

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



<b>Agenda Date:</b>	June 2, 2025
<b>Action Required:</b>	Approval or Rejection of the Resolution to appropriate grant dollars for use.
<b>Presenter:</b>	Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager
<b>Staff Contacts:</b>	Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Resolution to appropriate \$15,000 from NLC Southern Cities Economic Initiative Program to use for project planning (2nd reading)</b>

**Background**

National League of Cities (NLC) has competitively selected 20 cities to participate in the Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI), including the City of Charlottesville (see <https://www.nlc.org/post/2025/04/24/national-league-of-cities-selects-20-southern-communities-to-participate-in-economic-resiliency-cohort/>). This three-year initiative will provide grant funding and assistance to the Office of Social Equity to boost economic mobility for residents and drive long-term economic growth in our communities by focusing on the needed expansion of safe, quality childcare for our littlest residents.

**Discussion**

The City of Charlottesville's Office of Social Equity has been selected to participate in the Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI), a program led by the National League of Cities in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Charlottesville will receive a \$15,000 grant from NLC, funded by SCEI's philanthropic partners, and will join 19 other cities from across the Southern United States to develop strategies that boost economic mobility for residents and drive long-term economic growth. The City's proposal focuses on economic mobility from two lenses: career opportunities and the need for supportive services for working adults, as well as childcare and the early education opportunities it provides. The Office of Social Equity is proud to partner with United Way Greater Charlottesville and its Blue Ridge Ready Regions division to plan a project that may increase workforce training and early childhood education in our community.

SCEI programming includes tailored technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, access to data and experts from the Federal Reserve Bank, as well as connections to national funders and assistance to leverage longer-term funding, including an opportunity to apply for additional NLC grants of up to \$60,000 and deeper assistance with strategy implementation. Other cities selected to participate in the initiative include Atlanta, Ga.; Canton, Ga.; Center Point, Ala.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Greenville, Miss.; Harrisonburg, Va.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Jackson, Miss.; Jonesboro, Ga.; Lauderhill, Fla.; Little Rock, Ark.; Monroe, La.; Morrisville, N.C.; Nashville, Tenn.; Natchitoches, La.; New Orleans, La.; Pensacola, Fla.;

Sunflower County, Miss.; and Thomasville, N.C. SCEI's initial planning phase will run through October 31, 2025. Upon completing the initial planning phase, participating cities will have the opportunity to advance to a more intensive implementation phase, which will extend through December 2027.

### **Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

This project aligns with the City's vision and its strategic goal of Economic Prosperity.

### **Community Engagement**

The proposed project is in direct response to data provided by Ready Regions Blue Ridge (<https://readyregionblueridge.org/>) that shows a need for additional safe and affordable early childhood education slots in the City of Charlottesville through both high quality child care centers and family day homes. Their data is available on their website at: <https://readyregionblueridge.org/data/>

### **Budgetary Impact**

None as the planning phase is grant-funded through NLC SCEI.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council appropriate the grant funds provided by NLC to engage in this planning project.

### **Alternatives**

The Council could reject appropriating the funds, and the City would then return the allocation and end participation in the NLC SCEI.

### **Attachments**

1. Resolution To Appropriate National League of Cities SCEI Grant Funds 2025