

Cycle 1 Grants – May 2024

Creating Economic Opportunity for All – 5 Proposals; \$204,000

- **Alabama Goodwill Industries, Inc.**, \$50,000 to increase the accessibility of two career centers in Jefferson County by mobilizing a dedicated specialist that will allow the centers to be open on a walk-in basis. These career centers are strategically positioned to provide resources, referrals, education, workforce training and credentialing in financial and digital literacy. These free services assist people in overcoming barriers to employment and propelling them into in-demand career pathways.
- **Calera Main Street**, \$45,000 to support the Calera Courtyard Development Plan, a project consisting of an inclusive playground, pavilion, underground utilities, parking, landscaping, and other beautification. Grant funds will specifically support the switch to all underground power. This plan will bring together public-private partnerships, community engagement, and strategies that create jobs, spark new investment, attract visitors, and spur growth.
- **College Choice Foundation**, \$29,000 to add a new college tour in the Boston area for juniors in the Community Foundation's footprint. During these visits, students will engage with College Choice Foundation peers attending these schools, converse with admissions personnel, and potentially meet with professors. These visits are particularly beneficial for schools that track demonstrated interest, as they can increase the likelihood of admission. Campus visits play a crucial role in helping CCF Scholars envision their future beyond their current horizons.
- **STRIVE International, Inc.**, \$60,000 to expand the reach of STRIVE's signature Career Path program to serve 125 students in six cohorts in 2024. Grounded in research and proven practice, the Career Path program includes job readiness workshops, occupational skills training, job placement assistance, career coaching, and lifetime support. Career Path offers a Health and Office Administration 10-week training program where students pursue careers in non-clinical healthcare or office administration, vetted career pathways aligned with local economic development priorities.
- **Town of Morris**, \$20,000 to complete building renovations for the North Jefferson Business Training and Incubation Center, in partnership with the North Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and the Central Alabama Redevelopment Alliance. The center will host a business incubator program and will be used to provide entrepreneurial classes, especially targeting women and minority owned small businesses, as well as networking and mentorship events.

Fostering Equity and Inclusion – 14 Proposals; \$381,000

- **A+ Education Partnership**, \$25,000 to support state leaders in developing a plan to modernize Alabama's school funding formula. A+ Education Partnership will build a state-wide coalition of community partners, businesses, educators, families, and advocates to support modernizing funding and long-term educational reform efforts. Work will include developing recommended funding models and best practices for student-centered funding.
- **Alabama Holocaust Education Center**, \$56,000 over two years in support of AHEC's new, full-time Development Director to accommodate AHEC's rapid growth. Tasked with diversifying AHEC's contributed revenue streams, the Development Director will be responsible for: completion of CRM installation; implementation and management of fundraising events; development of a Board toolkit; and developing sustainable strategies for increasing revenue.
- **Birmingham Black Radio Museum**, \$35,000 to support grand opening festivities for 'The BBRM at the Carver', a permanent museum exhibit in Birmingham's Carver Theatre. The display will be interactive and includes a sound booth for visitor comments. The project will deliver the BBRM collection to the public through scheduled public tours as well as class tours by K-12 and college classes from Jefferson County and beyond. An online curriculum guide for teachers will be available for download. This permanent exhibit is the natural next step in sustainability for the BBRM collection.
- **Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Company (Fiscal Sponsor: National Performance Network)**, \$20,000 over two years to support a dynamic collaboration with The Modern Green Book. Through this partnership, BBRTC seeks to foster creativity, cultural understanding, and community activation to devise a new work inspired by stories of Black travelers and business owners. Work will engage artists in a comprehensive exploration of acting, stage-managing, playwriting, directing, and production design. All curriculum is delivered through theatre practices centered in Afro-centric framework and theologies, as well as framework from Theatrical Intimacy Education.
- **Birmingham Children's Theatre**, \$15,000 to support a full-length stage adaptation of The Cat Man of Aleppo by Karim Shamsi-Basha. The Cat Man of Aleppo is the true story of Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, a Syrian ambulance driver who rescues abandoned cats during the Syrian Civil War. Amidst fighting, bombings, people fleeing, and his once vibrant city falling to rubble, Alaa stays to create a safe haven for the forgotten members of his neighborhood: the cats. Through social media and word of mouth, the news of his efforts spread until help pours in from across the world.
- **Birmingham Talks (dba Small Magic)**, \$70,000 to support the Birmingham Talks program (formerly Start) for Spanish-speaking families. Throughout Birmingham Talks, participants attend a weekly small group class focused on strategies for increasing interactive conversation and use a digital "talk pedometer" to track their conversational environment. After each session, participants receive a detailed report illuminating the level of linguistic exposure their child encountered. Then, personalized 1:1 coaching sessions are conducted, where achievements are celebrated, and future goals are established.
- **Camp McDowell**, \$15,000 to grow the Camp's accessible offerings in Bethany Village by building an ADA-compliant, wheelchair-accessible concrete trail adjacent to Sloan Lake. Taking a hike in the woods allows a Camper not only to exercise and experience nature, but also to reflect on the experiences gained and lessons learned in study and fellowship at Camp. The trail will be utilized by groups and organizations

year-round and will be especially treasured by participants in two cornerstone Camp experiences: Special Session and Bethany's Kids.

- **Friends of Downtown Jasper**, \$5,000 to develop and implement a stakeholder survey and focus group process that will gauge community perceptions and capture ideas to shape and support existing and future DEI efforts. Funds will be used to develop an effective communication and distribution strategy; develop a stakeholder survey to gauge perceptions, experiences, concerns, and ideas related to diversity and inclusion in Jasper; interpret survey data to identify key priorities, gaps, and opportunities; select focus group participants representing prominent demographic and stakeholder groups; and conduct focus groups and training sessions as a part of the post-survey plan.
- **Girls Rock Birmingham**, \$8,000 to support multiple Girls Rock programs including the return of an in-person weeklong camp, monthly workshops in partnership with the Magic City Acceptance Center, and a mentorship program for past campers. These programs foster a solid foundation for girls to grow confidently as individuals while developing rewarding musical skills.
- **Lakeshore Foundation**, \$34,000 to support phase one of the Lakeshore Community Garden. Grant funds will be used to construct raised beds (ensuring accessible gardening experiences), to conduct focus groups, and for program startup costs. Inclusive design will ensure the participation of people with diverse backgrounds and disabilities, with the goal of improving mental health, physical activity, and nutrition while promoting sustainable gardening practices.
- **Move United**, \$10,000 to support Nationals, the largest and longest-standing national sports championship for athletes with a physical, visual and/or intellectual disability. The 2024 event, scheduled for July 12–18 in Hoover, AL, will be the 67th year of competition. More than four hundred athletes of all ages with a range of disabilities and coaches will participate in the week-long event that includes competitions, clinics, education, and social opportunities. Competitions include archery, para powerlifting, paratriathlon, shooting, swimming, track and field and wheelchair tennis. Grant funds will help support the expansion of the event to include more youth and adults with disabilities.
- **Redemptive Cycles**, \$13,000 to support "Bike Rodeos" at twelve Birmingham housing authority communities. These rodeos will provide 6–13-year-olds with newly refurbished bikes, new helmets, lights, and bike locks, as well as safe commuting education in a fun format. The program is designed to build healthier and more connected communities through cycling, to encourage a healthy lifestyle, and to encourage families and individuals to use the cycling lanes and paths that are available throughout the City.
- **STREAM Innovations**, \$40,000 to support STREAM Nexus, the first of its kind in after-school programs. The classes are tailored for 6th - 11th grade students and offer a unique and comprehensive exploration of cutting-edge disciplines. This program is designed to reach students in underserved and underrepresented communities where opportunities outside of school are rare or nonexistent. STREAM Nexus extends over 18 weeks with 36 classes that delve into coding, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, 3D printing, fashion and tech, forensics, engineering, and medical sciences. This program aims to create a seamless connection between education and innovation, fostering a holistic approach to learning.
- **The Exceptional Foundation**, \$35,000 to support the Exceptional Foundation's growth in response to increased demand for programs that serve individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Greater Birmingham Area. Since 2022, daily program attendance has increased by 40%. The Exceptional

Foundation provides year-round day programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as a summer camp and after-school program for school-age children with similar needs. CFGB funds will be used for equipment, art and activity supplies, additional salaries, field trips, and vendors.

Overcoming Persistent Poverty – 13 Proposals; \$479,000

- **Assistance League of Birmingham**, \$12,000 to expand Operation School Bell from 5 to 10 middle schools. Each year, school counselors identify children in their schools who need clothing assistance. The Assistance League provides these children with appropriate school clothing, warm hoodies, undergarments, socks, and a hygiene kit. To date, they have clothed over 40,000 elementary school children in the greater Birmingham area and are ready to expand their middle school outreach.
- **Be the Change Health and Wellness**, \$25,000 to address food insecurity in Greater Birmingham by hosting food distributions and providing education regarding nutrition and the relationship of diet and chronic diseases. Each distribution serves at least 100 individuals, and distributions are held three times a month. Fresh fruit and nonperishables including canned protein, grains, cereals, and vegetables are provided. Be the Change also provides medical assessments to those they serve.
- **Better Basics, Inc.**, \$50,000 over 2 years to enhance organizational capacity by upgrading technology and leasing additional space next to the current location. Better Basics is dedicated to eradicating illiteracy among children in Central Alabama. They address persistent regional educational disparities through comprehensive reading and math literacy programs and book distribution programs. Additional resources from this funding will empower Better Basics to manage additional programs, efficiently address the community's needs, and extend support to additional children.
- **BirthWell Partners**, \$40,000 to increase organizational capacity by hiring a full-time program director, adding a support staff position, and renting an office space in the community where staff and doulas can work. These additions and resources are needed in response to the demand for BirthWell doula services doubling in 2023. BirthWell eliminates barriers to doula training and services through a work-study program, doula mentoring, employing doulas on contract, and providing culturally appropriate, free doula services for pregnant Medicaid recipients.
- **Christ Episcopal Church, Fairfield**, \$20,000 to replace an air conditioning system attached to the fellowship hall, where monthly community lunches are held and District 2 neighborhood association meetings are conducted. Christ Episcopal Church has a decades-long history of providing community services to the Fairfield community. Currently, they house the Metro West Food Pantry, provide transportation to grocery stores, serve hot lunches, and host literacy support activities.
- **East Lake Initiative**, \$75,000 to expand the Thrive Family Coaching Program, a holistic 3-year pathway that supports families in goal setting, budgeting, employment, housing, and building healthy relationships. Funds will also support a pilot program to build 15 single family homes over 5 years. Through this New Family Housing Initiative, families completing the coaching program have the option to purchase those new construction homes.
- **Firehouse Shelter**, \$30,000 to support the Moving Toward Change program in which clients work with case managers to develop individualized, client-centered case plans that encompass wellness, mental health services, and permanent housing solutions that go beyond traditional emergency shelter care. Each participant will receive meals, transportation, medication assistance, and access to group and art

therapy. CFGB funding will help provide essential medications, medical supplies and medical assistance materials, and transportation.

- **Grace House Ministries**, \$75,000 to support the Growing in Grace Campaign that will build capacity by establishing a computer lab and a therapeutic learning space for girls with special learning needs; by expanding the Transitional Living Program to serve an additional 10 girls who are on track to age out of foster care; and by constructing the Lois G. Coleman Mission Center as the campus entry point, outreach facility, training center, administrative offices and hub of all campus activities including counseling, family visit and intake rooms.
- **Love In Action**, \$17,000 to enhance the efficiency and reach of Love in Action's food distribution program. Funding from CFGB will be allocated towards acquiring four commercial freezers, the procurement of new storage options, a forklift, and a 20-foot box truck to streamline logistics. The final part of the project will be the installation of a retractable awning to shield volunteers from inclement weather during vehicle loading, ensuring their safety while serving the community.
- **One Roof**, \$30,000 to strategically improve the Coordinated Entry (CE) program at One Roof's new office location by creating private, confidential client spaces for individuals to complete housing assessments. These assessments often cover sensitive and personal information related to mental health, substance use, and safety planning. The CE program uses these housing assessments to quickly identify individuals' and families' housing needs and connect them to available supportive housing within the homeless Continuum of Care network of housing partners. By creating these safe and private spaces, folks will feel more welcome, safe, and comfortable when receiving case management from CE staff.
- **St. Clair Community Health Clinic**, \$25,000 to increase mental health service capacity for diverse populations in St. Clair County, including prisoners from the county jail. Funding will be utilized to expand hours for the certified registered nurse practitioner with mental health expertise to maximize available resources. Remote clinic access will be increased to address barriers such as transportation. The clinic will continue partnerships with local, established entities (Ascension Hospital, Jefferson State CC, Eastside Mental Health, and local churches) to reach underserved populations in St. Clair County.
- **The Community Kitchens of Birmingham**, \$10,000 to conduct resource days once a month at the Woodlawn and Southside locations while serving midday meals. Guests will have access to representatives and resources from the following organizations: The VA, UAB Psychiatric, Acclinate (offering access for marginalized communities to clinical trials), Archwell (providing geriatric healthcare), UAB Psychiatry, Aetna, MMA (providing Medicaid and Medicare assistance) and Alabama Regional Medical Services (ARMS - providing no cost healthcare), as well as groups offering counseling and addiction recovery services. After a basic health screening, guests requiring follow-up care will be provided with free appointments at an ARMS office with access to free transportation.
- **The Flagstone Initiative**, \$70,000 to expand the Rent Splitting and Rent Loan programs to serve 2,500 low-income families. CFGB funds supported the initial pilot that successfully demonstrated the impact of these two no-fee financial stability programs. These upstream prevention programs are cost-effective ways to dramatically reduce eviction due to financial challenges. Rent Splitting helps with tight cash flow, and Rent Loans help handle life's little financial shocks. Together, they prevent small problems from becoming big problems like eviction and homelessness.

Driving Regional Cooperation – 1 Proposal; \$6,000

- **Leadership St. Clair County Inc.**, \$6,000 to support a leadership network across St. Clair County and to educate those leaders on current issues. The curriculum includes training on government, safety and justice, education, economic development, infrastructure, quality of life, and agriculture. The program has had success producing educated leaders and regional cooperation partnerships in St. Clair County.

Nurturing Thriving Communities – 15 Proposals; \$441,000

- **Alabama 4-H Foundation**, \$12,000 to revitalize existing recreational infrastructure that ensures a safe and inclusive place for both recreational and environmental programs/activities at the Alabama 4-H Center. Phase one of this project encompasses resurfacing, repaving, equipment installation, and re-fencing of the current, and weathered, outdoor pavilion area. The revitalization of this space would provide a new alternative location for 4-H conservation programs, birds of prey demonstrations, and camp recreational activities (basketball, pickleball, and four-square). Phase two encompasses the installation of a permanent awning to support year-round programming as well.
- **Alabama State Parks Foundation**, \$70,000 to build a new playground at Rickwood Caverns State Park with a poured-in-place rubber base that is surrounded by an ADA compliant paved sidewalk. This approach, and the related features that highlight the park's cave, will improve accessibility for children with multiple forms of disabilities. Further, the design will allow for the playground to be used as a National Demonstration Site to promote Active Play and Best Practices for playgrounds.
- **Ascension St. Vincent's Foundation**, \$50,000 to provide lifesaving, high-quality prenatal/postpartum care services for uninsured/underinsured women. Project Access (PA), a department of Ascension St. Vincent's, will identify low-income, uninsured/underinsured expectant mothers and obtain prenatal appointments at area FQHCs. PA will reduce access barriers by subsidizing costs, transportation assistance, interpretation, community referrals, and access to specialty care to ensure the wellbeing of the mother through its existing Moms-2-Be program. The FQHCs will provide comprehensive prenatal/postpartum care, including Alabama Medicaid application assistance and delivery at St. Vincent's Hospital.
- **Empower Schools of Alabama**, \$25,000 to build a new playground and outdoor classroom area for the renovated campus at St. Francis of Assisi in Bessemer. Increased demand and a growing waitlist require Empower Schools to add this second campus. Empower Community School's mission is to energize scholars to own their learning, develop social, emotional, and communications skills, and become leaders in their communities through a highly personalized approach to learning that leverages their strengths with support from our educators, families, and community partners.
- **Encore School of Arts and Theatre, Inc.**, \$10,000 to enrich underserved neighborhoods in Birmingham through community theatre. Funds will support diverse performances, arts education classes, outreach to home schools and nursing homes, community engagement, theatrical productions, audience and volunteer growth, financial sustainability, and online presence expansion.
- **Equip**, \$25,000 to expand the Thrive program so that adults with disabilities can continue their growth in a community-centered setting amongst their peers, rather than in a facility or at home. At Thrive, participants learn vocational, life, and social skills through hands-on instruction. Funding would go

towards the operational costs of running a program that is fully integrated into the community while increasing the recreational and vocational opportunities available, such as partnering with local restaurants for cooking classes, art studios for art classes, and similarly enriching activities.

- **Family Connection, Inc.**, \$25,000 to support capital renovations and improvements to the Residential Youth and Runaway/Homeless Youth Center in Alabaster. Renovations will include painting, flooring, bathroom, and kitchen improvements, as well as an upgrade to the current security system. The Center provides emergency shelter for up to twenty-one days for runaway or homeless youth up to 21 years of age. They also provide a four-week residential program for youth ages 12-17 in crisis through a partnership with the Alabama Division of Youth Services and Shelby County Juvenile Court.
- **King's Home, Inc.**, \$26,000 to build a swimming pool on King's Home campus. A repurposed pool utilizing aquatic therapy will boost mental health through aquatic exercise, providing beneficial effects on mood, depression, PTSD, and anxiety symptoms. The addition of aquatic therapy will promote healthy living, healing, and balance for residents' lives. King's Home has provided refuge for abused women, and children from across Alabama for 50 years.
- **Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba**, \$5,000 to improve two of Living River's best access points to the Cahaba River with small pavilions. Living River is a camp and retreat center on the Cahaba River. Stewardship of its land, facilities, and the river; community events; environmental education; and its summer camp program are central to its mission. This capital project is part of Living River's work to engage students and researchers.
- **Magic City Smooth Jazz**, \$10,000 to present Jazz in the Park 2024 - Building Community Through Jazz, a two-concert miniseries featuring one local musician as the opening act and one regional musician as the headliner per show. These concerts will contribute to the vibrant utilization of public spaces and facilities where residents can enjoy quality arts programs in their neighborhoods.
- **Nathifa Dance Company & Outreach, Inc.**, \$15,000 to provide African dance, drum classes, workshops, and performances at a variety of community partners (Sixth Avenue Baptist Church Summer Camp, Daniel Cason Kids Christian Music Camp, Grace House Ministry, East Village Arts Center, and Episcopal Place for Seniors). Funds will support operational costs including salaries, artist consultants and guest artists, musical supplies, and storage, and to increase marketing.
- **Omega Bridge Builder Foundation, Inc.**, \$18,000 for a series of life-skill development workshops targeting BIPOC youth ages 12-18, as well as their parents and guardians. OBBF will deliver 6 high impact workshops covering Conflict Resolution, Post Secondary Options, Career Planning, Financial Literacy, Know Your Rights, and Health and Wellness. Seminars will feature topical expert speakers (judges, medical professionals, business executives, college admins., law enforcement).
- **Railroad Park Foundation**, \$25,000 to support a transformational opportunity for Railroad Park. During the initial design of the Park, wood timbers were the best choice for boardwalk planks. Using these planks causes an annual expense of up to \$100,000 to repair and replace them. The impact of the wood deterioration requires constant evaluation to ensure the accessibility and safety of Park visitors. Railroad Park has developed plans for a pilot project in which the most problematic planks will be replaced with board-form cast-in-place concrete. This pilot project will heavily decrease this annual expense and demonstrate an attractive, sustainable alternative.

- **Sight Savers America**, \$50,000 over 2 years to support the strategic expansion of the Screening Program into high need, underserved schools (Magic City Acceptance Academy, I3 and Restoration Academies, Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic School, and Montevallo Elementary). This program conducts on-site vision screenings and coordinates head-to-toe health screenings. Children failing a vision and/or dental screening will receive case-managed follow-up care. When an urgent medical problem is identified, the school nurse is immediately notified, and the issue is addressed onsite.
- **YMCA Birmingham**, \$75,000 to build the YMCA Leadership and Learning Center as part of the Roebuck Revitalization project. In 2023, the YMCA broke ground in Roebuck with a consortium of partners set to address unmet community needs including attainable home ownership, affordable pediatric healthcare, and mental health services. The Leadership and Learning Center will be a dedicated space offering proven youth and teen programming as well as Meals on Wheels, senior services, summer feeding programs, and workforce development.