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**Council Member**

Nicole Jones, District 9

**Interim Chief Administrative Officer**  
Sabrina Joy-Hogg

FISCAL YEAR

**2026**

**PROPOSED  
ANNUAL FISCAL PLAN**

**BUDGET IN BRIEF**



## FY 2026 Budget Calendar

Budget Introduction	March 27 <sup>th</sup> – 3:00 PM
Council Budget Public Hearing	April 14 <sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM
Council Budget Adoption and Public Hearing	May 12 <sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM



[www.rva.gov](http://www.rva.gov)



[AskBudget@rva.gov](mailto:AskBudget@rva.gov)

The Proposed FY 2026 Budget focuses on Building a Thriving Richmond—one grounded in equity, opportunity, and sustainable growth. It reflects a commitment to delivering strong customer service through accountable leadership, innovative solutions, and investments that move our City forward. By aligning local, state, and federal resources with seven strategic priorities, this budget strengthens the foundation for a resilient, high-quality future—where every resident, neighborhood, and business can thrive.

### Strategic Priorities

- Thriving City Hall
- Thriving Neighborhoods
- Thriving Families
- Thriving Economy
- Thriving and Inclusive Communities
- Thriving and Sustainable Built Environment
- City That Tells Its Stories



## PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Proposed FY 2026 Budget prioritizes the essential foundations of good governance—the key relationships, systems, and structures that keep our city running smoothly.

Highlights of the Proposed FY 2026 Budget include:

- **\$9.6 million** in local contribution for Richmond Public Schools
- **\$10.0 million** for Affordable Housing in FY 2026
- **\$800,000** for the Eviction Diversion Program
- Safety Net programs, including:
  - **\$500,000** for Childcare and Education Trust Fund
  - **\$520,000** for Family Crisis Funding
  - **\$300,000** for Health Equity Trust Fund
  - **\$500,000** for Richmond Resilience Initiative
- **\$500,000** Right to Council to aid in legal services
- **\$21.0 million** for traffic calming, sidewalks, and Complete Streets
- **\$13.1 million** for Hull Street improvements
- **\$10.1 million** for the Shockoe Project
- **\$11.0 million** for the Fall Line Trail
- **\$6.0 million** for Browns Island development
- **\$4.9 million** for a 3.25% General Employee pay increases
- **\$13.7 million** for a 10.3% (avg.) increase for police officers and firefighters



Item	Page	Item	Page
Strategic Priorities	1	Thriving City Hall	9
Proposed FY 2026 Highlights	2	Thriving Neighborhoods	10
Budget by Category	3	Thriving and Sustainable Built Environment	11
Frequently Asked Questions	4	Safeguarding Our City	12
How are City Services Funded	5	Thriving Economy	13
Investing in Our Future	6	A City That Tells Its Stories	14
Thriving Families	7	Investing in Our Employees	15
Thriving and Inclusive Communities	8	Budget Calendar	16

## INVESTING IN OUR EMPLOYEES

Several years ago, we made it our mission to become an “Employer of Choice.” An Employer of Choice offers a fantastic work culture and workplace environment that attracts and retains talented and motivated individuals, ensures accountability to both employees and stakeholders, and offers diverse benefit options and competitive compensation.

With the Proposed FY 2026 Budget, we are making history as it marks our **fourth consecutive year** of unprecedented pay adjustments and benefits offerings.

### Competitive Pay Increases

- **\$4.9 million** for a 3.25% General Employee wage increase.
- **\$13.7 million** for a 10.3% average wage increase for Sworn Employees.
  - Starting salary increasing from **\$58,076** to **\$62,983** for both sworn officers and firefighters.
- **Market Adjustments:**
  - **76** – general employees receiving an increase of 3.26% to 3.9%.
  - **251** – general employees receiving an increase of 4.0% to 7.9%.
  - **365** – general employees receiving an increase of 8.0% to 15.0% plus.



### Short-Term and Long Term Disability

**\$750,000** will be invested in our employees' well-being and financial security. As part of this commitment, we are covering the full cost of both short-term and long-term disability benefits. This ensures that our employees have the support they need in times of unexpected illness or injury, providing peace of mind and financial stability when it matters most.

### Transforming Healthcare Through Marathon Health Clinics

Our Marathon Health Clinics are a revolution to the City's healthcare benefit offerings. Available to our employees and dependents on the healthcare plan, they provide convenient and affordable access to primary care, preventive care, chronic disease management, health coaching, labs, medication management, and referral coordination in a one-stop-shop.





## A CITY THAT TELLS ITS STORIES

The City is making significant investments in utility infrastructure over the next five years to enhance reliability, efficiency, and resilience. These improvements will modernize essential services, address aging systems, and ensure safe, high-quality utility operations for residents. Combining local and state funding with federal partnerships, these upgrades will strengthen gas, water, wastewater, and stormwater systems while minimizing costs for rate-payers.

### The Department of Public Utilities (DPU)



**1. \$200.0 million** in Gas Utility investments over the next five years replacing leak prone pipes which will improve reliability and efficiency. We are working with our federal partners on early \$65.0 million in Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration grants to assist with the effort, which will reduce the burden on rate-payers.

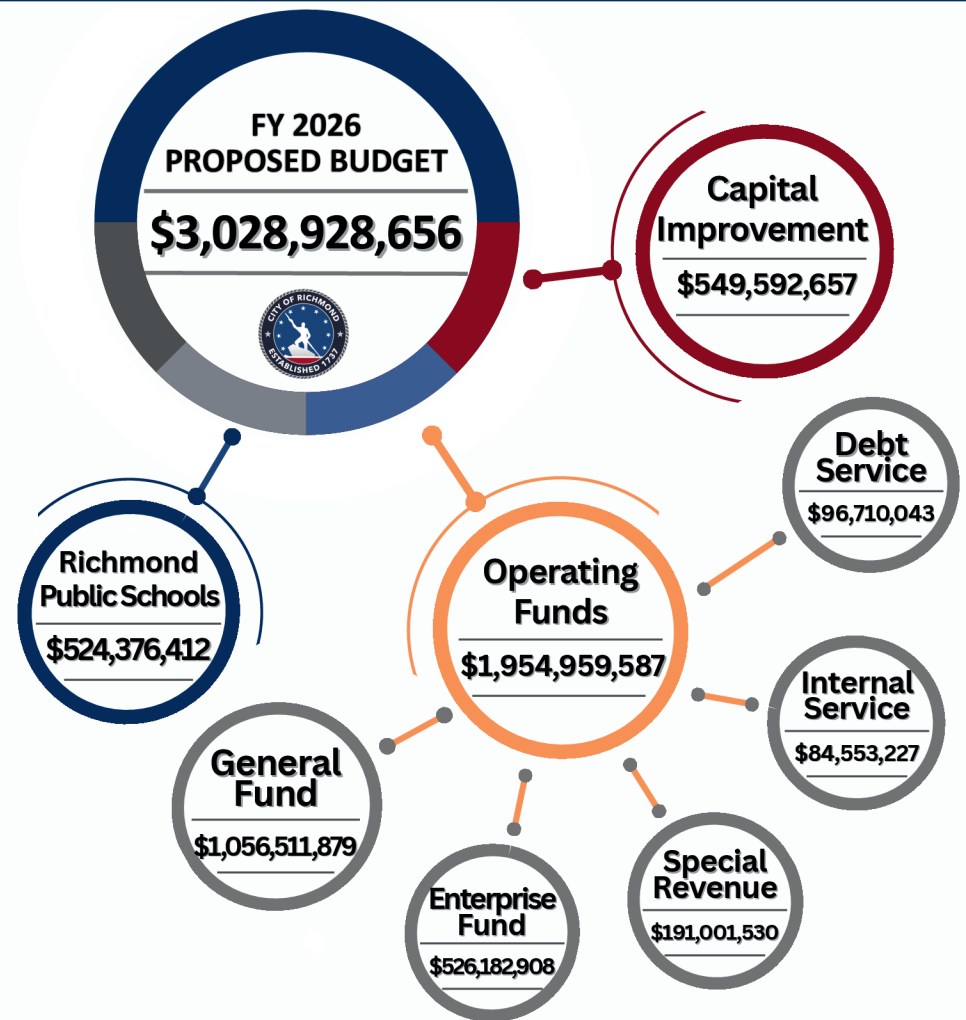


**2. \$162.0 million** in Water Utility investments over the next five years on the water distribution system, including funding for our nationally recognized lead service line replacement program. The Water Utility is also investing over **\$100.0 million** over the next five years on key upgrades to the water plant and pumping stations to ensure reliable operations, including major investments in our water treatment plant chemical processes, filters, and electrical systems.

**3. \$150.0 million** in Wastewater Utility investment over the next five years on upgrades to plant operations and an additional **\$340.0 million** on the replacement of aging sewer pipes.

**4. The Stormwater Utility** continues significant investments to address chronic flooding in areas of the City that do not have a stormwater conveyance system. Over the next five years the Stormwater Utility will invest over **\$205.0 million** on those key areas and other strategic projects.

## BUDGET BY CATEGORY



General Fund (\$413,866,872)	FY 2026 Proposed Budget <b>Net Transfers</b> (\$2,550,710,346)	Special Revenue (\$33,697,629)
Enterprise Funds (\$30,654,809)		Non-General* (\$0)

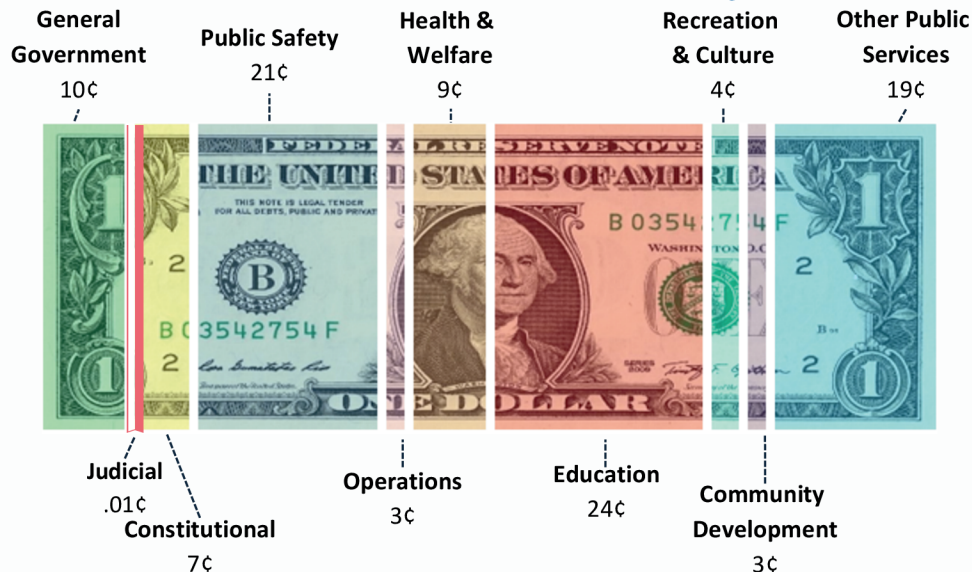
Transfers represents funds provided from one fund to another. The Net of Transfers view reflects this movement and ensures these monies are reported as an expenditure only once.  
\*Non-General Funds includes: Internal Services, Debt Service, Capital Improvement, Richmond Public Schools.

## What is the General Fund?

The General Fund is the City's primary operating fund. It is used to account for all revenue sources and expenditures that are not accounted for in other funds. The City's main revenues sources are real estate and personal property taxes. Other revenue sources are federal and state distributions, other local taxes, licenses, permits and fees, fines and forfeitures, and charges for goods and services. These revenues are used to pay for and support the operations of the city.



## Where Does General Fund Money Go?



## What is the Enterprise Fund?

Enterprise funds generate revenue through user fees. These funds are self-supporting and must generate sufficient revenue for operations and capital improvement projects. These funds are dedicated to the services they provide and must be self-supporting.

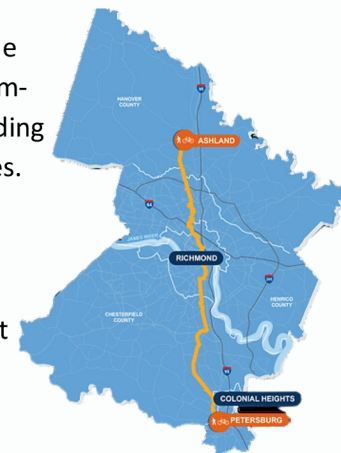
## What is the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)?

The CIP is used to strategically invest in facilities and infrastructure throughout the city. A capital project usually involves land acquisition, construction, maintenance, or renovations. A project will result in a physical asset such as a school building.

We are committed to making our city a beautiful place to live, work, and play. The Proposed FY 2026 Budget invests in community spaces that foster connection, enhance neighborhoods, and create vibrant gathering places. The Proposed Capital Improvement Projects include a range of recreational, cultural, and design enhancements:

## Cityscape Improvements

- **\$13.1 million** in **Hull Street** for various improvements to the full corridor, including sidewalk installation, shared use paths, and replacement of the bridge crossing the Manchester Canal.
- **\$5.0 million** for the **Floodwall, Levee System, Dam, Fishway, and Canal System**. This is an investment in upgrading and maintaining critical City infrastructure assets.
- **\$6.0 million** for improvements to **Brown's Island** to develop river and canal terraces, play spaces, trees and landscaping, and pedestrian improvements, with the addition of permanent restrooms.
- **\$11.0 million** for **Fall Line Trail** construction of the City's portion of the 43 mile trail connecting communities, schools, and jobs across 7 localities providing a shared-use path, bike lanes, and other amenities.
- **\$1.0 million** for **Library** upgrades to support improvements to community Libraries.
- **\$16.0 million** for the **Mayo Island** redevelopment to provide demolition, stabilization, and project planning for revitalization.





## SAFEGUARDING OUR CITY

A safe city depends on strong public safety infrastructure. Facilities, vehicles, and equipment are essential tools that enable our safety personnel to protect residents and neighborhoods. To reinforce these efforts, the Proposed FY 2026 Budget includes:

### City Readiness Planning



- **\$250,000** for the grant match to support the identification and establishment of a permanent Emergency Operations Center. This funding will assist in outfitting the center to enhance the city's emergency preparedness and readiness planning.

### • Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency (SAFER) Grant.

The grant was received in FY 2023 for **\$13.7 million** and enabled Richmond Fire to hire and train 72 new firefighters.

- **\$6.6 million** in funding will be added to continue general fund support of the 72 firefighters.
- **\$10.0 million** for fire apparatus, police vehicles, refuse trucks, and other agencies - Animal Care and Control, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.
  - Radio Shop funding to equip vehicles.

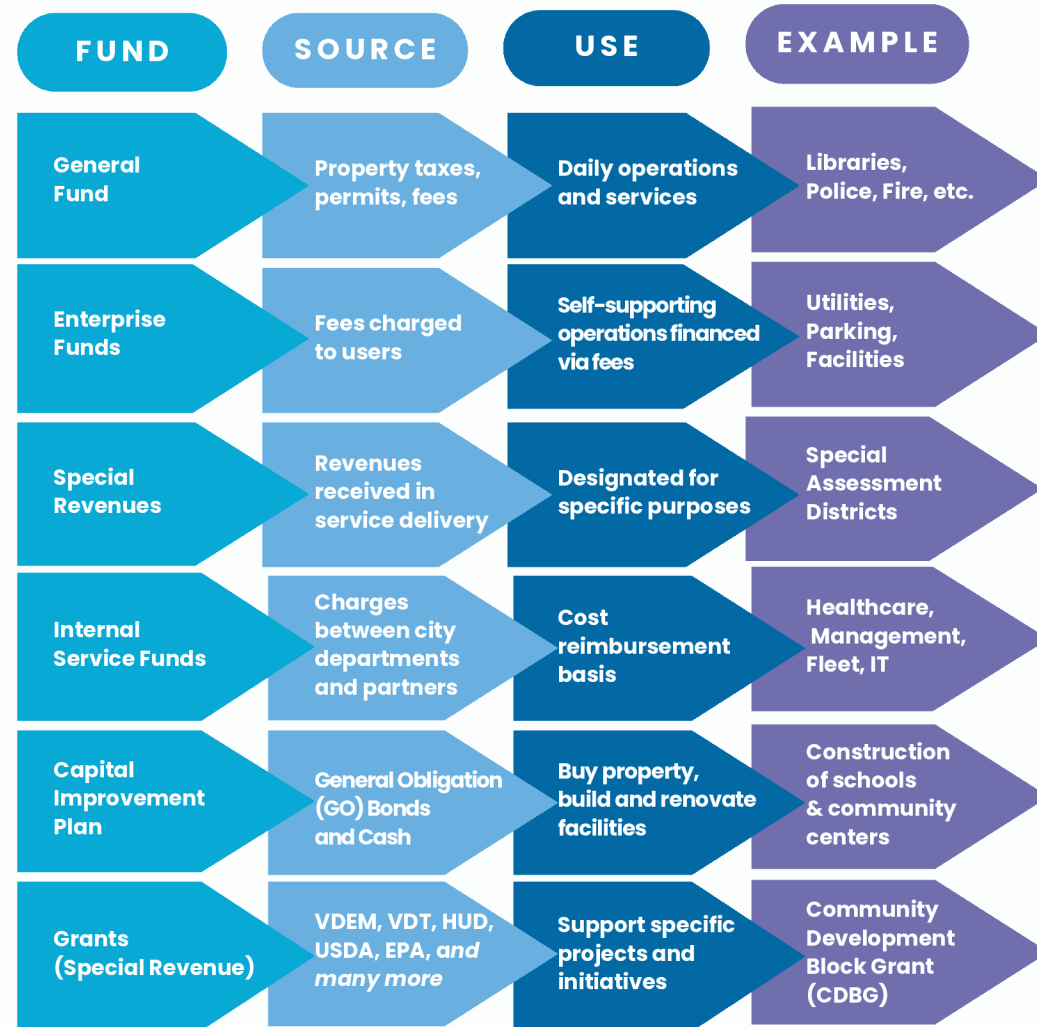
### Vision Zero Network

Vision Zero is a global, multidisciplinary strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while promoting safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for everyone. These efforts are a vital part of our Complete Streets initiative.



**\$21.0 million** is included for the Complete Streets program. Complete Streets refers to a transportation policy and design approach that requires safe, accessible, and comfortable travel for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

## HOW ARE CITY SERVICES FUNDED?



*The first four sources make up the city's operating budget.*

### How do I get involved in the budget process?

Connect with us through:

- ✓ Community surveys
- ✓ District meetings held by city council members
- ✓ City Council meetings

Children and families are the heart of Richmond's future. By making sustainable, long-term investments in education and health, we create a stronger, brighter community for generations to come. To achieve this, we are proposing:

## Health Equity Trust Fund: \$300,000

The Health Equity Trust Fund establishes, supports, and strengthens community-led efforts to address health disparities.

It will address the disproportionate burden of adverse health outcomes in certain focal areas of: health disparity, mental and behavioral health, substance use, maternal and child health, access to care, food access and security, and underlying health conditions.



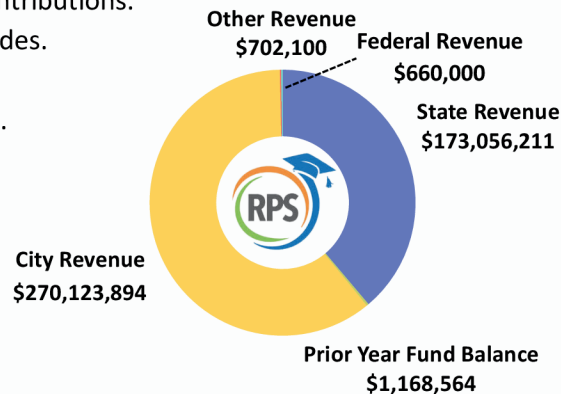
## Child Care and Education Trust Fund (CCE): \$500,000

CCE supports the well-being of individuals, families, communities, and economies. When children are healthy, safe, and learning in their early years, they enter kindergarten prepared for school and on a path to reach their full potential as adults. When parents and caregivers have access to reliable and affordable childcare, they are better able to maintain employment. When a workforce is unhindered by inconsistent childcare economic productivity increases.

## Richmond Public Schools

Investing in schools is the key to improved academic performance including:

- **\$9.6 million** in General Fund contributions.
- **\$400,000** for Stormwater upgrades.
- **64.0% increase** since 2017.
- **4.0% increase** from the FY 2025.



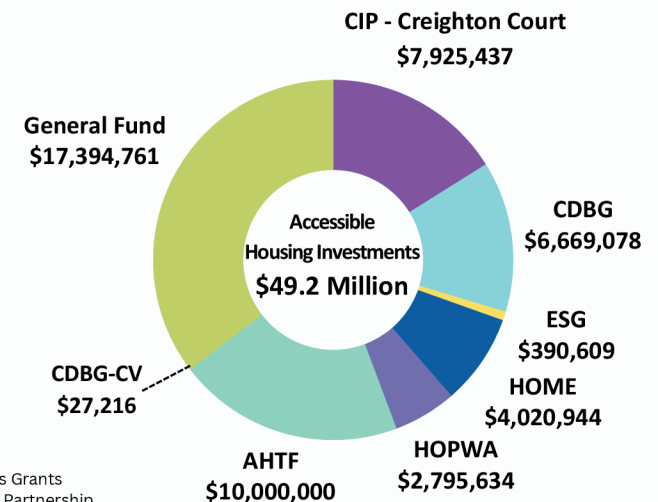
Like many cities, Richmond is facing a housing crisis, making the need for accessible housing options and effective eviction and homelessness prevention services more critical than ever.

## Providing Affordable Housing

We are taking action to ensure residents have adequate access to housing through a diverse set of programs:



- **\$10.0 million** in FY 2026 to support the development of affordable housing units.
- **\$2.2 million** investment in affordable housing initiatives encompassing 12 housing projects through performance grants across the City.
- **\$7.9 million** for the installation of infrastructure to support redevelopment of the Creighton Court Affordable Housing Neighborhood, such as: roads, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, paving, streetscaping, underground utilities, and stormwater management.
- **\$800,000** continues the Eviction Diversion Program to divert evictions by providing financial resources, outreach, education, and support eligible families.
- **\$500,000** for Right to Counsel to provide legal assistance for families facing eviction.



### Reference Key:

- CDBG-CV (Covid-19)
- (ESG) Emergency Solutions Grants
- (HOME) Home Investment Partnership
- (AHTF) Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant
- (HOPWA) Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS



## THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS

Our commitment to building a resilient and environmentally responsible city remains stronger than ever. The Proposed FY 2026 Budget reflects our dedication to sustainability efforts that protect natural resources while fostering economic growth and social equity. Community resilience guides every decision we make, ensuring that today's actions create a thriving future for generations to come. To support this vision, we propose funding for the following initiatives:

### Richmond Resilience Initiative (RRI)

The RRI supports residents in the City of Richmond impacted by the 'cliff effect' brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Administered through the Office of Community Wealth Building, up to \$500 will be given as a monthly supplement their income for 24 consecutive months. ***This program was awarded with ARPA funding and is now a General Fund Program.***



- **\$500,000** invested in FY 2025.
  - **\$15,600** median household income per year.
  - Up to **\$500** in monthly payments.

### Neighborhood Climate Resiliency Grant Program

In our effort to make Richmond more sustainable, **\$250,000** is proposed to provide grant support to non-profit organizations and partners in Richmond working to stem the effects of climate change. The program has already provided over \$865,000 to local non-profits. The Neighborhood Climate Resilience Grant embodies both the spirit of the newly adopted RVAgreen 2050, Climate Equity Action Plan 2030, and the City's equity agenda. ***This program was awarded with ARPA funding and is now a General Fund Program.***



## THRIVING FAMILIES

Access to positive out-of-school activities is vital for our youth and their families. Our city is dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for young people by investing in targeted programs such as:



### Building A Strong Foundation for the Future

- **\$966,000** for the community-based **Positive Youth Development Program**. Nextup RVA engages youth in high-quality learning opportunities, academic support, and enrichments programs including afterschool, summer, weekend, and other initiatives.
- **\$520,000** for the **Family Crisis Fund** will be distributed to individuals who have an emergency financial need and meet eligibility criteria, which include, but not limited to, those who have experienced loss of income or benefits, childcare expenses, or emergency medical expenses, just to name a few. ***This program was awarded with ARPA funding and is now a General Fund Program.***
- **YMCA of Greater Richmond**
  - **\$300,000** for the **Help1RVA** program for short-term assistance to find help with housing, food, employment, childcare, or other needs.
  - **\$244,084** for **Out of School Time** to support families.
- **\$344,000** for **We Matter RVA** to work with youth and gun violence prevention. The program provides positive youth development opportunities and a financial incentive to children who have either witnessed gun violence firsthand or who have family members who have perpetrated gun violence.
- **\$300,000** for the **Trauma Healing Response Network** which employs a trauma healing coordinator to connect families impacted by violence with needed resources.
- **\$457,000** to expand out of school activities and increase student participation.



## THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Strong customer services beings with strong community connections. Building on last year's centralization of services within the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the FY 2026 Proposed Budget invests in more coordinated, inclusive, and responsive support for residents, neighborhoods, and civic groups—deepening trust, expanding access, and ensuring Richmond communities can thrive.

### Community Centers and Libraries

Funding for facility upgrades and service expansions at neighborhood resource hubs to support youth programs, digital access, and lifelong learning for residents of all ages and backgrounds.

### Violence Prevention

Continued investment in non-policing violence intervention strategies, prioritizing community-led efforts that center culturally competent outreach, restorative practices, and holistic support for individuals and families.

### Parks and Public Spaces

Enhancements to local parks, playgrounds, and green spaces improving recreational access for all residents, while fostering community wellness, intergenerational engagement, and belonging.

### Neighborhood Revitalization

Support for equitable development through blight remediation, accessible code enforcement, and infrastructure improvements that prioritize historically underinvested and marginalized neighborhoods.

### Culturally Responsive Services

Continued support from the Offices of Immigrant & Refugee Engagement, Aging & Disability, Equity & Inclusion, and Children & Families, advancing inclusivity that reflect the unique needs and voices of Richmond's diverse communities.



## THRIVING CITY HALL

We streamline operations, ensure regulatory compliance, and align projects with community a City focus. From zoning to infrastructure planning, our solutions drive efficiency and sustainable growth.

### Department of General Services

Bolstering internal coordination within the Department of General Services will greatly improve facilities management services. Ensuring more focused attention is given to each facility's unique needs, making maintenance and repairs more efficient. With a streamlined approach, the department can respond more quickly to service requests and address issues before they escalate. Ultimately, this will enhance daily operations, raise service standards, reduce downtime, and improve the functionality of all managed spaces.

### Enhancing Coordination with a Director of Transportation



Creating a Director of Transportation position will strengthen coordination between engineering and community design needs. This position is created by reallocating an existing vacant position, will bring expertise in transportation planning, urban design, civil engineering, public policy, and community engagement. By integrating these disciplines, the new director will help develop efficient, safe, and sustainable transportation systems. With dedicated leadership, the department will be better equipped to meet the City's evolving transportation needs.

### Prioritizing Technology

**\$6.0 million** to ensure the reliability and consistency of connectivity across the City, the **Department of Information Technology** requires necessary upgrades for both software and hardware. These investments will enhance system performance, security, and overall efficiency.

### Providing Hassle Free Payments

**\$500,000** committed to making payments easier and more affordable for our residents. We cover service fees associated with credit card transactions, ensuring that you can make payments without any extra costs. This initiative reflects our dedication to providing seamless and cost-free payment experiences for our community.

