requested. PRDC will continue to seek additional support from foundations, community partners, and individual donors to sustain services and reduce the local burden of untreated dental disease.

This request does not serve as a formal match for other grants but does strengthen our ability to leverage additional funding by demonstrating community investment in equitable oral health access.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Piedmont Virginia Community College Educational Foundation

Network2Work@PVCC

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$42,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Network2Work connects local job seekers with short-term workforce training and direct financial support, which helps them secure in-demand, good-paying jobs. This project will help 42 justice-impacted individuals in Charlottesville obtain short-term workforce credentials. Network2Work will help 75% of these program participants will obtain a job earning more than \$32,000 a year.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

Network2Work@PVCC's success depends on sustained investment in two key areas: staffing for its intensive coaching model and direct financial support for jobseekers. The majority of Network2Work's operating costs are covered entirely by grants and philanthropic contributions, with no recurring institutional or state base funding. Each participant receives, on average, \$1,000 in direct support for essential needs such as childcare, transportation, and housing—supports that are often the difference between completing training and dropping out.

Through the Virginia Community College System, Network2Work leverages tuition assistance to enroll participants in short-term workforce credential programs that prepare them for high-demand, family-sustaining careers. Most participants qualify for the state's FastForward initiative, which funds short-term training for in-demand jobs. Students typically pay one-third of the tuition cost at registration, one-third upon completion, and one-third when they earn the credential, with remaining costs covered by FastForward.

However, statewide demand for FastForward has outpaced available funding, The FY26 FastForward allocation is \$23.75 million which supports programs across all 23 Virginia community colleges. Despite strong outcomes and high demand, current funding levels are not sufficient to meet student needs or employer demand for skilled workers. PVCC, along with other colleges, has implemented careful strategies to manage available funds and avoid exceeding the FY26 allocation. However, without increased investment, this same constraint will persist into FY27.

Without additional support, Network2Work would be forced to limit the number of participants served or reduce the level of direct assistance available. This would particularly affect justice-impacted residents and families identified in Charlottesville's Orange Dot Report as facing persistent economic insecurity.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

Additional City investment would enable Network2Work@PVCC to continue bridging the FastForward funding gap, maintain its high-touch coaching model, and meet the increasing demand for short-term training linked directly to regional labor shortages in construction, transportation, and skilled trades. Continued funding will help ensure that Charlottesville residents—especially those reentering the community from incarceration—can access the credentials, support, and opportunities needed to achieve lasting economic independence.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

ReadyKids, Inc  
ReadyKids

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$182,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

ReadyKids will provide critical support to 370 under-resourced children and families in Charlottesville by promoting kids' well-being through counseling, family support, and early learning opportunities, thereby helping prevent child abuse and neglect and fostering safe, stable, and nurturing environments where children can thrive.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

ReadyKids is committed to having a diverse & robust funding model. Funds from the City of Charlottesville are a key part of the sustainability of this model. The long-standing partnership allows us to provide critical programming to kids, families, & our community's early childhood educators.

Without funding from the City & County, the Early Learning Program would be forced to eliminate two full-time positions. As a result, we would need to eliminate weekly early learning playgroups in two low-income communities (e.g., Kindlewood in the City and/or Church of the Incarnation in the County). This would affect upwards of 50+ families receiving evidence-based, quality early learning programming.

Healthy Families provides essential services to the City. Without funding from the City, the ReadyKids Healthy Families program would be forced to eliminate one full-time Family Support Worker position. As a result, more than 25+ additional families would join the 540 families already eligible for home visiting services that are not currently being reached (Source: Analysis of Fiscal Resources and Issues Impacting Early Childhood Development and School Readiness in Charlottesville & Albemarle County).

If Counseling funding were decreased, ReadyKids would be forced to eliminate one full-time masters-level Counselor. As a result, an additional 40 kids would join the waitlist for trauma-based counseling services at ReadyKids. We currently have to turn away two kids for every one we're able to serve. Decreased funding would further widen that gap.

Additionally, if we received a reduced grant award from the City, it would create a compounded negative impact. We rely on city funds as matching support for our federal VSGP grant, so a decrease in city funding would not only hinder our operations but also limit our ability to pull down federal funding for the benefit of city residents.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

ReadyKids relies on a robust blend of federal, state and local government grants, grants from private foundations, and individual private donors to meet our mission. Over the last several years, ReadyKids has weathered significant decreases to previously reliable federal funding, by pursuing new funding opportunities and increasing multi-year commitments for long-time donors. This strategy has allowed us to maintain stable programs during times of unstable funding. Looking ahead, we will need to partner with more funders to expand services and meet the growing community need. To that end, we recently engaged a local consulting firm, CIMA, to help us identify new opportunities. Continued support would help to uphold our efforts to support the wellbeing and safety of kids, families, and caregivers in the City of Charlottesville and surrounding areas.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Reclaimed Hope Initiative

Reclaimed Hope Initiative

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$96,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funds support year-round, trauma-informed enrichment activities, child care, caregiver support, and a 7-week inclusive therapeutic summer camp for children with disabilities and trauma. Supports include scholarships, staff training, adaptive/behavioral supports, transportation assistance, and family social events—reducing caregiver stress and isolation and improving child well-being.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

RHI faces the ongoing challenge of providing individualized, therapeutic programming that remains affordable to families while meeting a critical unmet need in our community. The children and caregivers we serve require specialized, trauma-informed care—often with a 1:1 or 1:2 staff-to-child ratio—to ensure safety, regulation, and inclusion. This model is resource-intensive and depends on a balanced mix of grants, donations, and earned income to remain sustainable.

If RHI does not receive all or part of the requested funds, we would prioritize maintaining the quality and safety of care for families currently enrolled in Thrive and Camp Hope, but our ability to sustain full capacity would be at risk. In 2024, RHI served 72 campers representing 60 families, and in 2025 we expanded to 78 campers from 66 families—clearing our camp waitlist for the first time. This milestone represents the direct impact of consistent community investment and City partnership. Without continued City support, we would have to reduce capacity by 20-30%, resulting in a return of the waitlist we worked so hard to eliminate. We would also have to reduce the number of needs-based scholarships, currently supporting more than one-third of families—many of whom are low-income, BIPOC, or in foster/adoptive households.

Similarly, year-round respite and caregiver programming would shift from modest expansion to a maintenance-only model. We would focus on sustaining current services for approximately rather than adding new participants or expanding regional reach.

To offset a funding shortfall, RHI would intensify fundraising efforts across multiple channels. We continually seek new grant opportunities and apply for every relevant RFA, while also strengthening our individual giving and fundraising strategy to grow recurring donations, corporate sponsorships, and community events.

## Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Internally, RHI has taken proactive steps to preserve quality while cutting costs. Over the past year, we reduced full-time staff from nine to four, relying on seasonal respite workers to maintain program quality. We also ended leases for office and storage space, cutting \$50,000 from our annual operating budget, and will transition to a hybrid workforce model in 2026 to further reduce overhead. These changes demonstrate our commitment to responsible financial stewardship and long-term sustainability.

The City's ongoing partnership has been instrumental in helping RHI reach more families, maintain equitable access, and strengthen local systems of support. Loss of City funding would be extremely challenging and would require program reductions across the board—impacting both direct service delivery and staff capacity. While we would continue pursuing new grants and private contributions to close the gap, the absence of this support would slow progress toward our shared vision: a Charlottesville where every child, regardless of ability or background, can experience belonging, healing, and joy.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## ReLeaf Cville

### Green Team Leadership Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$42,875**

**Recommendation: \$20,580**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

To increase Charlottesville's climate resiliency by safeguarding against extreme summer heat, ReLeaf Cville works with homeowners in Charlottesville's lowest canopy neighborhoods to plant trees, to preserve trees, and to educate the community about the vital benefits of a healthy urban tree canopy. We recruit a team of high school students, our Green Team, and train them to be tree ambassadors.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If ReLeaf does not receive funding for this part-time position and operational support, we will not be able to expand the program. We will continue to maintain our current number of teens and one summer training program, plus canvassing and planting trees for one target neighborhood. Services will not decrease and the program will continue to be managed by volunteers.

If not funded, ReLeaf will continue to seek funds from other sources, because we believe in the potential for this program and want to see the Educational Summit's strategic plan implemented.

If the City does fund this program, ReLeaf will be able to grow our capacity to broaden the Green Team's reach and impact. ReLeaf will do this by expanding the grade levels from 3rd grade to 12th grade, holding more training programs and managing more volunteer opportunities throughout the year, not just in the summer.

Within the scope of the Green Team Leadership program are explorations of natural areas along with sponsored river and camping trips. These nature experiences inspire greater connection, care of the environment, and regional appreciation of our area. Students will be encouraged to design their own group projects to help a specific neighborhood, i.e. cleaning up invasive, planting gardens, designing pocket parks and expanding green spaces. As the program expands, older students will have opportunities for internships, educational opportunities, scholarships and part-time work with green businesses.

ReLeaf received a \$7,000 grant from Clean Virginia to hold an Environmental Education Summit in spring 2025 to bring together all the organizations that teach children and youth about the natural environment. The goal for this group was to plan how together they can build a sustainable and engaged city-wide Green Team that works to address climate change and protect our threatened natural environment.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

Hopefully, the group can build a student led team that feels and is empowered to make a positive impact on the environment and climate change in Charlottesville's and beyond. The environmental education summit group will produce a strategic plan, which will become the work plan for ReLeaf's part-time Green Team Project Manager. Without staff, the strategic plan may be difficult to implement.

To expand and build this strong city-wide Green Team, ReLeaf needs a dedicated Project Manager to coordinate and supervise the expanded operations. ReLeaf has been extremely successful in raising funds with a budget that has grown substantially over the past three years. However, many funders do not recognize the need to build organizational capacity that can actually implement new projects.

Without this funding, 35 new trees will not be planted in a low-canopy neighborhood. 10 trees will not be preserved in a low-canopy neighborhood. 8 Green Team students will not be paid stipends. We will have to reduce our programming because of being understaffed.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Second Street Gallery

### Second Street Gallery 53rd Exhibition Season and Related Programming

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$0**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

SSG seeks support to sustain its 53rd season and related public programs that broaden access to contemporary art, cultivate meaningful artist–community relationships, and create participatory experiences that strengthen inclusion, cultural resilience, and long-term community engagement. Funding will support 11 exhibitions and related programming of artist talks, workshops, and Family Studio Days.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

SSG seeks funding to sustain its exhibition season, related programming, and operations. If SSG does not receive all or any of the funds requested, adjustments will be made across its programming efforts. Potential impacts are as follows:

SSG has already reduced the number of exhibitions in FY26–27 from 12 to 11 to ease pressure on overextended staff and reduce expenses. SSG may investigate reducing its total exhibitions per year as needed, though fewer exhibitions may impact community engagement with art as opportunities to view new exhibits decrease. Local artists may lose opportunities to exhibit and earn income via sales, and fewer nationally recognized artists would make exhibition rosters to cut costs.

SSG's community outreach and educational programming, including artist talks, workshops, and school outreach may also be scaled back, impacting SSG's ability to engage the broader community, including students and disadvantaged groups.

Staffing decreases may occur to the detriment of SSG's operating efficacy. Part-time staff may be furloughed or have hours reduced, affecting the number of programs, operating hours, and professional standards of service offered by SSG. This will put additional strain on the Executive Director, SSG's only full-time salaried employee.

To address a potential funding gap, SSG would expand the following strategies:

Increased efforts to secure individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and local business partnerships to fund specific exhibitions or programs would occur, with supplemental fundraising

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

initiatives. To close immediate funding gaps and respond to rising costs, SSG has already increased the price of Teeny Tiny Trifecta artworks by 25%. This adjustment relieved certain shortfalls and garnered larger commissions for artists who sold work from the exhibition—resulting in higher overall earnings that allowed SSG to reinvest in programming and further support its artists.

SSG will apply for other grants, increasing time and resources spent on grant applications to ensure the quality and quantity of exhibitions does not markedly decrease. SSG has raised and restructured its exhibition sponsorship levels to increase revenue and make sponsorships more attractive and accessible to a broader range of donors. By introducing tiered benefits, enhanced donor recognition, and flexible sponsorship packages tailored to different budgets and engagement goals, SSG has expanded its capacity to secure support—resulting in a 150% increase of exhibition sponsorships for the September–December period of 2025 compared to 2024, demonstrating early success in the strategy to grow income and deepen donor relations.

SSG may implement or increase fees for events which are currently low-cost or free to the public. Artist talks, workshops, exhibition application fees, and special events could all increase in cost for gallery patrons, potentially imposing barriers for community members to access these services.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Sexual Assault Resource Agency

Trauma-Informed Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$28,800**

**Recommendation: \$13,824**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Sexual Assault Resource Agency is a 501c3 non-profit agency working to eliminate sexual violence and its impacts through education, advocacy, therapy, and support services. Established in 1979, services are available to survivors of all ages and genders as well as friends, family, and loved ones of survivors. All services are free of cost to beneficiaries - clients and community partners.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If SARA does not receive the full amount requested from the Vibrant Community Fund, we would face significant challenges in sustaining core services that directly impact public safety and survivor support. The expiration of two American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants in FY26 will result in an \$81,600 revenue shortfall, which currently supports staff salaries, office space, mileage, and supplies essential for service delivery. This shortfall reflects broader statewide reductions in funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), which supports sexual and domestic violence agencies and other victim service programs. Between FY19 and FY24, SARA's state and federal grant funding declined by \$185,552—from \$497,588 to \$312,037.

In anticipation of these changes, SARA has taken proactive measures, including restructuring and rebudgeting in FY24, reducing staffing through attrition, and increasing efforts to diversify revenue. We have set goals to increase foundation grant revenue by 10% and individual donations by 7%. However, these efforts alone will not fully address the loss. Without local government support, SARA may need to further reduce staff hours or limit certain outreach and prevention activities, directly impacting our ability to respond to survivors and sustain community education programs.

This funding request is not serving as a match for any other grants. Rather, it represents a critical investment in maintaining uninterrupted, trauma-informed services for survivors at no cost to them, and ensuring that Charlottesville continues to have the coordinated crisis response, advocacy, and prevention programs necessary to uphold community safety and wellbeing.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.**  
Central Virginia Community Justice (CCS)

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$90,000**

**Recommendation: \$24,300**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

CVCJ is requesting \$60K for ~1700 hours of restorative services for Cville Schools in the '26-27 school year. This would allow 2 CVCJ staff to be on site at CCS for 40 total hours per week (divided between CMS & CHS), providing conflict resolution, circle processes, on-call assistance for acute incidents, restorative mentoring, community building, and restorative justice for students and staff.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If CVCJ does not secure at least \$15,000 (which is the minimum needed for 1 facilitator to be placed in the schools for 10 hrs/wk) for this program by Aug. 2026, CVCJ will discontinue the School-Based Restorative Justice program in '26-27.

Other potential sources of funding to supplement Vibrant Community funds:

-For the past 2 years, the SSAS (School Support for Afghan Students) program has had grant funds that can reimburse CVCJ's work directly with the Afghan student community; hopefully, this grant and contract will be renewed, but it is too early to know as of writing this grant application.

-CVCJ has one private donor who pledged to provide \$5000 each year for the first 2 years of a school-based RJ program; year 2 funds are expected in August 2026 if the program is continuing.

-CVCJ will continue to seek additional donations and grants specific to school-based RJ. CVCJ is aware of some grants and local donors and foundations who may be interested in school-based restorative services, so these connections will continue to be made throughout the year, to support this program over the long term.

-CVCJ can advocate for funds directly from the City Schools budget if other funding sources are insufficient.

VCF funds are not serving as a match for another grant.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.**  
Central Virginia Community Justice (RJ)

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$60,000**  
**Recommendation: \$28,880**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

CVCJ provides restorative justice (RJ), a way of responding to harms by focusing on accountability & healing rather than punishment. CVCJ is the only org in this area providing RJ as a criminal diversion & offering RJ to address harms not reported to law enforcement. The goal is that all involved are better off, such that the harm does not re-occur. VC funds would support the wages of CVCJ staff.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If all requested funds are not received from VCF:

-CVCJ has a diverse funding base that does not rely on any one source for the majority of our funding. We will continue to seek out other funding sources and approach major donors for support. The Executive Director & part-time Development Manager are working on identifying as many viable funding sources as possible in order to have a solid baseline of funds for this program.

-CVCJ could consider accepting fewer cases or setting hourly limits on cases in FY27. One benefit of being a program in which facilitators are paid based on hours worked and are not guaranteed a set number of hours/paycheck is that if agency funds were to be lower than expected at any time, the program could accept fewer referrals and save money on hourly staff wages. CVCJ is anticipating being able to serve around 100 RJ case participants in FY27; this could be reduced if funding is lower than expected. However, declining cases due solely to lack of funds runs contrary to the values and goals of our program. Our referring partners have placed trust in us and referrals have been steadily climbing, so it would be unfortunate to lose that momentum due to lack of funding.

Vibrant Community funds are not serving as a match for any other funding source.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Stepping Stone Charlottesville

### Uplifting Families with Essentials For Children

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$20,000**

**Recommendation: \$18,200**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Stepping Stone relies on the donation of new/nearly new items to build an inventory of essentials for children age newborn to three from under-resourced families. A \$20,000 grant from the City of Charlottesville would support “Uplifting Families with Essentials for Children” – a program that enables us to purchase high demand items needed by the families we serve.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If we do not receive any or all of the funds we request from the City of Charlottesville, we will still be able to serve the needs of children and families in our community – just not at a level that meets demand as needs continue to increase.

Stepping Stone is a fiscally responsible organization, and this is especially evident in the resourceful way we acquire life’s essential items for the people we serve. A decent portion of essentials are donated to us. But because the demand for resources is intense (and becoming more so each year), we also have to purchase essentials to meet needs. Some items must be new: diapers, of course, and, in compliance with state law, car seats.

The cost of these and other new items compels us to solicit support from individual donors, foundations, corporations, and civic groups. In addition to aiming for \$75,000 in funding from individuals, we are seeking grant funding from civic organizations and foundations, including Perrigo, Manning Family Foundation, Bama Works, Cav Futures Foundation, UVA Community Credit Union, and Albemarle Rotary Club.

Stepping Stone also initiates resource drives with churches, schools, civic groups, and even book clubs in our community, encouraging them to collect new items that are in high demand – diapers, clothes, strollers, and a wide variety of hygiene products for newborns and mothers. For example, each year in late September, we hold a highly successful diaper drive as part of Diaper Needs Awareness Week. More than twenty local businesses, gyms, real estate groups, schools, and churches host diaper drives on our behalf. As a result, Stepping Stone receives tens of thousands of diapers for the families we serve.

Here are a few of the organizations who contribute to our effort with their people, time, and resources:

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

Nest Realty  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Murray Elementary  
One Fit Mother  
Green Bean Baby Boutique  
Center Church  
International School of Charlottesville  
UVA Health  
Junior League of Charlottesville

In partnership with the The She Lab, we also have a special fundraising event scheduled each year – a book and author series – to elevate awareness about our mission among community influencers. In February 2025, New York Times bestselling author and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Prize, Jia Tolentino spoke at Vault Virginia. At that event, we raised \$16,000. Writer and podcast host Elise Loehnen headlined the event in 2024, and we raised \$9,000. The year prior Poet Kate Baer, sponsored by spoke, and we raised \$7,000.

In February 2026, Margot Lee Shetterly, author of the New York Times number one bestseller Hidden Figures, will headline our annual fundraising event.

Stepping Stone also receives in-kind support, which includes donated resources for families. We also receive in-kind support for grant writing, graphic design, marketing and communications, tax advisory, and legal assistance.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Bridge Line

### Case Management

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$32,000**

**Recommendation: \$15,360**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

BridgeLine Case Management is a community-based program that empowers individuals with brain injuries to achieve economic stability and live safely in the community.

Specialists help participants set goals, connect to employment and community resources, including housing and health. Funding sustains infrastructure, accessibility, and staff training.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The BridgeLine is the only local organization providing community-based, long-term support specifically for adults with brain injuries in the Charlottesville and Albemarle region. Our Case Management Program is essential to helping individuals rebuild independence, develop vocational skills, and maintain stability, thereby promoting both economic prosperity and public safety within the community.

Funding from the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services covers only a portion of operational costs and does not account for increasing expenses associated with maintaining a high-quality, accredited rehabilitation program. Over the past five years, additional support from the Charlottesville Vibrant Community Fund has been vital in sustaining our infrastructure, retaining qualified staff, and ensuring equitable access to services for residents who would otherwise go without.

If The BridgeLine does not receive all or part of the requested funds, we will face significant financial constraints that would directly affect program operations and participant outcomes.

Specifically, we would have to:

1. Reduce or suspend non-mandatory staff training, limiting our team's ability to maintain best practices and evidence-based care.
2. Reduce service capacity - either by decreasing the number of hours provided per client or by instituting a waiting list for new clients.
3. Reduce staff hours or positions, increasing the risk of turnover and service disruption for vulnerable participants.

These reductions would directly diminish the program's ability to deliver consistent, evidence-based services, threatening participants' progress toward goals of employment, social integration, and independent living. Interruptions in service could also increase the risk of housing instability, medical crises, or institutional placement, reversing years of community-based rehabilitation progress.

While The BridgeLine would actively pursue other funding opportunities, including the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, local faith-based organizations, and private donors, these opportunities are modest and not sufficient to offset the loss of sustained local support. Statewide partners such as

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

the BIAV and the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Providers continue to advocate before the General Assembly for expanded state funding, but those resources are not yet available.

This request does not serve as a match for any other grants; rather, it is a core sustainability investment essential to maintaining service continuity. Without it, the program would face unavoidable reductions in staff capacity and service availability, undermining years of coordinated progress toward a regional, community-based rehabilitation model.

Local funding is therefore critical to sustaining the only specialized brain injury program in the region - one that ensures adults with brain injuries remain safe, stable, and engaged contributors to the community and local economy.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Bridge Line Day Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$25,000**

**Recommendation: \$12,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The BridgeLine Day Program supports individuals with brain injuries in developing vocational and life skills for greater independence and economic participation. Funds will sustain facility operations, staff training and retention, affordable meals, and skill-building activities that promote community inclusion and workforce readiness.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The BridgeLine is the only local organization providing community-based, long-term support specifically for adults with brain injuries. Our program plays a vital role in helping individuals rebuild independence, develop vocational skills, and maintain stability within the Charlottesville and Albemarle communities. Funding from DARS covers only a portion of operational costs and does not reflect the increasing expenses required to maintain a high-quality, facility-based rehabilitation program. Over the past eight years, additional support from the Charlottesville Vibrant Community Fund has been essential in sustaining our infrastructure, retaining skilled staff, and ensuring equitable access to services. If The BridgeLine does not receive all or part of the requested funds, we will face significant financial constraints that would directly affect program operations and participant outcomes. Specifically, we would have to:

1. Reduce group events and community outings that are essential for members to practice social skills, build confidence, and achieve full inclusion in the local community.
2. Limit service hours by reducing the number of days or daily hours of operation, resulting in fewer staff hours and decreased capacity to serve participants.
3. Limit staff training to minimum requirements, reducing opportunities for professional development and program innovation.
4. Increase participant fees to offset costs, which could pose hardship for many members and their families who live on fixed or limited incomes.

These reductions would diminish the program's ability to provide consistent, evidence-based services and would negatively impact participants' progress toward employment, social integration, and independent living goals.

While The BridgeLine would actively pursue other funding opportunities, such as through the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, local faith-based organizations, and private donors, these sources are smaller in scale and cannot provide sustainable or equivalent support.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

BIAV and the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Providers continue to advocate before the General Assembly for increased state funding. Until such resources become available, local funding remains critical to ensuring service continuity.

This request does not serve as a match for other grants but is critical for our financial stability and sustainability. Without it, service reductions would be unavoidable and would undermine years of progress in building a regional system of community-based rehabilitation for adults with brain injuries. The requested funding ensures The BridgeLine's ability to maintain staff retention, program quality, and accessibility for all participants. Otherwise, the region's only specialized community reintegration program for adults with brain injuries would face diminished capacity to fulfill its mission - reducing both individual and community-level gains in independence, employment, and well-being.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Bridge Line

### Residential Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$42,000**

**Recommendation: \$20,160**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The BridgeLine's Residential Program provides safe, supportive housing for adults with brain injuries. Funds will sustain secure homes, trained staff, and healthy routines that prevent homelessness and crises, reduce strain on emergency systems, and promote stability, independence, and community safety.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The BridgeLine is the only local organization providing long-term, community-based residential support specifically for adults with brain injuries. For over 12 years, the City of Charlottesville has been a vital funding partner, helping us sustain and strengthen our Residential Program. City support has enabled The BridgeLine to maintain safe, accessible homes; retain and train skilled staff; and provide enriching services such as music and art therapy, recreational and community outings, and our "Bridging the Gap" Scholarship Program, which ensures affordability based on residents' ability to pay.

If The BridgeLine does not receive all or part of the requested funds, we will have to make difficult adjustments to maintain operations. Specifically, we would need to:

1. Reduce or eliminate group activities and community outings, which are essential for social reintegration and learning socially appropriate behaviors after brain injury.
2. Cut back on non-mandatory staff training, limiting opportunities for skill development and potentially affecting the quality of care.
3. Increase resident fees to offset costs, which would create financial hardship for our extremely low-income participants.

Unfortunately, funding for adults with brain injuries in Virginia is very limited. There is no Medicaid waiver available for people with brain injuries that might cover cost for residential programs, and despite advocacy from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia and the Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Providers, the 2026 General Assembly need statement does not include new funding for residential services.

If city funds are reduced or not granted, we will seek limited supplemental support from other sources, including the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, local faith communities, and small private grants or donations. However, these sources typically provide one-time or short-term assistance and cannot replace the consistent funding necessary to maintain staffing levels, training, and high-quality programming.

This request is not serving as a match for other grants, but rather as a critical foundation that ensures

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

program continuity and financial stability. City funding directly safeguards residents' housing safety, staff retention, and community inclusion — all essential to maintaining The BridgeLine as a safe, supportive, and recovery-oriented home for adults with brain injuries in our region.

Without this support, individuals with brain injuries in our community might face the very real risk of losing access to the only specialized residential option available, leading to increased isolation, unsafe living conditions, or institutional placement. Continued funding ensures that The BridgeLine remains a cornerstone of safety, dignity, and independence for this vulnerable population.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

**The Bridge Ministry, Inc.**

The Bridge Program and Training Facility

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$92,000**

**Recommendation: \$44,160**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Bridge Program and Training Facility works in Central Virginia to transform the lives of troubled men and their families by providing behavioral and mental health services, vocational skills and training, education, and the relationships they need to bridge the gap from addiction to productive community and family life.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If the Bridge does not receive the funding, the Bridge will not be able to serve as many individuals and families from this area. The Bridge costs \$46,000 per student for the program. This cost includes room and board, behavioral and mental health services, vocational training and professional certification courses, educational classes, financial literacy and budgeting classes, counseling, and job placement services as well as clothing and hygiene items. Students do not pay anything toward their tuition leaving the Bridge to raise all funds for each student. The request of \$92,000 will cover the costs for two students to complete the program. With this funding, the Bridge will commit to raising the funds for ten additional students from this area, allowing the funds to have six times the impact for the community.

The Bridge wants to provide a high-quality program for each student, despite the fact that they, nor their families, do not pay anything toward their time in the program. Therefore, we will not decrease the number or quality of services that they receive in the program if we do not receive the full funding, but we may have to decrease the number of clients that we work with from Charlottesville if we are not able to secure additional new grant funds.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The BUCK Squad/Central Virginia Violence Interrupters Charlottesville Violence Interruption

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$96,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Central Virginia Violence Interrupters/The BUCK Squad (CVVI/TBS) strives to reduce the cycle of gun related crimes by implementing a community-led violence-intervention program that provides crisis management assistance through conflict meditation, mentorship, and economic development.

Continued on VCF Application Attachment 6-30-2027

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

CVVI/TBS is committed to reducing gun violence in the City of Charlottesville and believes that this cause and the lives of the people in our community benefit from our trained mediators. CVVI/TBS continues to write for Federal, state, and local support for this very important cause and wants to expand this crucial program into additional areas in Charlottesville that have recent escalation of gun-violence or recent gun-related deaths. CVVI/TBS applied for and received five grants (totaling \$369,000) from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services over 2022-2026. The VDCJS recently performed a performance review of their most recent grant award. The attached letter stated that they were impressed by your program's efforts and commend your dedication to addressing gun violence in Charlottesville for youth and adults. At this time, there are no concerns identified that need to be addressed by your organization.

Residents in these areas continue to request the intervention of our mediators in their high violence areas; however, CVVI/TBS requires the funding to support and train interrupter mediators for these areas where violence has recently escalated. The funds requested would allow for our current program to have full-time support for the Greenstone/Prospect Avenue areas and to begin to expand to additional areas in the Charlottesville Community. These funds would enable our violence interrupters to earn a meaningful living wage as a full-time violence interrupter rather than hold 2-3 additional jobs. These funds would make a significant impact on not only the greater community but on our violence interrupters who could then better focus on affecting change in their community by fully focusing their work efforts on violence mediation.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Fountain Fund

Increasing Economic Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated People and Their Families in Charlottesville

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$50,000**

**Recommendation: \$45,500**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Fountain Fund increases economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people to improve their lives and remain in their community. We provide formerly incarcerated Charlottesville residents with low-interest loans and financial coaching, helping them build credit and achieve their self-determined goals. We envision hope and opportunity for all formerly incarcerated people and their families

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The Fountain Fund raises funding for its Charlottesville-based operations and programmatic activities from a combination of institutional, public, and individual sources. We have cultivated a strong network of individual donors in the Charlottesville region, and continue to strengthen our long-term sustainability by broadening support among institutional and public funding sources.

If we do not receive funding from the City of Charlottesville, The Fountain Fund will have fewer resources and less staff capacity to receive referrals, develop trust with formerly incarcerated borrowers, and underwrite loans in a hands-on manner that is tailored to this high-need group. This will result in fewer loans being processed and extended in FY27. Furthermore, with less staff time available to build and steward trust developed with Client Partners, the loan repayment rate will fall, because it is the hands-on stewardship over time that contributes greatly to their successful repayment and goal accomplishment.

The Fountain Fund is the only organization in Charlottesville addressing the particular challenges formerly incarcerated people face in accessing capital and establishing credit. There are numerous agencies across the Commonwealth providing reentry services. However, no other organization tailors personal and business lending to support the self-determined goals of formerly incarcerated people, customizing financial coaching to their challenges in accessing capital and establishing and/or building credit. The Fountain Fund greatly appreciates the City of Charlottesville's consideration of this request, so we can continue addressing this vital community need.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Free Book Bus

Everyone on the Bus!

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$7,000**

**Recommendation: \$6,370**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Free Book Bus would use funds to sustain and expand our community impact by diversifying and restocking our book selection; covering essential operational costs (bus repairs, fuel); and purchasing art and school supplies for guests. We would also use funds for personal care items, like deodorant and hair bonnets, which we give out at higher-need stops such as shelters and public housing.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The Free Book Bus is a sustainable, community-driven nonprofit with a strong track record of success. Our organization operates with very low overhead, maximizing donor contributions for direct impact. We have two paid employees and no commercial rent expenses, as we are a mobile organization currently based out of the director's basement. While this keeps costs low, one of our long-term priorities is securing a dedicated commercial space to accommodate volunteers, increase storage capacity, and improve operational efficiency.

We have a clear strategic vision, guided by our board of directors, who meet quarterly to discuss fundraising goals, grant status, and both short- and long-term planning. Our financial sustainability is strengthened by a mix of funding sources, including individual donations, foundation grants, and corporate support. We continue to diversify our funding base to ensure long-term stability. We are grateful to have strong support from community members: last fiscal year, donations from individuals totaled \$25,978.

Our growth plan focuses on expanding outreach in under-served areas, increasing the number of books and essential supplies distributed, and strengthening partnerships with local organizations. We are actively seeking other grants and funding, and do not rely on any one source to fulfill our mission. When we write our grants, we ask for funding to support general operations, books, art supplies, and program expenditures, so that we have stable funding for these three areas. This funding approach keeps our outreach sustainable.

If we do not receive funding from the Vibrant Community grant, which is not serving as a matching grant, we would not decrease staffing. What would be affected is our ability to provide the most in-demand books that children request at our regular Charlottesville stops, and potentially our frequency of stops in

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

the city. With less funding, the options on both our bookshelves and our hygiene shelf would be more limited. We have already seen pricing on these things increase due to current tariff and shipping instability. Grant funding would allow us to continue providing the books, art/school supplies, and hygiene products that our guests love.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Front Porch Cville

### The Front Porch - General Operating Funding

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$30,000**

**Recommendation: \$14,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

TFP is an essential part of our community's cultural landscape. We respectfully request general operating support to sustain and expand our impact. Funding would support 1) a vibrant music school that reaches 650+ students each week, 2) outreach programs that bring music to 850+ community members each week, 3) stable employment for 33+ musicians, and 4) community events that reach thousands.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

TFP is respectfully requesting a \$30,000 general operating grant from the Vibrant Community Fund to support programming in TFP's 2026-27 fiscal year. All of TFP's programming—outreach, concerts, and classes—has grown immensely over the years and now reaches thousands of community members. The administrative burden of a larger reach grows, but TFP's full-time staff of 6 hasn't grown proportionally in response. As costs rise, TFP is working hard to find new ways to unlock operating funds to grow our team and programs in a sustainable way while maintaining a presence in Downtown Charlottesville.

TFP relies on revenue from concert tickets and classes as well as grants from family foundations and government entities, private donations, and partner contributions. Tuition to our music school accounts for 44% of our revenue; grants and donations for 29%; and concert tickets for 11%.

However, the vast majority of class and concert revenue is returned to music teachers and performing artists. We pay teaching artists high wages of \$50-75/hour to honor their skill and commitment, and we keep their rates even with the price of tuition; as our student body has grown, we've been able to pay teachers more. Concerts would not break even without grant and sponsorship support. Renting and maintaining two spaces in Downtown Charlottesville costs ~\$150,000/ year and expenses are rising.

Despite rising costs, TFP remains financially strong. Excess income from classes, concerts, camps, and general operating grants support Roots & Wings. Roots & Wings now has a budget of nearly \$200,000, entirely dependent on the income from classes, concerts, camps, and grants.

A general operating grant can help boost all of these income streams. It can also help TFP pursue and unlock more programmatic funds, like from the National Endowment for the Arts: the NEA awarded TFP

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

prestigious “Grant for Arts Projects” for this year’s Roots & Wings programming.

A grant will also help us fill gaps in partially-funded initiatives that TFP wants to pursue: accessibility projects, diversification of class offerings, and research and implementation of pay-what-you-can programming. It will help TFP continue to give artists a means of calling this area home. And it will allow us to continue to open our space for other local arts agencies (e.g., TomTom, the Saturday Morning Community Drum Group, Swing C’ville, C’ville Jazz Society, etc.). We are only able to remain a community hub for the arts centered in Downtown Charlottesville thanks to support like yours.

In many ways, the more funding we receive, the more we are able to accomplish. If we do not receive any funding, it is possible we will not be able to continue certain aspects of our programming without discovering other funding avenues. Our success relies on all of the pieces coming together.

This is not a matching grant.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Love No Ego Foundation

Love No Ego Courage to Be You, Youth Mentoring Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$30,000**

**Recommendation: \$6,750**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Funding will support our Courage to Be Youth, Youth Mentoring Program, which provides 1-1 and group mentoring to youth ages 10-18. Rooted in our Four Pillars of Spirituality, Exercise, Education, and Community, we apply trauma-informed care principles, eco-healing and nature-based programming, and restorative practices that produces positive decision-making and healthy behavior patterns

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If LNE does not receive any or all of the funds requested, we will continue to seek out other funding opportunities that will help us continue our programming. These other opportunities include Bama Works Grant and Twice is Nice Grant, both with/via The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. We also have grants pending with Walmart Spark Good Grants.

We plan to apply to Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge and First National Bank in/for FY2027. We still have our partnership with Wegmans in which LNE is granted a monetary donation every January and have 2-3 events supported by Wegmans throughout the year.

We don't believe that services or staffing would decrease due to funding. Our model works this way: Our Love...No Ego, Courage to Be You, Youth Mentoring Program is free to families and youth of the local community and Central Virginia area that we serve. Our partnerships with the multiple Departments of Social Services and The Department of Juvenile Justice are paid contracts to LNE for a designated number of mentoring sessions for a designated extended period of time. It's usually per 6 months. Therefore, these sessions are covered financially. For other kids of the local community and Central Virginia area who enroll, they are supported by these grants including VCF.

Individual donations, fundraisers, and donations from other businesses, organizations, and clubs also help to continue our programming. One example of this is Albemarle County Rotary Club, who's supported LNE the last two years by awarding us their community grant (2023), and then again (2024) by making LNE the beneficiary of their Pickleball Tournament and Fundraiser.

This request is not serving as a match for other grants.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Paramount Theater

The Paramount Theater of Charlottesville, Inc

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$48,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

With a mission to educate, enchant, enrich, and enlighten, The Paramount is committed to fostering a community where the arts are accessible, inclusive, and transformative. Funds will support performances, educational outreach, and community programming – energizing downtown Cville, boosting local commerce, and ensuring arts and culture remain central to our city’s economic and civic vibrancy.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

A loss of requested funding would significantly affect The Paramount Theater’s programming, services, and community outreach. The current fundraising climate is increasingly unpredictable, with shifts in funding sources and program availability. The Paramount is proactively strengthening City partnerships and diversifying support to sustain its mission and continue serving the community. Without full support, the Theater would explore additional funding opportunities while carefully prioritizing programs to maintain quality, accessibility, and community impact. Unlike previous grants focused on specific programs, this request emphasizes the Theater’s broader role in the Downtown community’s health, safety, and vibrancy.

Funding shortfalls would directly affect the quantity, but not quality of programs. For example, the Arts Education Program might drop from 10–12 shows to 8, and student participation could fall from 12,000–15,000 to 8,000–10,000 students. Limiting fully subsidized tickets would reduce equitable access to arts education, while raising ticket prices would create barriers for families and conflict with our core value of accessibility.

Reductions would extend beyond Arts Education. Family programming, community events, and outreach initiatives could be scaled back in number, scope, or quality, reducing engagement with the Downtown Mall community and limiting economic and cultural benefits. The Theater’s role as a cultural and economic anchor would be weakened, impacting downtown foot traffic, nearby businesses, and local employment.

Partial funding could also affect staffing, professional development, and operational resources, compromising the delivery of high-quality performances, curriculum-integrated education, and long-

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

term partnerships. The Vibrant Community Fund also serves as validation for other grants; without it, additional support could be more difficult to secure.

The Paramount plays a critical role in community safety and cohesion. Arts-rich neighborhoods rank among the safest, and participation in arts is linked to lower rates of violent crime (Americans for the Arts). By offering welcoming, well-attended events in a central downtown location, the Theater provides a safe space for families, students, and community members, countering perceptions of danger and reinforcing community vibrancy.

In short, not receiving full funding would force difficult trade-offs, risking reductions in programming, access, and community impact. Full funding ensures The Paramount can maintain high-quality arts education, inclusive programming, community safety, and downtown economic vitality, fulfilling its mission to serve all residents of Charlottesville.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## **The Uhuru Foundation**

Transformative Futures: Reentry & Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$54,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Uhuru Foundation seeks \$200,000 to support the Transformative Futures: Reentry & Gun Violence Prevention Initiative, serving justice-involved youth and adults in Charlottesville City. Funds support mentoring, workforce readiness, and violence prevention delivered inside Blue Ridge Detention and at Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority sites.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If the program is not fully funded, The Uhuru Foundation will operate at reduced capacity—limiting enrollment at BRJD and CRHA sites and scaling back workforce training phases. Behavioral health access and mentor stipends would also be reduced. Uhuru would seek supplemental support from local foundations and corporate partners to sustain continuity. Full funding ensures comprehensive delivery of the evidence-based model that bridges justice intervention, mentorship, and employment across Charlottesville City.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## The Women's Initiative

### Mental Health Counseling Program

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$44,000**

**Recommendation: \$21,120**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

TWI's Mental Health Counseling Program provides underserved individuals with evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally responsive mental health care. Services include individual counseling, group psychotherapy and affinity-based healing programs for Black, Latinx, People of Color, LGBTQ+, people with refugee status, and cisgender women. Services are free and available in English and Spanish.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

City funding is essential to our standing as an important community partner. We rely on this funding to sustain programming and solicit additional support. Below we highlight our goals to grow program impact and that will not be possible without stable funding. Should TWI not receive any or all of the funds requested, we will do our best to fund this program through continued outreach to local philanthropists, corporations, foundations and grant makers who believe in the power of our mission to save lives. Our agency operates with six months' financial reserves in long-term savings to ensure that we can continue providing services to our clients even in the face of adversity. TWI believes that a diverse funding portfolio is critical to long-term sustainability. We have worked diligently over the years to sustain a diverse fundraising portfolio. In 2024, approximately 57% of our revenue came from the generosity of individuals who support our mission, 28% from state and local grant funding agencies, 9% from fundraising events, and the remaining 6% came from corporate gifts. We continue to prioritize this diverse funding strategy and strengthen our stewardship and cultivation to current and potential donors. TWI continues to strive to increase support from corporate donors as well as opportunities for other grant support.

TWI's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan focuses on meeting community mental health challenges with primary attention to our affinity programs for marginalized communities to address the unmet need for mental health services. Our goals for each program are outlined below:

- Sister Circle aims to meet the needs of women from across the African diaspora, recognizing the unique mental health challenges and trauma created by anti-Black racism and systemic oppression of Black and Indigenous people of color.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

- Bienestar provides counseling and psychoeducational services for Latina women with free call-in/walk-in clinics in Spanish.
- Mosaic provides counseling, support groups, outreach and education for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Participation continues to grow significantly.

Our strategic expansion requires a substantial financial investment of new dollars during this period. A grant from the City of Charlottesville will help us to sustain the increase in clinical staff for these and other programs and ensure that TWI's free mental health services can continue to be available for marginalized individuals in our community, regardless of their financial circumstances. Most especially, support from the City will help propel our vision forward by leveraging investments from other donors and foundations and showing local community engagement.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## United Way of Greater Charlottesville

Prosper, Pathways to Prosperity, formerly FRTF FIP 2.0

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$31,500**

**Recommendation: \$15,120**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Prosper is a collaborative effort to close the wealth gap by addressing systemic barriers faced by underrepresented families of color. Funds provide direct financial support for access to financial services, certifications, training, coaching, and budgeting to build long-term financial resilience.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If UWGC does not receive any or all of the funds requested, the program will continue its work, but at a reduced scale. This would likely result in fewer families being served, a slower program expansion timeline, and a decreased capacity for data tracking and evaluation, which are essential for measuring long-term outcomes and advocating for additional investment.

Currently, each family enrolled receives up to \$2,500 in financial support, paired with financial coaching, budgeting assistance, debt-to-income analysis, and credit counseling, all designed to strengthen long-term financial resilience. Without sufficient funding, UWGC may have to reduce the number of families who can access these services. For example, a \$10,000 funding gap could mean serving four fewer families in the program year, assuming the full level of service and support per household.

Importantly, this funding request is not a match for another specific grant at this time, but it is a critical part of UWGC's broader strategy to diversify and strengthen the funding base for Prosper. If full funding is not secured through this request, UWGC will continue to pursue other sources, including private philanthropy, foundation grants, and corporate partnerships. Our multi-year resource development plan has proven effective to date, with a 20% increase in private giving in FY22 and an additional 7% increase in FY23. These gains reflect growing donor confidence and provide a strong foundation for ongoing fundraising.

However, raising unrestricted or program-specific funds remains competitive and resource-intensive. A fully funded request would allow staff to shift time and attention toward building sustainable partnerships and expanding outreach, rather than filling immediate funding gaps. Conversely, a shortfall in funding may require staff to focus more heavily on short-term fundraising, limiting their capacity to serve families and deepen impact.

## **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

In the absence of full funding, UWGC will prioritize maintaining service quality for currently enrolled families, even if that means delaying program growth or pausing new enrollments. This approach ensures that families who do participate receive meaningful, high-impact support that improves their financial well-being and long-term economic prospects.

Ultimately, while UWGC is committed to sustaining the Prosper program regardless of this funding outcome, full support would accelerate our ability to reach more families, demonstrate impact through data, and drive community-wide progress toward economic equity.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment

VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment - Adult Services

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$27,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment (VIA) requests \$100,000 from the City to support our Adult Services Program, including day services, employment services, and behavioral consultations. Our Charlottesville program helps participants with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related neurodevelopmental disabilities live, work, and engage in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

VIA's nearly 30-year history of steady growth has been built on a foundation of fiscal responsibility. The organization is currently in a strong financial position, operating at a surplus across the organization. Our school services consistently generate revenues exceeding their operating expenses, contributing to VIA's overall financial stability. VIA's diversified revenue streams include local school divisions, Medicaid waivers, insurance reimbursements, and fundraising efforts. We also maintain a modest endowment that, as it continues to grow, will help sustain programs and services well into the future. State funding has likewise remained a significant and reliable source of revenue.

Despite this strength, Medicaid waivers supporting adult services cover only a small portion of the program's true costs, leaving a gap that requires additional funding to maintain quality and reach. Additionally, the current political climate poses a growing threat to Medicaid stability, leaving adult programs like ours particularly vulnerable. To address this, VIA's advancement team is dedicated to cultivating relationships with individual donors and organizational funders through strategic outreach, stewardship, grant writing, and fundraising events — efforts specifically focused on sustaining and expanding our adult services program. Our valued corporate and foundation supporters have included the Alert Giving Fund, Bama Works Fund, Cox Charities, J&E Berkley Foundation, Perrigo Charitable Foundation, and Sentara Cares.

Funding from the City of Charlottesville will allow VIA to continue meeting the needs of the adults we serve while also planning for future growth. One key initiative on the horizon is an expansion into residential services, which would provide safe, semi-independent housing for individuals who might otherwise face psychiatric institutionalization or homelessness.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment

### VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment - School Services

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$100,000**

**Recommendation: \$48,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment (VIA) requests \$100,000 from the City to support our School Services Program. The program utilizes comprehensive, evidence based teaching and clinical practices to foster greater independence and connection for 92 students with autism or related neurodevelopmental disabilities in our community.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

VIA's nearly 30-year track record of steady growth has been driven by a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. Today, our financial standing is robust, with the organization consistently operating at a surplus. Our school services reliably generate revenues that exceed their operating costs, supporting the overall financial health of VIA. We benefit from a diverse mix of revenue sources, including CSA funding, Medicaid waivers, insurance reimbursements, and fundraising initiatives. Additionally, we maintain a modest endowment that, as it grows, will continue to support our programs and services into the future. State funding has also consistently played a significant role in our revenue portfolio.

To meet our ongoing needs, VIA's advancement team is dedicated to building strong relationships with both individual and organizational donors through outreach, stewardship, grant writing, and fundraising events. A selection of past and current corporate and foundation supporters includes the Al Stroobants Foundation, Bama Works Fund, Sentara Cares, Carilion Clinic, and the Kenan Charitable Trust.

Additional funding—such as the support requested from the City—will not only enable us to meet the needs of our current students, but also help us plan for future growth. This includes the expansion of our day school in Charlottesville, with a new facility scheduled to open in 2026. The expanded school will be nearly twice the size of our existing building, allowing us to serve more students and families by providing high-quality education and support to a minimum of 80 students with ASD or related neurodevelopmental disabilities, with the capacity to grow to 100 students.

The new building will also include a state-of-the-art Intensive Neurobehavioral Classroom (INC), designed to deliver in-depth behavioral assessment and treatment services for students whose behaviors pose an immediate risk to themselves or others, or significantly interfere with their education. This specialized classroom will serve students who might otherwise require placement in inpatient

# **Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report**

residential facilities—options that are limited in our region, often resulting in students being displaced far from their families.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Virginia Discovery Museum

### Virginia Discovery Museum General Operating Support

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$40,000**

**Recommendation: \$36,400**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

For 44 years, the Virginia Discovery Museum has provided families with educational opportunities and a safe environment in which to learn. With nearly 60,000 visitors a year from 40 plus states, the museum is a key driver of the Downtown Charlottesville economy.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

The funding the Virginia Discovery Museum receives from the City of Charlottesville falls in the category of what the museum considers a "key funder" and is critical to the museum's ability to continue to operate and to offer the Sponsored Admission Program through which over 10,000 visitors come to the museum free of charge from referrals from 64 community partner agencies. Since the pandemic, the museum has seen demand for the Sponsored Admission Program grow from 10% of overall museum admissions to a record high 18% of overall admissions last year. This is a direct reflection of the economic uncertainty faced by many families in our community, as well as the high cost of living and limited inventory of affordable housing.

For FY 2026, the museum's operating budget is \$756,290, so the \$40,000 in funding the museum is requesting from the City will cover only a portion of the museum's overhead expenses. Operating a large physical space that is open to the public 9:30am-5:00pm, 6 days and week (as well as being open Sundays for birthday parties) as well as many school holidays comes at a large expense, and requires that the museum secures additional funding from foundations, individual donors and local businesses. Like funding from the City, the private philanthropy for which the museum applies is often application-based and funding can change year to year, depending on donors' financial capacity and funding areas of interest. The Virginia Discovery Museum hopes that it presents a worthy case for increasing its funding from the City of Charlottesville based not only on how the museum supports City of Charlottesville Education and Youth Development, but also Charlottesville's Arts & Cultural landscape, as well as economic development and the long term financial health of the many businesses on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. The museum is unique in its support of so many key objectives of the City Council.

Should the Virginia Discovery Museum not receive the \$40,000 in funding it has requested from the City as a key funder, it is possible that the museum may need to evaluate the long term financial implications of offering 100% free admission to visitors who are referred to the Sponsored Admission Program.

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Nationwide, other children's museums have begun to move away from 100% free admission programs for underserved community members, and have opted to participate instead in programs such as "Museums for All" where visitors pay a discounted admission rate. The feedback from the museum's Sponsored Admission Partner organizations is that paying even 50% of regular admission would be too big a financial burden for many underserved families in our community, so it is the museum's hope that we can rely on key funders to keep this important program available.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## Wartime Fitness Warriors

Wartime Fitness Warriors Fund

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$200,000**

**Recommendation: \$54,000**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

The Wartime Fitness Warriors Fund will support at-risk youth in the Charlottesville area by providing access to specialized programming designed to enhance their educational, mental, physical, and emotional well-being. This initiative will serve as a safe haven where participants are introduced to physical fitness while receiving comprehensive support helping them achieve their goals.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Wartime Fitness Warriors is not awarded this grant, the organization will continue its efforts to secure sponsorships from both local and national foundations. The board remains committed to engaging community connections and stakeholders to identify alternative sources of funding. In the meantime, the program will strive to maintain a safe, structured, and empowering environment where CSA-certified mentors can support mentees in achieving personal and academic success.

However, without grant funding, the scope and quality of services provided to underserved youth will be significantly reduced. The program would face limitations in staffing, educational programming, access to healthy snacks and nutrition education, reliable transportation, modern equipment such as computers, and resources for travel, including hotel stays for out-of-area events. Without this support, Wartime Fitness Warriors would only be able to offer a minimal level of service which is far below what our at-risk and underserved youth need and deserve.

If awarded this grant, Wartime Fitness Warriors will expand its reach by offering scholarship opportunities to more youth, ensuring access regardless of financial ability. The program will continue to deliver holistic, wraparound services including mentorship, physical fitness, and educational support geared toward long-term growth and community engagement. Youth currently enrolled in the program will continue their journey, and as they progress, additional slots will become available to serve more at-risk and underserved individuals.

This year alone, Wartime Fitness Warriors have served over 50 youth through scholarships. Some participants have engaged on a one-time basis, while others attend regularly. The impact has been profound: several youths have moved from involvement with the criminal justice system and substance misuse to entering recovery, excelling in school, graduating and becoming active, positive members of their communities. The program also fosters family involvement as parents are sometimes invited to train alongside their children at the boxing gym, while others show consistent commitment by bringing their youth to sessions and collaborating with staff to reinforce accountability and progress.

# Vibrant Community Fund FY27 Report

## **Wildrock Inc.**

Wildrock Programs during Out of School Time

**Amount requested from City of Charlottesville: \$9,300**

**Recommendation: \$4,464**

**Provide a description of the scope of work in 400 characters or less. Please be as specific as possible as to what these funds would be supporting.**

Wildrock welcomes City students with priority given to those recommended by school mental health professionals and teachers, to provide high-quality, nature-focused programs during the summer and/or after school. Wildrock partners with City Schools year-round to encourage equitable access to nature programs which incorporate social, emotional skills as well as environmental science objectives.

**Describe what the program will do if it does not receive any or all of the funds requested. Be as specific as possible.**

If Wildrock does not receive the requested funds, there will be a reduction in the number of weeks of camp and/or after-school programming that can be offered to Charlottesville City students. Without further support, Wildrock would be unable to offer as many weeks of camp or provide consistent after-school care, both of which are critical needs for low-wealth families and students with limited options. Staffing levels would also be affected, as maintaining the current high staff-to-child ratios, which are crucial for supporting neurodivergent campers, requires sufficient funding.

While this request is not serving as a match for other grants, securing funding from Vibrant Communities would directly increase Wildrock's capacity to meet the needs of underserved children in the City. If all or part of the requested funds are not awarded, Wildrock will continue to seek additional sources of funding, but service reductions may be necessary depending on the success of those efforts.