



**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE**  
**OPERATING & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**  
**BUDGET**  
**ADOPTED FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026**



To be a place where everyone thrives.

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# Budget Work Session

March 13, 2025



# Agenda

1. Vibrant Community Fund (VCF)
2. Housing Operations and Program Support (HOPS)
3. Pathways
4. Fundamental Agencies
5. Intergovernmental Agency Budget Adjustments
6. Off-Cycle Requests
7. Public Hearing Date Change



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

- The FY26 VCF process continued to develop based largely on applicant and reviewer feedback from the FY25 process
- Priority Areas for FY26 were based on the City Council Strategic Plan and included the following categories: Education, Youth and Family; Economic Impact and Jobs and Health and Public Safety. Applicants were able to select up to two of those categories per program. Arts and Cultural Programming were also included in the process. Arts and Cultural Events were moved to a different process.
- Information sessions and Orientations for applicants were offered both in-person and virtually prior to the release date (with recordings available) along with weekly office hours during the open application period
- Orientation for review panel members were held and this year we had a larger number of panel members. The Office of Community Solutions conducted reviews on questions related to financial matters and outcomes.



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

- For FY26, a maximum request of \$200,000 per organization was implemented this year.
- There were a total of 87 applicants for the FY26 process. Seven applications were moved into a different funding process based on the type of application. Those applications have been removed from the total, bringing the number remaining in the VCF pool to 80.
- For FY26, the scoring process was adjusted to generate a single numeric score based on panel and OCS reviews. Questions focused on application and program quality as well as questions related to program feasibility and community impact to generate the numerical score.



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

- As part of the OCS review process, applications were given bonus points for their alignment with the Strategic Outcome Areas. The maximum amount of bonus points an application could receive was ten (10) points, bring the total application score to 110. Strategic Outcome Areas were divided into three (3) tiers based on the City Manager's prior prioritization for his work plan. Points were awarded as follows:
  - Score: 0—Project does not align or indicate alignment with the Strategic Plan Framework
  - Score: 3—Tier 3 Priority: Partnerships, Education, Economic Prosperity, and Recreation, Arts, Culture
  - Score: 6—Tier 2 Priority: Transportation, Climate Action, and Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)
  - Score: 10 --Tier 1 Priority: Affordable Housing (to include projects that aim to reduce homelessness), Public Safety, and Organization Excellence



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

<b>Total Request Difference FY25/FY26</b>	
FY25 Total	\$ 3,774,961.00
FY26 Total	\$ 5,180,064.00
FY26/FY25 Difference	\$ 1,405,103.00
<b>Total Applicant Difference FY25/FY26</b>	
FY25 # Applicants in VCF	66
FY26 # Applicants in VCF	80*
FY26 Difference	14



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Number of Programs</b>	<b>Amount per Tier</b>
<b>Tier 1 88%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$ 1,021,122.96</b>
<b>Tier 2 47%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$ 1,128,333.70</b>
<b>Tier 3 25%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$ 124,768.00</b>
<b>Tier 4 0%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>\$ 2,274,224.66</b>



# Vibrant Community Fund FY26

- This year we had 31 community member and staff reviewers, not including the work done by the staff at the Office of Community Solutions. We'd like to sincerely thank those folks for all their time and dedication to this process!

## Questions or Comments?





## City Manager's Recommendations - VCF

- Arts/Culture Proposals shifted from VCF to City Manager's Discretionary Fund
  - WTJU Radio - Black Business Expo [Requested: \$12,000] (VCF Recommendation: \$5,400) [\$5000]
  - UVA - VA Film Festival [Requested: \$15,000] (VCF Recommendation: \$6,750) [\$5000]
  - VA Humanities - VA Festival of the Book [Requested: \$15,000] (VCF Recommendation: \$6,750) [\$5000]
  - Charlottesville Opera - Arts for ALL FestivALL [Requested: \$10,000] (VCF Recommendation: \$2,500) [\$2500]
  - UVA - 2025 Virginia Theatre Festival [Requested: \$10,000] (VCF Recommendation: \$0) [\$2500]
  - VeryAsian VA - VeryAsian VA Celebration Festival [Requested: \$47,500] (VCF Recommendation: \$0) [Questions]



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

## Introduction & Background

- The HOPS program was established in FY24 to separate affordable housing funding from the Vibrant Community Fund (VCF).
- It supports non-profit organizations focused on affordable housing and homelessness prevention.
- Funding is allocated through the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) Committee comprised of assigned city staff and appointed resident volunteers.
- Applications are reviewed and scored based on program quality, community impact, and alignment with city priorities.



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

- A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued in August 2024, with applications due by October 18, 2024.
- 16 applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$1,472,348 in funding.
- \$575,000 was available for granting.
- Applications were assessed using an objective rubric that account for specifically 12 key traits within 3 distinct areas of emphasis :

Program Effectiveness	Organizational Strength	Community Alignment
Program scope & outcomes	Operational capability & efficiency	Understanding target populations
Strategies to address needs	Financial health & sustainability	Demonstrated local housing needs
Use of best practices	Leadership & governance structure	Alignment with city priorities
Performance metrics & evaluation	Partnerships & collaborations	Inclusion of underserved communities
Performance metrics & evaluation	Ability to scale and adapt	Participant role in governance & feedback



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

- City staff ensures **complete submissions** and verifies that applicants meet eligibility (e.g., nonprofit status, alignment with affordable housing goals, and serving low- to moderate-income residents).
- Incomplete or late applications **are not considered**.
- **Initial Review & Grouping**
- **CAHF Committee Groups Applications into Categories:**
  - **Group A:** Ready for full review and scoring.
  - **Group B:** Requires additional clarification or minor revisions.
  - **Group C:** Ineligible or incomplete applications.
- **Applications in Group A & B proceed to scoring on a 0-105-point scale.**



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

- **Evaluation considers 23 factors across seven key areas:**
  - **Program Need** – Local impact & addresses housing service gaps.
  - **Program Strategies** – Evidence-based approach & feasibility.
  - **Program Outcomes** – Defined success metrics & measurement plan.
  - **Collaboration** – Partnerships & reducing duplication.
  - **Program Capacity** – Administrative, financial, and personnel readiness.
  - **Budget Justification** – Cost efficiency & alignment with objectives.
  - **Equity & Inclusion** – Engaging underserved populations.
- **Funding Recommendations & Approval:** *Top-ranked applications move forward based on score, and funding availability; committee submits award level options to council, staff presents CAHF supported funding options to council, no funding is guaranteed or finalized until council approval.*



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

Committee Funding Recommendations cover 15% to 73% of requested amounts:

Organization	Program	Requested	Recommended
The Haven	Day Shelter Program	\$110,000	\$80,825
The Haven	Vital Housing Services	\$150,000	\$108,825
PACEM	Case Management	\$100,000	\$50,000
Habitat for Humanity	Homeownership Program	\$75,000	\$52,500
BRACH	Homeless System Coordination	\$55,000	\$27,500
PHAR	Leadership Development & Civic Engagement	\$93,000	\$13,950
AHIP	System of Care	\$150,000	\$22,500
Community Services Housing	Affordable Housing Development	\$86,848	\$43,424



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

- **Post-Award Requirements**

- Recipients must sign agreements within 3 months of City Council approval.
- Funds must be used within 24 months.
- Quarterly progress reports required on program impact and fund usage.

- **Key Ratios & Takeaways FY24 - 26:**

Year	Apps	Requested	Budgeted	Funded	% Apps Funded	% Covered
FY24	14	Not specified	Not specified	9	64%	Not specified
FY25	14	\$1,717,220	\$588,500	8	57%	34%
FY26	16	\$1,472,348	\$575,000	11	69%	39%

- **Application success rates:** Funding approval varied, dropping to **57% in FY25**, but rebounding to **69% in FY26**.



# Housing Operations & Programs Support FY26

- **Percentage of funding requests covered:** Only 34% of requested funds were covered in FY25, but 39% were covered in FY26, **reflecting a stronger prioritization process despite decreased funds.**
- **Overall trend:** More organizations are applying for funding while the gap between requests and available funds remains significant.

## Questions or Comments?





# City Manager's Recommendations - HOPS

- Removal of Applications Submitted by Fundamental Agencies
  - PHAR - Leadership Development/Civic Engagement
    - Requested: \$93,000
    - HOPS Recommendation: \$13,950
    - **Fundamental Designation: \$68,000**
  - BRACH – Homeless System Coordination
    - Requested: \$55,000
    - HOPS Recommendation: \$27,500
    - **Fundamental Designation: \$250,000**
- **\$41,450 Remaining HOPS Balance for Allocation by Council**



## City Manager's Recommendations - CAHF

- CAHF Recommendations will be presented @ March 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- Committee made two recommendations over amount requested
- Each recommendation reduced \$17,500
- **\$35,000 Remaining HOPS Balance for Allocation by Council**



## City Manager's Recommendations - CDBG

- 10 CDBG Proposals Received Requesting \$742,236
- 3 Proposals Designated Ineligible:
  - \$50,000 CRHA – Eviction Diversion Program [Pathways duplication]
  - \$298,000 CRHA – Dogwood Portfolio Roof Replacements [Portfolio expenditure]
  - \$42,000 PHAR – Resident-Involved Redevelopment [Fundamental designation]
- Removal of 3 proposals permits full awards to remaining 7 proposals
- **\$86,381 Remaining HOPS Balance for Allocation by Council**



# Pathways Fund

- **One Self-Sufficiency Supervisor**
  - 2 – Hotline Navigators
  - 1 – Administrative Support
  - Call Center Software
- **FY 24 Update**
  - \$1,064,703.56 in funding disbursed to meet 1,237 payments.
- **Eligibility Criteria**
  - Low-Moderate Income &/or participate in Federal Programs
  - Rent/Mortgage/Utilities ONLY and must be past-due
  - Up to \$1,000 per request; limit \$2,000 annually; \$5,000 lifetime



# Pathways Fund Continued

- **FY 25 YTD Update**

- One million dollars invested
- Minus Staff & equipment costs
- Direct disbursements = \$700,084.00 facilitated by a partnership with United Way
- \$501,977 already disbursed this fiscal year meeting 692 individual payments.
  - Average 19 payments processed per week. Avg. payment = \$725.40
  - 30% of requests are for utilities; 70% for housing
- Twice requested advance payments and added about \$76,000 in ARPA.

- **FY 26 Considerations**

- Still investing 1 million, plus the difference in staff salary increases for FY 26.
- Same amount for direct disbursements to the United Way = \$700,084.00



# Pathways Fund

- **Possible adjustments for FY 26**
  - Continue with no changes to eligibility and operate until funding is exhausted quarterly.
  - Change capping annual maximums to \$1,000.
  - Consider only covering payments for housing and eliminate utility bills.
  - Change eligibility criteria to prioritize higher levels of need:
    - Seniors
    - Households with Dependent Children
    - Disability

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



# Fundamental Agency Funding

AGENCY	FY25 Adopted	FY26 Submission	\$ change FY25 Adopted to FY26 Submission)	% increase (FY25 Adopted to FY26 Submission)	FY26 Proposed	\$ increase (FY25 Adopted to FY26 Proposed)	% increase (FY25 Adopted to FY26 Proposed)
<b>Fundamental</b>							
Charlottesville Free Clinic	\$ 162,000	\$ 194,400	\$ 32,400	20.00%	\$ 162,000	\$ -	0.00%
Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR)	68,000	83,000	15,000	22.06%	68,000	-	0.00%
Child Health Partnersip	291,720	300,472	8,752	3.00%	295,472	3,752	1.29%
Foothills Child Advocacy Center	99,999	104,999	5,000	5.00%	104,999	5,000	5.00%
<i>Adult Drug Court</i>	\$ 87,718	\$ 96,490	\$ 8,772	10.00%	\$ 94,473	\$ 6,755	7.70%
<i>Criminal Justice Planner</i>	13,238	14,562	1,324	10.00%	14,562	1,324	10.00%
<i>Local Probation</i>	39,987	43,985	3,998	10.00%	43,985	3,998	10.00%
<i>Pretrial Services</i>	64,331	70,764	6,433	10.00%	64,331	-	0.00%
<i>Reentry Services</i>	127,050	117,659	(9,391)	-7.39%	127,050	-	0.00%
<i>Therapeutic Docket</i>	106,963	139,755	32,792	30.66%	106,963	-	0.00%
Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)	\$ 439,287	\$ 483,215	\$ 43,928	10.00%	\$ 451,364	\$ 12,077	2.75%
<i>Outreach &amp; Community Services</i>	\$ 135,600	\$ 142,380	\$ 6,780	5.00%	\$ 135,600	\$ -	0.00%
<i>Residential Client Services</i>	150,000	157,500	7,500	5.00%	150,000	-	0.00%
Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)	\$ 285,600	\$ 299,880	\$ 14,280	5.00%	\$ 285,600	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total - Fundamental</b>	<b>\$ 1,346,606</b>	<b>\$ 1,465,966</b>	<b>\$ 119,360</b>		<b>\$ 1,367,435</b>	<b>\$ 20,829</b>	



# Intergovernmental Budget Adjustments

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Adjusted</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Agency Funding Adjustments</u>			
Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail	4,580,468	4,291,276	(289,192)
Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center	1,285,840	1,340,172	54,332
			<hr/>
			(234,860)





## Off Cycle Requests

**8 Requests**  
**\$967,000**

Uhuru Foundation	Re-Entry Home	\$175,000
BRACH	Replace Lost Grant (0625-0126)	\$250,000*
PHA (Priority 1)	Eviction Prevention-Staff Salaries	\$162,000*
PHA (Priority 2)	Eviction Prevention-Cash Assistance	\$50,000
Culinary Concepts AB	Workforce Development @ ACRJ	\$80,000
VCCI (formerly BUCK Squad)	Service Expansion	Undefined
Charlottesville Scholarship Program	Community-Based College Prep	\$250,000
Dogwood Veterans Memorial	Pedestrian Bridge/Parking Lot (CIP)	500k x 2yrs



# Council-Directed Funding Opportunity

- \$500,000 Strategic Initiatives Fund
- \$234,860 Intergovernmental Agency Adjustments
- \$41,500 HOPS Balance
- \$35,000 CAHF Balance
- \$86,381 CDBG Balance
- \$104,260.65 Available CIP Unspent Balance

**\$1,002,001 Total Available for Council Allocation**



**\*\*\*DATE CHANGE\*\*\***

## Real Estate Tax Rate Public Hearing

*Tax Rate Public Hearing*  
~~*March 17, 2025*~~



*Tax Rate Public Hearing*  
***April 7, 2025***  
*6:30 pm*



## Important Budget Dates

### Work Sessions

March 6

March 13

March 27

April 10

### Public Hearings

March 20

*(Budget)*

April 7

*(Tax Rates)*

### Community Budget Forum

March 20

### Budget Adoption

April 14



# Questions and Discussion

[www.Charlottesville.gov/budget](http://www.Charlottesville.gov/budget)

