

Cycle 2 Grants – December 2024

Creating Economic Opportunity for All – 10 Proposals; \$300,000

- **Central Alabama Redevelopment Alliance, \$50,000** to expand small business efforts in Jefferson County, specifically targeting Tarrant, Kimberly, and Hueytown. CARA will enhance local Chambers of Commerce in these areas, strengthening their capacity to foster small business growth and community revitalization. These partnerships will provide local businesses with the tools and resources they need to succeed, including targeted technical assistance, workshops, and bootcamps. CARA's goal is to equip local entrepreneurs with skills and resources, positioning these businesses for sustainable growth and ensuring that economic opportunities are distributed more equitably across the county.
- **Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama, \$40,000** to support iHICA!'s policy and advocacy efforts by funding a new Policy Director position. Key areas of focus for policy and advocacy work in the Greater Birmingham metro area and throughout the state will include expanding cradle-to-career initiatives in local schools; strengthening small business and workforce development efforts, creating pathways for long-term success and economic growth; and engaging with lawmakers, community stakeholders, and other partners to build support for inclusive policies that address the needs of underserved communities.
- **Innovation Depot, \$38,000** to support the Mentor and Strategist Network, which provides a dual approach to support founder-to-founder mentorship and expert-led strategic advice. This tiered service model, ranging from light-touch mentorship to in-depth, hands-on support from strategists, offers the support founders need to navigate challenges successfully. The Mentor and Strategist Network offers targeted support during pivotal stages of growth. Whether a founder needs guidance on making their first hire, refining their go-to-market strategy, or navigating financial complexities, the program provides access to the expertise that can make the difference between failure and success.
- **Jefferson State Community College Foundation, Inc., \$20,000** to expand access to high-demand healthcare careers in St. Clair County by opening enrollment to its industry-renowned Certified Medical Assistant certification program at its Pell City campus. As Alabama's need for Certified Medical Assistant healthcare workers continues to rise, the program will work closely with major area healthcare providers to prepare a cohort of 12 trainees for a high-demand healthcare field. Grant funds will help defray instructional support costs and program fees, including CPR certification and study guides, recruiting costs, and need-based emergency grant funds to individuals for wrap-around services such as childcare, caregiving, and transportation.
- **LegacyWorks, \$12,000** to strategically expand the Paid Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which offers exposure to three skilled trades - plumbing, electrical work, and carpentry. The program is structured in quarterly modules, each covering one trade, with a blend of online learning and hands-on training. A partnership with Interplay Learning, a recognized workforce development platform, will allow participants to progress at their own pace

and even earn certifications in general construction and universal standards, further increasing their employability.

- **Main Street Leeds, \$10,000** to sustain and enhance efforts to revitalize downtown Leeds. This additional support will empower Main Street Leeds to focus on high-impact projects that contribute to the economic vitality and cultural enrichment of downtown Leeds, such as the Small Business Incubator, Alley Activation Project, and other community-focused initiatives.
- **Momentum, \$15,000** to serve an additional 50 women in 2025 through Momentum Works, a six-month program that delivers successful leadership training to a broad demographic of women. Momentum Works provides Momentum's proven leadership training and economic opportunity to women who do not have access to leadership programs, professional networks, and mentors. By adopting this approach, Momentum Works is filling a gap for historically overlooked and under-supported women.
- **Triumph Services, \$5,000** to support Food and Beverage ACCS credentialing for individuals with developmental disabilities. Funds will support weekly classes to teach and complete the online portion; Triumph will partner with Jefferson State to host the hands-on portion. Participants will gain a general knowledge of key terminology and best practices used in customer service, food safety, management principles, and laws and regulations that affect food and beverage businesses. Professional soft skills are also taught and emphasized throughout the training. Upon successfully completing both the online and hands-on portions of the course, a participant will receive an ACCS credential to support their employment.
- **University of Montevallo, \$60,000** to support the University of Montevallo's inaugural nursing program, a project that will help alleviate Alabama's growing nursing shortage crisis and provide high-quality career opportunities for area residents. Funding from CFGB will assist in purchasing necessary laboratory equipment and technology enhancements to provide essential nursing education and meet program curriculum guidelines for this vital new program.
- **Workshops Empowerment, Inc., \$50,000** to support Empower Café, a dynamic social enterprise dedicated to providing comprehensive training and employment opportunities to individuals living with disabilities, facing poverty, and experiencing other barriers to employment. Empower Café will serve a dual purpose: offering quality coffee, pastries, and lunch options while functioning as a real-world training lab for participants to earn while they learn all aspects of the food service and retail industry. The café will not only benefit the individuals participating in the program but also serve as a community hub, offering a welcoming space for social interaction, delicious food, and local business engagement.

Fostering Equity and Inclusion – 8 Proposals; \$250,000

- **Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc., \$30,000** to support Appleseed's work in responding to families whose incarcerated loved ones have been abused, neglected, or killed in state custody, and assist them in getting answers and services; providing these families with tools, transportation, and other resources to advocate for safer prisons and more transparent justice systems; and raising awareness of this crisis of violence in Alabama prisons by storytelling, public education, and media outreach.
- **Alabama Symphonic Association, Inc., \$43,000** to support the second annual Momentum Symposium, an immersive event aimed at making classical music more accessible to collegiate musicians as a profession and to the community as an artform. Momentum encourages access and inclusion for young musicians and underserved audiences, breaks down barriers to orchestral music, and strengthens partnerships across musical genres and professions. The symposium is designed to exemplify and celebrate diversity and inclusion in the arts

and introduces a spectrum of musical professions and skills to college students, with a focus on engaging students from Alabama's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

- **Big Canoe Creek Preserve Partners, \$22,000** to create trails that are handicap accessible, ensuring that everyone in our community can enjoy the beauty and serenity of our natural environment. The proposed handicap-accessible trail will be designed with the specific needs of individuals with mobility challenges in mind, including gentle gradients, smooth and stable surfaces, accessible rest areas, and clear signage.
- **Children's Aid Society, \$38,000** to support a bi-lingual Community Engagement Specialist position focused on building trust, education, and awareness within and between affiliated partner agencies and culturally diverse communities. The goal for this position is to improve prevention, detection, and willingness within these communities to report suspected incidents of trafficking and exploitation. Funding will also supply I-Speak Language and Situational Identification Guides for front line workers.
- **InToto Creative Arts, \$4,000** to support InToto's music program expansion. Funds will help InToto to introduce a monthly music class at Pathways Home, add an additional monthly class at Firehouse Shelter, and provide additional instruments and supplies for music programming at the 1920 Club and the Birmingham VA. Curriculum will be intentionally developed to present content that is relevant and inclusive of people of various ages and cultural identities.
- **Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama, \$47,000** to support the Voices for Change Academy, a six-month pilot program that will establish an affinity group for people with lived experience in homelessness and housing instability. The program will provide a space for community members to obtain tools, training, and resources to assist them in conveying their perspectives and achieving their policy and advocacy goals. As trusted advocates within their communities, the Voices for Change cohort will be able to cultivate, motivate, and engage their neighbors to take action on issues that impact them the most.
- **Shelby Emergency Assistance, \$36,000** over two years to support a targeted initiative that will enhance accessibility, build trust, and create an inclusive environment for the Hispanic community in Shelby County. A central part of this initiative is the addition of a bilingual Program Aide. This individual will deliver high-quality services to Spanish-speaking clients and will play a key role in making services more accessible and welcoming. These services include financial assistance to address urgent needs such as utility bills, housing stability, and medical expenses, and English as a Second Language classes through a partnership with the Adult Learning Department within the local Community College System.
- **The Morgan Project, \$30,000** over two years to implement the Morgan Project's Conflict and Courage Curriculum in five additional high schools. The curriculum uses Birmingham's rich civil rights history to equip students with tools to combat bullying, racism, and discrimination. This one-week in-person program fosters a deeper understanding of civil rights through interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and local field trips. The curriculum includes primary source materials, guest speakers, and testimonies from local civil rights activists to create a dynamic and transformative learning experience.

Overcoming Persistent Poverty – 14 Proposals; \$313,000

- **Alabama Childhood Food Solutions INC, \$50,000** to support building a 20,000 square foot food distribution center, allowing Alabama Childhood to serve up to 10,000 people each month. Alabama Childhood Food Solutions assists families and kids who often do not know where their next meals will come from. They have an urgent need for additional warehouse space, and building is expected to begin in early 2025.

- **Alabama Public Television, \$5,000** to purchase 1,700 reusable shopping bags, printed on both sides with literacy tips and activities for at-home learning. Each bag will contain a book, an activity booklet, access to digital education resources from APT, and information for parents on how to support literacy at home. Parents will receive their bags at the beginning of a series of family workshops conducted by Alabama Reading Initiative staff to educate caregivers on the impact that reading scores can have on a child's future.
- **Be Kind Birmingham, \$8,000** to support the Mobile Pop-Up Free Store, a key initiative that provides essential resources to underserved communities across Birmingham and Jefferson County. Through this program, Be Kind distributes clothing, hygiene kits, and workforce development attire to individuals who face economic hardship and transportation barriers.
- **Blanket Fort Hope, \$50,000** to better equip Blanket Fort Hope's restoration home with proper safety equipment and training: CPR training, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and more. Foster families will also be provided with trauma-informed tools and training. Additionally, funds will assist with DHR and HIPPA compliance as Blanket Fort Hope provides safety and support to child survivors of human trafficking.
- **Christian's Place Mission, \$2,000** to purchase commercial-grade tables, creating a safer environment for volunteers as they assemble grocery bags for distribution in Walker County.
- **Community Care Development Network, \$25,000** to strategically expand Food Hubs and Snack Packs programs. CCDN plans to add two bi-weekly Food Hub locations in Tarrant that will serve an estimated 200 families per month. CCDN also plans to expand the Snack Packs program to four additional schools that will distribute approximately 2,000 Snack Packs per month.
- **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, \$75,000** to support construction of a new facility allowing for increased food storage, enhanced logistics, and safe staff and volunteer spaces. The Community Food Bank serves 12 counties and partners with over 300 food pantries and other community organizations. In 2023, they distributed over 25 million pounds of food as food insecurity continues to rise in our region.
- **i3 Academy, \$12,000** over two years to support a coordinator for the food pantry and clothing closet and security for when the pantry is open to the public outside of school hours. i3 Academy seeks to meet basic needs through essential nutrition to food insecure families and supplying necessary clothing; reduce financial stress for those living paycheck to paycheck; provide access to appropriate clothing to enhance dignity and self-esteem, especially when seeking employment and attending work or school; and improve education outcomes by keeping children well fed and properly clothed.
- **Meals on Wheels of Central Alabama, \$15,000** to purchase two delivery vehicles, enabling Meals on Wheels to serve more seniors, more efficiently. Program vans are relied upon to deliver 100+ meals on nine routes per day and to deliver emergency food in response to calls from seniors.
- **NAME Ministries Inc., \$7,000** to increase access to quality, after-school tutoring for low-income students. Funds will be used to contract a professional transportation company, ensuring all students can be safely transported from Wylam Elementary School to the Ensley STEAM Academy. Students participate in afterschool tutoring, Saturday reading programs, and spring and summer enrichment.
- **Oak Mountain Missions Ministries, \$30,000** to support the Financial Assistance Program established to help with utilities, medical needs, and automotive expenses. Need for these services has increased substantially in the past year. Grant funds will be used to assist additional families in Jefferson and Shelby County to meet the increased need.
- **Second Shift, \$10,000** to expand five key programs that help youth aging out of foster care transition successfully into independent adulthood: trauma-informed mentor connection, case management, emergency, assistance,

life skills education, and housing support. Since its inception, Second Shift has assisted over 700 youth through their various programs and collaboration with their community partners.

- **South Highland Mental Health Outreach Project, \$8,000** to support new therapeutic arts and culture programming; to provide transportation to and from weekly meetings; and to provide meals at each meeting. Recognizing a critical need for mental health services, especially for low-income individuals, South Highland provides advocacy and support to adults who struggle with mental illness. Program participants gain confidence, build a social support system, further develop their ability to socially integrate, and improve their quality of life.
- **The Community Kitchens of Birmingham, \$16,000** to support Community Kitchens' relocation and capital improvements. Community Kitchens is committed to maintaining a presence on the East side of Birmingham where they serve over 40,000 free meals each year. In addition to providing meals, Community Kitchens also works to close the gap in access to healthcare, GED courses, mental health, and addiction services.

Nurturing Thriving Communities – 27 Proposals; \$548,000

- **Alabama Association of Nonprofits, \$30,000** to support Elevate Alabama, educational programming that provides essential training and professional development opportunities for nonprofit leaders, equipping them with critical skills to operate successful organizations. Part of this programming includes the Nonprofit Summit, relaunching in 2025 and featuring workshops, roundtable discussions, and expert speakers focused on changes in philanthropy and charitable giving.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham, \$15,000** to support a new staff position, the Community Relations and Development Manager, that focuses on volunteer recruitment, partnership development, and fundraising. The ongoing recruitment of volunteers is critical to the implementation of one-on-one mentoring. As demand for services increases, it is essential for BBBS to increase its capacity and reduce their current wait list.
- **Birmingham Public Library, \$14,000** to create additional workspaces for adult patrons in the Central location, specifically in the Computer Commons and the Adult Services Departments. For the Commons, funds will support the addition of two laptop bars and barstools. For the Adult Services Department, funds will support the purchase of two Nook Solos (study pods) for patrons needing a quiet space to study, research, and conduct teleconference meetings.
- **Breakthrough Birmingham, \$13,000** to strengthen a program pipeline with the College Choice Foundation via parent engagement. Three dinners will be hosted throughout 2024-25, each covering a college preparedness theme and providing a time for parents to connect with each other and learn from peers who have children currently pursuing or who have recently pursued a college education.
- **Cahaba Riverkeeper, \$13,000** to support the Environmental Leadership Program that educates youth with an interest in their local environment and in being leaders in their community as the nation adapts to a changing climate. In 2025, fourteen local high school juniors will participate as the next generation of environmental stewards, and will learn field and lab water sampling skills, explore careers in the environmental field, and gain firsthand knowledge about organizations and individuals working with communities to protect Alabama's air and water.
- **Cahaba Valley Health Care, Inc, \$45,000** over three years to add an additional dental clinic day, allowing the clinic to be open up to three days per week beginning in 2025. Funds will address growing patient demand, provide dental supplies essential for high-quality care, reduce wait times for urgent dental appointments, promote health equity, and ensure long-term sustainability.

- **Community of Hope Health Clinic, \$15,000** to improve diabetes management for uninsured individuals in Shelby County. Funds will be used to purchase A1CNow+ Meters and cartridges for 360 patients with diabetes over the course of a year. The A1C tests provide a measure of the patient's average blood sugar over 3 months and are essential in both diagnosis and management of diabetes.
- **Coosa Riverkeeper, Inc., \$50,000** over three years to add a new Development Manager staff position. This position will help Coosa Riverkeeper sustain its programs and talent through targeted donor stewardship campaigns to increase new members, membership retention, and diversify income, allowing Coosa Riverkeeper to continue protecting, promoting, and restoring the Coosa River.
- **Curry Volunteer Fire and Rescue Inc, \$10,000** to purchase a Solo Rescue Decon Washer, a critical piece of equipment designed to thoroughly clean firefighters' breathing apparatuses and protective gear. This advanced cleaning system is essential for removing up to 95% of harmful substances and carcinogens that accumulate on the equipment during fire suppression activities. This regular and thorough cleaning will significantly reduce firefighters' exposure to carcinogens and other harmful substances, decreasing the long-term health risks associated with firefighting.
- **Firehouse Community Arts Center, \$5,000** to expand the Rock the Schoolhouse program to serve 90 students at Avondale Elementary every week. Rock the Schoolhouse is free for all students and is geared toward teaching students the foundations of learning guitar, bass, and drums. The program is intentionally designed to meet students where they are and to engage them in a group setting to reduce program costs. This program helps gauge their interest and build a foundation in order for them to take one-on-one lessons at the Firehouse at a free or reduced rate.
- **Foster Coalition, \$5,000** to host educational conferences for foster parents, adoptive parents, grandparents raising grandkids, DHR caseworkers, CASA workers, and teachers. Events will be open to all that are interested in learning about the foster care system and related topics such as trauma-informed care and counseling. At least two events are planned for 2025 in the Birmingham metro area.
- **Freshwater Land Trust, \$75,000** to support the Red Rock Trail System's Civil Rights Trail, a 3.16-mile urban trail and enhanced transportation corridor that will traverse a pivotal landscape in America's Civil Rights Movement. Connecting downtown Birmingham's Civil Rights District with the historic Smithfield community, the Civil Rights Trail will trigger revitalization of the area and create a more walkable and bikeable community with enhanced connections to transit. The Civil Rights Trail design will create Birmingham's first ever in-street greenway using a multi-phased approach that will include a robust community engagement process, historical research, topographical surveys, transit inventories, and engineering and landscape services.
- **Friends of the Locust Fork River, \$15,000** to add a public access point on the Locust Fork River. This project will transform a semi-abandoned space into a family-friendly gathering place for picnics, fishing, getting into the river, and enjoyment of scenic views. The access point will also correct the path of surface water runoff that has dramatically eroded the stream bank, destroying wildlife and fish habitat and silting the river. Additionally, the development of another public access point on the Locust Fork River enhances the reach of the Alabama Scenic River Trail.
- **KID One Transport System, \$14,000** to secure an additional handicap accessible vehicle and equipment to transport clients (children and expectant mothers) to needed medical care. The addition of this vehicle will make more long-range transports into Jefferson County possible, so that more clients can receive specialized treatments at healthcare facilities and hospitals. This vehicle will help Kid One Transport make a difference in rural communities of the Metro area as they seek access to vital health care in Birmingham.

- **Leadership Birmingham, \$11,000** to support a rebranding initiative to strengthen the connection between Leadership Birmingham and Youth Leadership Birmingham. Funds will be used to modernize branding, strengthen the program's online presence, and better connect with the demographics that the organization is designed to serve. During intensive program days and retreats, Youth Leadership Birmingham class members learn from experts, hear diverse viewpoints, and inspire and challenge each other to solve our community problems.
- **Mothers' Milk Bank of Alabama, \$50,000** to support the Mothers' Milk Bank's relocation and build-out. The Milk Bank requires a larger space than is currently available to effectively process the current level of donations as well as to better serve their milk donors. As Alabama's only human milk bank, the Mothers' Milk Bank provides life-saving access to pasteurized donor human milk for critically ill infants whose mother's situation or medical challenges render them unable to nurse. Donor milk is dispensed to neonatal intensive care units where it is used to nourish premature and medically fragile infants.
- **Noah and Emily Little Humans Foundation, \$5,000** to support the Thriving NICU Families Program, an initiative aimed at providing comprehensive assistance to families with babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The program enhances the well-being of NICU families by offering vital resources and support during this critical period. Funds will be used to provide comfort kits, educational resources, financial assistance for families, travel assistance, and other support services.
- **Oak Tree Ministries, \$25,000** to build a pavilion and garden area that will provide space for exercise classes, therapeutic art classes, and community gatherings. Oak Tree Ministries is in the process of renovating a newly purchased property that will become the Newman Center for Renewal, a hub for community wellness and healing in the heart of Gate City. This space will increase the community's access to quality, trauma informed, mental healthcare services.
- **One More Moment, \$10,000** to support One More Moment's mission of empowering and nurturing parents of teens and children dealing with mental health issues. Participating parents gain access to parent-led weekly support groups, one-on-one parent support, Parent Project© Curriculum, in-person and online workshops, a helpline, and eight free sessions for the parent with a licensed counselor or mental health practitioner.
- **Red Mountain Theatre Company, \$20,000** to purchase a state-of-the-art projector and screen, which is essential for delivering high-quality visual productions. The cost of renting is strategically unwise, and purchasing will serve as a long-term asset for the venue. Venue rental partners often require projection for events, and this upgrade allows for a broader range of activities while generating rental income to offset the expense.
- **Spring Valley School Foundation, \$25,000** to enhance school security by completing fencing around the school campus and connecting outer portable buildings to the fire alarm in the main building, as recommended by the Regional Security Advisor and the Birmingham Police Department and in response to recent threats made against the school. Spring Valley School is an independent, college preparatory school whose mission is to provide excellence in education for students with learning differences.
- **The Arc of Shelby County, \$13,000** to support the Day Program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, focusing on communication, life skills, and overall quality of life. Funding will help the Arc of Shelby County procure and implement assistive technology solutions tailored to the unique needs of individuals served in the program. This assistive technology includes communication kits, interactive panel displays, kitchen worktables, and inclusive outdoor space equipment.
- **The Bell Center for Early Intervention Programs, \$30,000** over two years to create a new staff role, the Family Services Director, that will expand services offered to the parents and caregivers of children receiving physical,

occupational, and speech-language therapies at the Bell Center. The Family Services Director will help parents identify additional resources, providers, and services; help families navigate the health care system; and oversee the Bell Center's Family Connections program.

- **The Literacy Council of Central Alabama, \$20,000** to purchase a subscription for a robust Learning Management System that would allow the Literacy Council to produce accessible learning content, including the support for a significant number of other languages. Funding would also be used for intern support, updated curricula and reading materials for learners, additional classroom needs, professional development materials for tutors, and training for program staff in instructional design methods and web content accessibility.
- **The March Quilts, \$5,000** to support three of the March Quilts programs: TMQ10, the tenth and final iteration of quilt-making to complete the current collection of 16 quilts made over the past nine years with themes of civil and human rights; a documentary covering the evolution of the March Quilts; and a mobile exhibition that will bring the quilt collection across Alabama, the Southeast, and eventually the United States.
- **Whole Hearts Incorporated, \$5,000** to raise awareness about the risks of cardiac arrest in youth athletes and provide heart health education to local communities. Funds will be used for community outreach and education programs, heart health screening initiatives, and awareness campaigns.
- **Zero Zero Inc., \$10,000** to expand Zero Zero's tutoring program to include elementary and middle school students. Zero Zero uses sports as a vehicle to broaden participants' career potential and to enrich their lives. Programs include camps, sports clinics, curated experiences with professional sports teams, weekly after-school tutoring, counseling and therapy, and athletic training.

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.