

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



Agenda Date:	November 4, 2024
Action Required:	Appropriation of Grant Funds
Presenter:	Chris Engel, Director of Economic Development
Staff Contacts:	Jenny Biche
Title:	Virginia Department of Social Services (V.D.S.S.) Temporary Aid to Needy Families (T.A.N.F.) Grants – \$69,312.67 (1 of 2 readings)

Background

Over the past several years, the City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Economic Development (OED), has been receiving matching grants from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) in order to provide workforce development training, business development training and supportive services to individuals residing in the City of Charlottesville living at or below 200% poverty. For fiscal year FY25 the following grant has been awarded:

1. VDSS Employment Advancement for TANF Participants Grant (BEN-24-060) – a \$69,312.67 grant awarded in 2024 for additional workforce development training programs

The grant is set up on a reimbursable basis and there is a required match of \$23,104.22 that is in-kind and will be sourced from WFD Program Manager's salary spent on overseeing and implementing the training programs.

Discussion

These grant funds go to support OED's ongoing workforce development training programs. Specifically, in FY25 the grant will fund the GO Cook, GO Solar, GO Facility Maintenance and a GO Healthcare initiative to be developed during the grant year. The GO Cook program, which trains individuals in the culinary arts and prepares them for careers in local food and hospitality establishments, will be supported. GO Cook has been run 18 times, resulting in 93 individuals being trained and assisted with job placement. GO Solar trains individuals to be North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners Photovoltaic (NABCEP PV) Associate certified for a career in residential solar installation. It has completed 2 cohorts so far, resulting in 18 individuals trained and assisted with job placement. GO Facility Maintenance trains individuals to earn their Certificate for Apartment Maintenance Technician (CAMT -1) for a career in property maintenance. It will launch its first cohort this Spring and is estimated to train 8-10 individuals each cohort who will be assisted with job placement upon graduation. GO Facility Maintenance is planned to be offered twice a year. Finally, a GO Healthcare initiative will be developed to train individuals to receive a nationally recognized certification in the healthcare field. It is anticipated that the first cohort will be hosted in the Spring with an estimated 8-10 individuals trained and assisted with job placement upon graduation.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This effort supports City Council's Economic Prosperity strategic outcome and aligns with the Office of Economic Development's Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, specifically the Pathways for Opportunity goal.

Community Engagement

OED engages a variety of partners in delivering the City's workforce development services and its employment training programs. These programs are supported by numerous community agencies and organizations and include Albemarle County, Piedmont Virginia Community College, Virginia Career Works, CATEC, Downtown Job Center and employer partners.

Budgetary Impact

There is no impact to the general Fund. All funds will be budgeted and expensed in the Grants Fund.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds.

Alternatives

If grant funds are not appropriated, more local dollars will have to be used for training or fewer low-income, underemployed City residents will be able to be trained.

Attachments

1. OED VDSS TANF Grant Appropriation Resolution (rev) 11.04.24 4856-2630-8852 v.1