

Cycle 1 Grants: May 2022

Economic Opportunity for All - \$483,000

- **Central Alabama Redevelopment Alliance**, \$8,000 to support building stronger alliances between businesses and local Chambers of Commerce; to provide access to workshops and resources for established microbusinesses through the Western Microbusiness Accelerator; and to connect microbusinesses to peer mentors, executive coaches, and student teams.
- **Create Birmingham**, \$70,000 over two years to expand and refine two tiers of small business technical assistance programming in Birmingham and Bessemer. The first is entrepreneurial support for new business through *CO.STARTERS*, the second tier focuses on scaling and sustaining businesses through *Create Consults*, which will offer free access to professional consultants in urgent areas of need.
- **Education Farm**, \$65,000 to facilitate their *Pathways* program for 30 Birmingham residents. *Pathways* is a workforce development program for adult learners who want to upskill or reskill into a career in technology.
- **Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School**, \$30,000 to launch a new program, *Cristo Rey Creates*, as a social entrepreneurial project to serve the local community. The digital creativity lab will train students in more specialized tech skills, enhance presentation and public speaking skills, and increase entrepreneurial and business skills.
- **IGNITE Alabama**, \$60,000 to support IGNITE's *Doing Business in Alabama* program' Fund will support hiring staff to increase capacity and improve program infrastructure.
- **Ironworker Skills Institute**, \$25,000 to support hiring a full-time Executive Director who will interface with high schools in the region without craft training programs; maintain relationships with the state craft training board; and develop additional funding resources.
- **Railroad Park Foundation**, \$50,000 for the *Minority Business Hub* to support minority businesses and provide a social enterprise network supporting Black-owned small businesses in partnership with minority business experts.
- **STRIVE International**, \$75,000 to establish a new site, bringing STRIVE's nationally-recognized Career Path 12-week program, which includes job readiness workshop, occupational skills training, job placement assistance, career coaching, and lifetime support, to Birmingham.
- **The Institute for Community, Youth & Family Services**, \$18,000 to expand the *HEMP Program* (Helping Ex-offenders and Minorities Participate), a program that increases economic opportunity for minorities and rural communities through hemp manufacturing and agriculture.
- **Triumphant Kingdom Builders**, \$8,000 to reactivate the *Youth Code Enforcement Inspector Program*, a workforce development program focused on building code enforcement in the West End Community.
- **Workshops**, \$24,000 to support *WE Made*, the social enterprise arm of Workshops. Funding will

support a 16 week job training and apprenticeship program for participants to learn effective job skills while making, packaging, and distributing baking mixes and household goods.

- **YWCA Central Alabama**, \$50,000 to support the Summer *CREW* program. *CREW* will serve 25 high school students from the Woodlawn community and surrounding neighborhoods. Students will participate in a four week summer internship program where they will work with area businesses and organizations.

Persistent Poverty - \$309,000

- **AIDS Alabama**, \$75,000 to provide salary support, operational support, and computers for the Way Station, a shelter for homeless and at-risk young people, aged 18-24. Programs include crisis intervention services, immediate safety and stabilization, trauma-informed care, educational and vocational support and health care.
- **Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership**, \$13,000 to provide direct support to vulnerable asylum-seekers in Alabama. Asylum-seekers receive no government support and are not eligible to apply for a work permit until five months after their asylum application is submitted.
- **Alabama Regional Medical Services**, \$25,000 to support a bilingual birth educator who will provide breastfeeding, antenatal, and postpartum education with a goal of reducing maternal morbidity rates.
- **Bundles of Hope**, \$20,000 to support a monthly mobile distribution program, in partnership with Live HealthSmart Alabama and UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center, that takes basic needs items like diapers, wipes, and period products directly into neighborhoods located in food deserts.
- **Children's Aid Society**, \$40,000 to support the *Child Trafficking Solutions Project*, an initiative transitioning from the Jefferson County Children's Policy Council. The program provides a comprehensive training strategy for first responders, law enforcement and others involved in the child welfare system to help them recognize, rethink, and respond to prospective child victims of trafficking.
- **Community Care Development Network**, \$16,000 to expand community food hubs from four per month to seven per month. Community Care Network's community food hubs are currently located in Bessemer, East Lake, Woodlawn, Center Point, and Trussville and serve as an entry point for at-risk families into many other programs.
- **Diane's Heart**, \$8,000 to support the flagship program *She Knew There Was More*, a coaching and mentoring program. Each cohort of single moms will receive 9 weeks of intensive professional coaching, counseling, and eLearning course modules as well as up to 9 months of one-on-one mentoring.
- **East Lake Initiative**, \$40,000 over two years to grow their housing subsidy program. East Lake Initiative has increased the number of low-income families with safe and secure housing by 78% since initiating the program in 2018, by adding rent subsidies to their already existing rental program.
- **Maranathan Family Learning Center and Academy**, \$30,000 over three years to support the hiring of a full time social worker who will also serve as a part time onsite crisis counselor and instructor to enhance the social work services currently provided to critically at-risk students and

their families.

- **Nichols Temple AME Church**, \$10,000 to support building modifications required to open an Alabama First-Class Pre-K Classroom in Ensley. The modified classroom space will provide 18 low-income students with access to a quality pre-k program, making them more likely to read at a proficient level by third grade.
- **Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama**, \$25,000 to support building renovations and establish a tech library at their newly purchased community center for workforce development training, tutoring, and case management. Vineyard Family Services is the first state recognized Family Resource Center in Shelby County.
- **Women Under Construction Network**, \$8,000 to support the *REPAIR Angels Project* (Rebuilding Elderly Pride to Achieve Independence and Restoration). WUC uses construction skills and tools to teach young program participants about home repair as well as life repair.

Equity and Inclusion - \$111,000

- **Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice United**, \$40,000 to expand a civic engagement program that cultivates a spirit of community participation in day-to-day life and deepens immigrant communities' understanding and involvement with dialogue and policy change at the local level.
- **Alabama Holocaust Education Center**, \$25,000 to assist in the production the documentary, *The Torch*, featuring interviews of Holocaust survivors living in Alabama. The film will help educate viewers on human rights violations and how to prevent them from happening again.
- **Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Company (Fiscal Sponsor: AIDS Alabama)**, \$8,000 to build capacity and to continue to produce mainstage plays that challenge the current landscape of theatre in Birmingham, by providing opportunities for underserved communities in the theatre industry.
- **Easterseals of the Birmingham Area**, \$20,000 to support Spanish translation for pediatric therapy, teen and adult programs. Funds will expand current translation services and support a full-time Spanish speaking therapist.
- **Pinktopps**, \$8,000 to support breast cancer educational awareness and supportive services for young women and men in Jefferson and Shelby County.
- **Shelby County Arts Council**, \$5,000 to support and expand the Helen Keller Arts Show outreach for Alabama students who are blind or visually impaired.
- **Steel City Men's Chorus**, \$5,000 to purchase portable performance risers to allow the chorus to perform in more venues throughout Jefferson counties, with the goal of bringing their music and mission to other communities.

Regional Cooperation - \$75,000

- **Innovate Birmingham**, \$25,000 to implement a coordinated tech ecosystem approach in Central Alabama by expanding the Birmingham Tech Council structure to consist of a leadership body and three working groups.
- **The Highway 280 Public Road Cooperative District**, \$50,000 to improve a pedestrian bridge across Highway 280 that serves as a gateway to Birmingham and a connector between Homewood and Mountain Brook.

Thriving Communities - \$408,000

- **Alabama Association of Nonprofits**, \$25,000 to support pilot of the *Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute*, a 9 month cohort learning program aimed at a diverse group of nonprofit leaders.
- **Black Warrior Riverkeeper**, \$30,000 over three years to support a full-time outreach coordinator who will coordinate volunteer litter cleanups that not only remove trash from the watershed, but also engage diverse communities in watershed stewardship and environmental education.
- **Blount County Education Foundation**, \$25,000 to evolve an existing library at Cleveland High School of the Blount County School District into a 21st century learning hub that serves the entire community and lifelong learning of individuals and families.
- **Breakthrough Birmingham**, \$40,000 over two years for program expansion and stabilization of recently established school-year programs, including an ongoing shift towards equity-centered programming. This programming consists of a curriculum revamp to be more culturally responsive and focus on leadership development for both students and teaching fellows; a focus on literacy trainings; and a speaker series to discuss community developments and needs.
- **Brother Let's Talk**, \$20,000 to expand their mental and emotional wellness services to include more creative forms of community healing. Brother Let's Talk will conduct Healing Circles throughout Jefferson County.
- **Christian Service Mission**, \$30,000 to pay for construction supplies, specialty labor, and other costs related to home repair for low-income individuals and for senior citizens living at or below the Federal Poverty Level.
- **D2B Mentoring and Leadership**, \$12,000 to maintain and enhance the D2B Headquarters, which serves as a base for learning, fellowship, and physical exercise and provides a safe haven for gathering with mentors and peers.
- **eMotion Therapy (Fiscal Sponsor: P.E.E.R., Inc.)**, \$5,000 to support *Yoga in the Park*, an initiative that provides wellness opportunities to the East Birmingham Community to introduce and develop coping skills related to stress, anxiety, depression, and overall mood dysregulation.
- **Freshwater Land Trust**, \$60,000 over two years to support fabrication and installation of a series of cost-effective trailhead, wayfinding, trail blaze, and educational signs.
- **Grace Klein Community**, \$25,000 to assist Grace Klein Community in leading Food Rescue for the Sustainability Team of The World Games 2022. Grant funds will assist with transportation costs, logistics of volunteers, intake and outflow of food, and education on food waste in Birmingham.
- **Hueytown Harvest Farmers Market**, \$8,000 to support the *Blue Zone Lifestyle Project* at the Hueytown Harvest Farmers Market. Programs will include yoga, senior stretch, cooking classes, healthy eating education for daycare directors, and partnerships with local grocers.
- **Kids Play Alabama**, \$5,000 to provide financial assistance for sports registration and related expenses to those who would otherwise be financially incapable of paying.
- **Klein Arts and Culture**, \$15,000 to support local, creative placemaking activities that will identify local cultural assets, present local performers at the Wallace House, and enable an enhanced 2022 homecoming program.
- **New Life Pantry**, \$29,000 over 3 years to support *H.O.P.E for North Birmingham* (Helping Our

People Excel). Funding will improve and expand a recently piloted stress support program. Funding will also support an AmeriCorps VISTA member to help develop resources to build capacity and increase sustainability.

- **Oasis Counseling for Women and Children**, \$29,000 to increase capacity of counseling services in the women and children's program by hiring an additional intake counselor. Oasis has experienced an unprecedented 29% increase in requests for first-time appointments in the past 6 months.
- **Red Mountain Makers**, \$20,000 to support renovations at Hardware Park, including HVAC, restroom facilities, and furnishings. The new space will support art and STEM programs for students as well as ten spaces for entrepreneurs and artisans.
- **STAIR of Birmingham**, \$10,000 to expand its virtual program that provides students with virtual literacy tutoring twice a week. Funding will be used for program and curriculum costs for 22 virtual students who have deficiencies in reading and are enrolled in Birmingham City Schools.
- **Vax 2 Stop Cancer**, \$20,000 to support a provider education project to help prevent HPV-associated cancers. The project will target Federally Qualified Health Centers and rural health centers in the five-county service area.