

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	July 15, 2024
Action Required:	Report
Presenter:	Hunter Smith, Human Services Planner, Misty Graves, Director of Human Services
Staff Contacts:	Misty Graves, Director of Human Services
Title:	Vibrant Community Fund Update

Background

The Vibrant Community Fund panel is tasked by the City of Charlottesville with reviewing community agency program funding requests to the City and providing ratings recommendations to the Charlottesville City Manager and City Council. City staff serve as the grant managers for the Vibrant Community Fund process, including issuing the application, facilitating orientation and training, providing technical assistance to applicant agencies, organizing and staffing panel meetings, and preparing the final report. City Council makes the final budget approvals.

Discussion

Honoring the practice of continuous process improvement, the Vibrant Community Fund staff intends to incorporate upgrades to implementation, communication and training for the FY 26 budget cycle. This report serves as an opportunity to engage the Council and also to inform community members regarding the Vibrant Community Fund. This report will include an overview of the Vibrant Community Fund process and discuss upcoming changes for consideration. Orientations for potential applicants will take place in August and the application will launch in early September.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The Vibrant Community Fund strives to make granting experiences equitable and inclusive, which aligns with the City's vision that includes a commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Additionally, the applications considered through the Vibrant Community Fund process supports the strategic priorities of public safety, education, economic prosperity, recreation, and arts, and culture.

Community Engagement

For the FY 25 cycle, the City received 45 applications for operational funding and 21 applications from Arts and Cultural organizations. Staff also held feedback sessions after the FY 25 budget with applicants and review team members to continue to incorporate input to inform any improvements or changes.

Budgetary Impact

Historically, the budget for the Vibrant Community Fund has been approximately 2 million dollars.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Council's continued support of the Vibrant Community Fund process for FY 26.

Alternatives

If the V.C.F is not implemented or funded, then non-profit organizations may not be able to fulfill their mission due to lack of City funding. This may be detrimental to the overall well-being of City residents.

Attachments

None