

FY27 Grantmaking Transition Information Session

July 29, 2026



**CITY OF
RICHMOND**

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Background and Purpose**
- **City's Role and Priority Areas**
- **Key FAQs**
- **Grantmaker Introductions and Timelines**



BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- **Result of multiple years of feedback**
- **Yearlong process of engagement with Council and Administration**
- **Obligation to design process meets high standards required to steward taxpayer resources while expanding access, improving experience for applicants, and increasing impact**
- **Grantmakers selected via thorough, competitive RFP process**

RFP process prioritized:

- **Expert local grantmakers**
- **Equitable/transparent processes**
- **Stronger applicant support**
- **Faster turnaround from application to funding**
- **Community/SME input in the review process**
- **Goal of fund disbursement in calendar year 2026**



CITY'S ROLE AND PRIORITY AREAS

City is not involved in the decision-making process

City's Role:

- **Ensuring alignment with City priorities**
- **Ensuring no duplication of grants for programs funded via other city sources**
- **Grantmaker monitoring**
- **Reporting to Council**
- **Continuous improvement**

Priority Areas:

- **Arts & Culture**
- **Children & Families**
- **Economic Mobility**
- **Health**



PRIORITY AREA: ARTS & CULTURE

SUMMARY: This priority area invests in Richmond's cultural identity and creative economy by supporting organizations that use arts, history, and storytelling to build community connections, advance racial equity and reconciliation, and ensure all residents can see themselves reflected in the city's cultural narrative and programming.

MAP ALIGNMENT: A City That Tells Its Stories

GOALS

- Champion our arts and culture communities in their efforts to tell Richmond's stories
- Share and document Richmond's rich cultural history
- Increase participation in cross-cultural events
- Reduce disparities in access to and participation in arts education and arts programming

SUB-FOCUSES WITHIN THIS PRIORITY AREA

- Public history and cultural storytelling
- Arts and community engagement
- Racial history and reconciliation projects
- Community development through the arts
- Arts education



PRIORITY AREA: CHILDREN & FAMILIES

SUMMARY: This priority area creates comprehensive educational pathways ensuring every Richmond child has equitable opportunities for success in school and life, emphasizing family connections, trauma-informed support.

MAP ALIGNMENT: Thriving Families

GOALS

- Send our children off to kindergarten ready to succeed
- Connect school-age kids to high-quality activities beyond the classroom
- Give every student an opportunity to thrive after their K–12 education
- Respond to the needs of children and families in crisis
- *Note: Grants are not for in-school or school-based services, teacher development, or other activities RPS is primarily responsible for; grants toward the two goals above must align with one of the sub-focuses at right.*

SUB-FOCUSES WITHIN THIS PRIORITY AREA

- Early Childhood Development (birth–age 8): parent/caregiver engagement and education, early literacy (e.g., museums, play groups, events). Formal classroom-based ECCE is funded separately through the ECCE Trust Fund; perinatal support is funded under Health.
- Out-of-School Time Programming (ages 3–11, PK-5): community-based before/after-school, school closure, and summer programming. OST for grades 6-12 is funded separately through the PYD Fund.
- Postsecondary Success (ages 14–24): mentorship, work-based learning, college/career readiness, and financial aid navigation and support, excluding scholarships. Priority given to programs serving opportunity youth.
- Parent/caregiver education and support that promotes strong child-caregiver relationships and caregiver relational health.



PRIORITY AREA: ECONOMIC MOBILITY

SUMMARY: Creates pathways from poverty to stability to wealth building, with particular emphasis on reducing economic inequities by race and geography.

MAP ALIGNMENT: Thriving Economy + Thriving Neighborhoods

GOALS

- Employment & Poverty: Reduce poverty. Connect people to living-wage careers. Reduce employment disparities by race, geography, and criminal history. Provide barrier-removal services, with a particular focus on concentrated poverty and on people at risk of experiencing or perpetrating gun violence.
- Help residents move above the ALICE threshold to thriving. Support small businesses, especially for historically disadvantaged groups. Increase financial literacy and access to services (credit, banking). Promote homeownership or other asset-building. Support residents experiencing the benefits cliff.
- Reduce homelessness. Support housing stability for residents with unstable housing. Promote mobility to better housing.

SUB-FOCUSES WITHIN THIS PRIORITY AREA

- Workforce equity and skills development (youth/young-adult workforce readiness applies to Children & Families instead)
- Entrepreneurship support and technical assistance
- Services for justice-involved populations or those at elevated risk of violence, with emphasis on successful community reintegration
- Homelessness prevention and services, particularly for unhoused or at-risk older adults ages 55+, families with minor children, and unsheltered individuals
- Other economic opportunity access and barrier removal, including transit access, debt mitigation, credit improvement, and legal support
- Services to facilitate housing accessibility and stability (not for brick-and-mortar, new-unit construction, or acquisition)



PRIORITY AREA: HEALTH

SUMMARY: This priority area supports programs and services that improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities in Richmond.

MAP ALIGNMENT: Thriving, Inclusive Communities + Thriving Families

GOALS

- Decrease barriers to healthcare and support services for priority communities, including immigrant, LGBTQIA+, older adults, and people with disabilities
- Support reproductive freedom and maternal health
- Address racial inequities (and disparities) in health and well-being
- Partner with residents in our environmental justice work

SUB-FOCUSES WITHIN THIS PRIORITY AREA

- Health equity work in marginalized communities
- Social justice and anti-discrimination health initiatives
- Health service access
- Maternal health (focus on perinatal and early childhood wellness; emphasis on home visiting, mental and behavioral healthcare, doulas, lactation support, and basic/safety needs)
- Older adult and disability services
- Mental health support
- Environmental justice and improvement





OTHER KEY FAQs

GRANTMAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Arts & Culture	CultureWorks, Inc.
Children & Families	United Way Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Economic Mobility	United Way Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Health	Richmond & Henrico Public Health Foundation



GRANTMAKER TIMELINES

Priority Area	Application Window	Info & TA Sessions	Notification	Disbursement
Arts & Culture	Aug 17 – Sept 15, 2026	Info Session: Aug 11, 2026	Late November 2026	Mid-December 2026
Children & Families	Aug 10 – Sept 11, 2026	Webinars: Aug 20 & 26, 2026	Mid-December 2026	Mid-to-Late December 2026
Economic Mobility	Aug 10 – Sept 11, 2026	Webinars: Aug 20 & 26, 2026	Mid-December 2026	Mid-to-Late December 2026
Health	Aug 24 – Sept 25, 2026	Workshop: Aug 18; Office Hours: Sept 2 & 10	December 2026	December 2026 – Early 2027



THANK YOU

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