



County of Albemarle ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

To: Albemarle County Economic Development Authority

From: Emily Kilroy, Director of Economic Development

Date: March 11, 2026

Regarding: ENVISION Enterprise Grant Funding

The ENVISION Enterprise Grant is a partnership between the United Way of Greater Charlottesville, the City of Charlottesville, and Albemarle County, launched in Fiscal Year 2023. This grant is designed to support those small businesses that have achieved financial stability and now may be in a position to utilize the grant funds to expand via employment, service, or product expansion or undertake planning for future expansion but, due to having been socially disadvantaged, the primary owner could use the financial assistance to accomplish the work, and/or gain improved access to the financial capital required to do the work. Successful applicants will be awarded \$10,000.

The ENVISION Enterprise Grant launched with a \$100,000 commitment from each partner organization. Since the program's launch, there have been three grant cycles, awarding \$260,000 in total to 25 businesses to grow or expand small businesses operating in Charlottesville or Albemarle. Recipient companies have been in a number of industries, including auto repair, culinary/food, childcare, personal care, and landscaping. In total, the program has helped to grow income by more than \$530,000 and supported 8 new full-time jobs and 9 part-time jobs.

Proposed Investment: \$25,000

The original funds provided by the partners are nearly depleted and the United Way of Greater Charlottesville is eager to offer a fourth round of the program in partnership with Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville. The partners are interested in supporting the program with an additional \$25,000 each in FY26, creating a balance of \$100,000 for the FY26 funding round (\$25,000 in remaining program fund balance, plus \$25,000 from each partner). If approved by the Albemarle County Economic Development Authority, the source of funds would be the Economic Development Opportunity Fund.

Alignment & Recommendation:

Due to the direct alignment with the County's Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) Goal 4 ("We will make Albemarle the place where talent and entrepreneurs stay, scale, and succeed"), staff recommends support of this opportunity to match investments by the United Way of Greater Charlottesville and the City of Charlottesville to provide grant funds to scale small businesses.