

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



<b>Agenda Date:</b>	August 3, 2020
<b>Action Required:</b>	Approve appropriation
<b>Presenter:</b>	Diane Kuknyo, Director, Department of Social Services
<b>Staff Contacts:</b>	Elmona Reid, Family Services Specialist, Foster Care Prevention Sue Moffett, Assistant Director, Department of Social Services
<b>Title:</b>	BAMA Works Grant for Supporting Aspirations-Improving Resiliency for Vulnerable Families - \$6,000

**Background:**

The Charlottesville Department of Social Services has received \$6,000 from the BAMA works fund to implement an employee-designed initiative: Supporting Aspirations-Improving Resiliency for Vulnerable Families. The Foster Care Prevention Team works to help vulnerable families develop skills and resources needed for safety and stability. While poverty does not equate child neglect, the trauma of persistent poverty is a risk to child well-being as evidenced in the landmark CDC-Kaiser-Peremente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acestudy/about.html>

One challenge in our work with vulnerable families is to build on their resiliency, and help them overcome the trauma of persistent poverty. The parents with whom we work see increases in household income evaporate in a cloud of rent increases and public assistance decreases. Routine “emergencies” like missing work to care for an ill child, or new tires for a 10-year-old car make budgeting for field trips, club and sports participation fees and birthday celebrations unrealistic; and saving for aspirations is impossible. Persistent poverty is isolating, and limits the economic and social mobility of the most vulnerable families in our community.

**Discussion:**

Using available budgeting tools, participating families will work to develop a budget for not only routine and necessary household expenses, but also aspirational financial goals. Supporting Aspirations funds will be used to support family celebrations- important activities that organize and stabilize family life, celebrate and reward short-term successes, and increase capacity for resiliency.

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

This appropriation request aligns with the City Council's vision, which includes being flexible and progressive in anticipating and responding to the needs of our citizens.

**Community Engagement:**

The Department of Social Services works with community members and service providers to identify and meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

**Budgetary Impact:**

There are no additional City funds required or being requested for this initiative.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of these funds.

**Alternatives:**

Funds that are not appropriated will need to be returned to BAMA works.

**Attachments:**

Appropriation

**APPROPRIATION**

Supporting Aspirations-Improving Resiliency for Vulnerable Families

\$6,000

**WHEREAS**, the Charlottesville Department of Social Services has received \$6,000 from the BAMA Works Fund to implement supporting aspirations initiative for vulnerable families.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$6,000 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

**Revenue - \$6,000**

Fund 212      Cost Center: 9900000000      G/L Account: 451022

**Expenditures - \$6,000**

Fund 212      Cost Center: 3343011000      G/L Account: 540060