



## Cycle 2 Grants: December 2022

### Thriving Communities

- **AlaQuest Collaborative for Education (ACE)**, \$25,000 to support AlaQuest programs including their Life Skills Education program, a curriculum supporting positive mental health and academic achievement for K-8th grade students; Culture Coach program, an adaptive change process that addresses the need for long-term cultural change in partnering schools; and the Heritage Panel training program for high school students empowering them to serve as leaders in their schools to reduce bullying.
- **Birmingham Education Foundation**, \$30,000 to support the planning and implementation phase of Ed's pilot Education Innovation Initiative (EII), a holistic service program connecting students, families, and educators to resources and services in Birmingham.
- **Birmingham Public Library**, \$29,000 to expand the Literacy Leader Tutorial Program to a full year effort, with a goal of providing intensive reading and math tutoring for identified at-risk second and third-grade students in Birmingham City Schools.
- **Birmingham Zoo**, \$75,000 over 3 years to build Cougar Crossing, a new exhibit that will demonstrate how we can peacefully coexist with bobcats and cougars. The addition will provide a new destination for engaged learning, promote environmental health, and heighten awareness of conservation efforts and how we can make a difference.
- **Blountsville Public Library**, \$4,000 to replace the current book drop, which is over 35 years old.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama**, \$20,000 to support a comprehensive, systemic shift in culture and organizational practice to incorporate a trauma-informed approach into all parts of the organization.
- **Bush Hills Connections, Inc.**, \$75,000 to launch the GROW (Galvanizing and Renovating Our Wonderful) Bush Hills Initiative. GROW Bush Hills aims to build on the current momentum to increase the capacity of the Bush Hills Urban Farm and Community Garden through the development of lean and regenerative farming practices, a consistent workforce, agricultural education, and onsite sales and farm programming.
- **Community Grief Support Service**, \$15,000 to hire an additional grief counselor as well as relocate to a larger facility, making their services more accessible to increased demand.
- **Community of Hope Health Clinic**, \$30,000 over 3 years to increase access to an on-site dispensary for low-income patients, in partnership with students of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University.

- **Impact America**, \$25,000 to expand and improve their FocusFirst program by implementing a robust volunteer program to help mitigate potential losses in capacity due to recruiting challenges.
- **Jefferson County Schools Education Foundation**, \$30,000 over 2 years to train classroom teachers in arts integration and continue curriculum development for the Jefferson County Board of Education's Art Bus that serves schools without a full-time art teacher.
- **Leaders of Excellence Inc.**, \$8,000 to overcome the transportation barrier for the after school tutoring and mentorship program by providing a pick-up/drop off option for parents.
- **Nathifa Dance Company & Outreach, Inc.**, \$10,000 to support the 30th anniversary of Nathifa introducing and impacting greater Birmingham with traditional, authentic African Dance. Projects will include community events to highlight the past, present, and future of the program.
- **Opera Birmingham**, \$10,000 expand Opera Birmingham's new, annual family opera performances to include student performances at schools and in partnership with community organizations around greater Birmingham.
- **Raising Arrows**, \$30,000 to install playground equipment that allows Raising Arrows to become DHR state certified, giving them the ability to help more children of low income families and foster families in need of care. This will help launch Raising Arrows into the Foster Care community in Walker County and surrounding counties.
- **Shelby Humane**, \$10,000 to provide temporary boarding at partner veterinary clinics and boarding facilities. Due to recent natural disasters and ongoing effects of the pandemic, Shelby Humane is at dangerous levels of overcapacity, putting healthy cats and dogs at risk of euthanasia.
- **The Addiction Prevention Coalition**, \$5,000 to launch a Workplace Wellness Initiative. Training modules from the "Alabama Workforce Evolution: Navigating Mental Health and Substance Use" conference will be recorded and developed into an online Workplace Wellness Toolbox that will be launched in workplaces in Spring 2023.
- **The Bell Center for Early Intervention Programs**, \$16,000 to support "My Family and Me Infant Massage" classes specifically designed to educate families on understanding infant states and reading baby's cues, increase family awareness of sensory stimuli and their infant's response to it, and guide parents in promoting their child's development through the comfort of positive touch and massage.
- **The Flourish Alabama**, \$15,000 to support a Black Arts District in Ensley, designed to celebrate the rich and vibrant Black Arts community in Birmingham that has greatly impacted the city's larger arts and cultural landscape.
- **The University of Alabama at Birmingham**, \$50,000 to support the Live HealthSmart Alabama Mobile Wellness Van, a convenient option for recommended screenings, follow-up counseling, and connection to health services.

- **Trinity Counseling, Inc.**, \$35,000 to provide counseling and therapy for care-giving professionals, first responders, veterans, and the underinsured; and to continue providing mental health assessments and counseling to two institutions (Restoration Academy and Grace House) serving at-risk youth in Fairfield/Bessemer/Ensley.
- **University of Montevallo**, \$20,000 to support the University of Montevallo Grainger Community Counseling & Wellness Clinic, a program of The University of Montevallo's Graduate Counseling Department. The clinic provides free mental health care, including telehealth, to those in the surrounding communities and beyond who cannot afford it, while also acting as a training ground where graduate counseling students, under the supervision of counseling faculty, gain valuable experience working with clients.
- **Unless U**, \$35,000 to purchase multiple vans that will allow Unless U to transport students between the two campuses, start a peer mentoring program, and take educational field trips and outings to grocery stores and other places to help students develop life skills.
- **Woman of Worth, Inc.**, \$5,000 to support the mentoring program for underserved girls in Ensley and surrounding area. The purpose of the program is to build a healthy foundation for success and a social cohesive group of young girls that are inclusive, confident, and work together to accomplish community service projects and help build leadership in the community.

#### **Economic Opportunity for All**

- **Ensley Business Alliance (EBA)**, \$8,000 to mobilize the priorities of EBA's three-year strategic plan. Funding will expand capacity by hiring a contracted Business Development Manager who will interface with for-profit and non-profit businesses on behalf of the Alliance to develop and execute targeted business attraction and recruitment strategies for the district.
- **The Arc of Walker County**, \$12,000 to purchase a new vehicle for their Supported Employment program that teaches people with intellectual and developmental disabilities job skills and helps them become employed. This vehicle will be used to take participants to job interviews and to the workplace when they become employed until they reach their long-term support milestone.
- **United Ability**, \$50,000 to support the start-up costs of building a franchise of *Gone for Good*, a program of United Ability that provides document and e-waste solutions to nearly 1,000 businesses in greater Birmingham while also providing meaningful employment for adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.
- **Workfaith Birmingham**, \$25,000 to launch an apprenticeship program and workforce pipeline for adults that are reentering the workforce as a next step to job readiness workshops.

## **Overcoming Persistent Poverty**

- **BirthWell Partners**, \$20,000 to increase equitable access to doula services by growing the doula workforce and supporting contract doula work to serve families that can't pay out-of-pocket. Toward doula workforce sustainability, funding will support advocacy for Medicaid coverage of doula services.
- **Christ Episcopal Church, Fairfield**, \$20,000 over two years to hire a driver and to provide maintenance for a newly acquired bus, which will be a resource for the Fairfield community. Services will include regular transportation to grocery stores, government offices, the courthouse, and for other community needs.
- **Community Action Agency of Northeast AL Inc.**, \$40,000 to support the newly established "GROW" program (Gaining Resources, Opportunities, and Well-being). Case Managers will provide HUD certified Housing Counseling to eligible families in order to address housing barriers to prosperity, work with each family to help meet their basic needs, and create an action plan for long-term success.
- **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama**, \$35,000 to support operation of three Senior Grocery Programs in Jefferson County
- **Downtown Jimmie Hale Mission**, \$100,000 over 3 years to renovate the on-campus housing at the downtown men's center and provide four-man suites, each with an adjoining bathroom. This renovation will help bolster emotional and mental health by providing privacy, promoting camaraderie, increasing accountability and improving sleep.
- **Legal Services Alabama**, \$25,000 to hire a health care professional that will create a Proof of Concept in support of establishing a Medical-Legal Partnership for Alabama, which is a health care delivery model that includes lawyers on a care team to address legal issues that drive poor health and contribute to population health inequities.
- **Lovelady Center**, \$40,000 to hire two part-time teachers for the Center's in-house preschool to help implement a recently purchased, developmentally appropriate curriculum and improve the teacher-child ratio.

## **Regional Cooperation - \$75,000; 1 Proposal**

- **The Nature Conservancy**, \$75,000. To support the cooperation of the Nature Conservancy and Cahaba River Society with local municipalities in the Cahaba River and Black Warrior watersheds to access funding through the federal infrastructure act. These federal funds can be used for storm water management improvements, streambed restoration, and low-impact development to reduce flooding and improve local water systems.

## **Equity and Inclusion - \$227,000; 11 Proposals**

- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.**, \$30,000 to support the Fresh Start program. Funds will be used to grow prisoner reentry services for older, formerly incarcerated individuals who have served decades in prison for offenses that would result

in much shorter sentences under today's laws. Funding will support a social worker who will prepare and implement case management plans, wrap around supports, and counseling for clients.

- **Auburn University Foundation**, \$12,000 to support the Birmingham Community Education Resource Center (CERC), an initiative of the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project of Auburn University that facilitates responsive educational programming for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **Birmingham Black Radio Museum**, \$8,000 for a wheel chair lift to help those needing assistance to navigate the staircase of the Carver Theatre.
- **Birmingham Children's Theatre**, \$20,000 to support programming for a Black History Month weekend, in partnership with Encore Theatre & Gallery and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, highlighting Birmingham's role in Black History through the medium of theatrical performance
- **Chocolate Milk Mommies**, \$8,000 to support the Breastfeeding Equity and Inclusion program that promotes breastfeeding for mothers of color.
- **Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama (FHCNA)**, \$10,000 to organize and lead an Appraisal Bias Task Force that will work to identify and find solutions for appraisal bias. Appraisal bias is when, in the process of buying, selling, or refinancing a home, an appraiser gives the home a lower valuation based on discriminatory reasons.
- **Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama**, \$35,000 to support a demographic report on Alabama Latinos from Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama that will include a comprehensive assessment across the state on the unique needs. Funding will also support an onsite English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor.
- **Huffman Outdoor Adventure Club**, \$5,000 to support the efforts of the Huffman Outdoor Adventure Club at Huffman High School, a program that introduces students to different outdoor activities to encourage civic leadership and build community through teamwork and cooperation.
- **Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA)**, \$70,000 over two years to create a two-year research fellowship focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion in Alabama. The fellowship will allow PARCA to produce new and specialized diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) research; ensure DEI questions are addressed in current research; and collaborate on related public and private projects across the state.
- **Shelby County Historical Society, Inc.**, \$24,000 to support transcription of Shelby County's oldest court records containing the names of over 6,000 enslaved people living in Shelby County from 1818 - 1865. This project will break through the barrier known as the "1870 Brick Wall", making genealogy and family history more accessible to the Black population that has struggled for generations to find their history hidden among the pages of county records.
- **YMCA of Greater Birmingham**, \$5,000 to offer youth and teen programs to LGBTQ youth

and young adults, in partnership with the Magic City Acceptance Center. LTBTQ youth and young adults from MCAC will come to the YMCA and participate in development programs.

## 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.