

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	December 18, 2023
Action Required:	Appropriate funding in the amount of \$49,796 for the Discovering Diversity to Advance Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equity in Charlottesville project.
Presenter:	Denise Nelson, Launch! Consulting
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	<b>Resolution to appropriate funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant - \$49,976 (2nd reading)</b>

### **Background**

The City of Charlottesville's Department of Emergency Management and Department of Public Works jointly applied for and were awarded funding under the U.S. Department of the Interior grant program, Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant in the amount of \$49,796 to implement the *Discovering Diversity to Advance Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equity in Charlottesville* project. The period of performance is October 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024.

### **Discussion**

The proposed project purpose is to develop locally specific (hyper-local or neighborhood-scaled), spatially accurate data on underrepresented and underserved populations to enable inclusive initiatives with an equity lens in alignment with Chesapeake Gateways Network Theme 1. Data on the demographics of the Charlottesville community, like data for many other communities, fall short of providing an accurate, detailed picture of today's City of Charlottesville population. High-level census tract information is often used by federal and state programs to identify communities for support and funding (including the Justice40 Initiative for infrastructure investments). This project provides a creative, collaborative process that encourages input from many community partners connected to marginalized populations to develop accurate data for Charlottesville. We will explore the locally specific data they have, data they would like to have, and how to use the data to support inclusivity in watershed and other programs. The process may then be transferable to other communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed

to improve the understanding of local populations and promote inclusive engagement activities.

Goal 1: Identify, assess, and more fully understand local underrepresented, underserved, and vulnerable populations

- Objective 1.1: Identify local datasets that represent these populations
- Objective 1.2: Identify federal datasets required for use in funding programs
- Objective 1.3: Review and vet the datasets

Goal 2: Build geodatabase files identifying the locations of these populations

- Objective 2.1: Organize the data into appropriate categories with socially acceptable labels to allow

for examination of results across many categories

- Objective 2.2: Geocode the data for viewing in a GIS platform and printing in accessible formats
- Goal 3: Share the data and/or methodology with City staff, partners, and others
- Objective 3.1: Seek City approval and endorsement for using data on City projects
- Objective 3.2: Share data with partners in a respectful, secure manner
- Objective 3.3: Share the project methodology and sources of data to enable other communities to develop locally specific, spatially accurate data to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in public engagement and planning activities.

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

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's 2023 City Council Strategic Plan Framework's Strategic Outcome Areas: Climate Action. This project will complement the on-going community engagement as a part of the City's Climate Protection program. This proposed project will allow the Water Resources Protection Program, and many other programs, to incorporate diversity, inclusion, and accessibility more successfully into community outreach, engagement, and planning activities for more equitable outcomes.

### **Community Engagement**

The City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Plan includes Public Engagement and Outreach practices, including providing stormwater education, such as pet waste management, illicit discharge detection and elimination, car washing, landscaping and yard care practices for healthy waterways, proper use and disposal of automotive chemicals, and runoff reduction practices. The plan includes Public Involvement and Participation (practices, including scheduling volunteer stream cleanups, hosting an Adopt-A-Stream Program, organizing a tree Planting Program, and organizing and/or promoting a variety of other watershed and water quality activities. This project will allow us to engage underrepresented communities in environmental education and conservation with a focus on improving local quality of life and watershed-wide water quality.

### **Budgetary Impact**

This grant is entirely federal grant funds. There is no match requirement. There is no budget impact for the City of Charlottesville. All funding will be conveyed as contractual services to be carried out by a consultant.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommend approval and appropriation of the grant funds.

### **Alternatives**

Council may elect to not accept the funds and the City of Charlottesville will not have the capacity to implement the project.

### **Attachments**

1. Chesapeake Bay Networks Grant Resolution