



Richland County
Community Impact Grants Committee
MINUTES
April 22, 2025 – 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Mackey, Chair; Derrek Pugh, Paul Livingston, Gretchen Barron, and Cheryl English (arrived at 3:07 PM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilwoman Allison Terracio, Councilwoman Chakisse Newton, Councilwoman Tyra Little, Councilwoman Tish Dozier Alleyne, Angela Weathersby, Anette Kirylo, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Maddison Wilkerson, Ashiya Myers, Patrick Wright, Jackie Hancock, Kenny Bowen, Kyle Holsclaw, Aric Jensen, Lori Thomas, Matiah Pough, Oscar Rosales, and Jennifer Wladischkin

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jessica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 3:03 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **March 18, 2025** – Mr. Livingston moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Mackey.
In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, and Mackey
Not Present: English
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Pugh.
In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, and Mackey
Not Present: English
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ ACTION**
 - a. **Review of Allocations** – Ms. Mackey stated when the Community Impact Grants Committee was established, we agreed to set aside one mill each year for Community Impact Grants. This year, there are many budget constraints, including cuts from the Federal level that may impact County operations. She noted the Senate is discussing the budget at the State House, and we are anticipating cuts from earmarks that will have a trickle-down effect on County government.

Ms. Mackey moved to set aside 10% of the total Community Impact Grants funding for child welfare issues that the County needs to address, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Barron acknowledged that we are in difficult times regarding non-profits, local government, and businesses. She recognized that the county has to address issues related to child welfare. This is a double-edged sword; while we address one area, another area still needs those same resources. She inquired if the 10% would come from the total allocation or the Community Partners portion. In addition, how did we decide on the 10%?

Ms. Mackey indicated her motion is for 10% of the total Community Impact Grants allocation.

Assistant County Administrator Lori Thomas stated the total amount of Community Impact Grants is \$1.764 million. The 10% would equate to \$176,400, leaving \$952,560 for the Community Partners and \$635,040 for the Competitive Grants.

Mr. Pugh inquired what happens to the set-aside funds if they are not utilized.

Ms. Mackey replied the Committee could reallocate the funds, or they could be returned to the General Fund.

Ms. Newton expressed that she would support increasing the reserve funding set aside.

Mr. Pugh requested the breakdown of funding if they were to approve a 15% set aside.

For the record, Ms. Barron stated that she is not opposing the motion but trying to digest the matter.

Ms. Thomas responded if 15% were set aside, \$793,800 would be allocated for the Community Partners.

Ms. Barron inquired if the 10% set aside will go with the “package” forwarded to Council.

Ms. Mackey replied the award recommendations will go to Council and then be forwarded to the budget process.

Ms. Barron stated, for clarification, that when we begin to allocate funding, it will be based upon the number once the 10% has been set aside.

Mr. Pugh offered a friendly amendment to set aside 15%, and the remainder of the unused funds would stay within the committee to be dispersed among the grantees.

Ms. Mackey did not accept the friendly amendment.

Mr. Livingston called for the question, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote was unanimous to set aside 10% of the total Community Impact Grants funding.

b. FY 2026 Grant Requests

Ms. Newton inquired if the Committee had adopted guidelines related to the percentage of an organization’s overall budget that can be requested.

Ms. Maddison Wilkerson, Budget Director, indicated that the request cannot exceed 50% of their budget.

Ms. Newton would like the County to play a supportive role in the future.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mr. Livingston moved to allocate \$470,546 to Senior Resources, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, and English

Opposed: Mackey

The vote was in favor.

Ms. English moved to allocate \$90,000 to the Columbia Urban League, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to allocate \$50,000 to the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to allocate \$53,500 to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to allocate \$150,000 to the Midlands Housing Alliance, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey moved to allocate \$125,000 to the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc., seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Wilkerson indicated the unallocated amount balance in Community Partners funding is \$13,514.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Mr. Pugh moved to fund SC UpLift Community Outreach at \$50,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to fund Wiley Kennedy Foundation at \$50,000, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to fund Latino Communication CDC at \$50,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to fund The RAM Foundation at \$20,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

There was a discussion about whether The RAM Foundation is tied to Columbia International University.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to fund Range Fore Hope Foundation at \$10,000, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to fund Communities in Schools of South Carolina at \$25,000, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to fund Sistercare, Inc. at \$15,000, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to fund The Therapy Place at \$40,000, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to fund The Big Red Barn "Retreat" at \$25,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Recuse: Barron (due to her serving on the board of the organization)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey moved to fund Wings for Kids at \$40,000, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to fund the Mary L. Jacobs Life Center at \$25,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to fund the Christian Assistance Bridge at \$10,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Pugh moved to fund Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services at \$20,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to fund Able South Carolina at \$20,000, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to fund the United Way of the Midlands at \$40,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Pugh and Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to fund the Central Midlands Development Corporation at \$20,000, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, and English

Opposed: Mackey

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to fund Girls on the Run (GOTR) Columbia at \$20,000, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Barron, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

Ms. English moved to fund Feonix – Mobility Rising at \$40,000, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved to reserve the balance of \$115,040 for later adjustments, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. Barron indicated she would prefer to keep the document in committee and continue the discussion at a future meeting rather than hold the remaining funding.

Ms. Barron made a friendly amendment to keep the document in committee for further discussion and allocations at the next Community Impact Grant Committee meeting.

Mr. Livingston reiterated that he did not want to restart the discussion and allocations at the next meeting.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey inquired if action was taken on all the Community Partner requests.

Ms. Wilkerson responded that no action was taken on Pathways to Healing and the Oliver Gospel Mission.

Ms. Mackey stated she is not recommending funding approval for the Oliver Gospel Mission because the organization is currently non-compliant.

For clarification, Ms. Terracio inquired if an allocation could be made by this Committee or by Council during the budget process.

Ms. Mackey stated if anyone wants to make adjustments, they will have an opportunity when it gets to Council. She requested that staff provide an updated document before the next committee meeting.

- c. Next Steps—Ms. Mackey indicated that the next step is to schedule an additional meeting to continue discussing the funding requests.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:04 PM.

Application ID	Organization Name	Application Title	Requested Amount	Impact Area
487632	Columbia Urban League	Science Technology Enrichment Program	\$ 100,000.00	Youth Activities
489174	Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce	Columbia Chamber of Commerce BRAC	\$ 53,500.00	Veterans Assistance
491556	Greater Columbia Community Relations Council	Youth Leadership & Affordable Housing Development Initiative	\$ 50,000.00	Multiple
488888	Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc	Youth Transitional Living Program	\$ 150,000.00	Youth Activities
489292	Midlands Housing Alliance	Transitions Homeless Center	\$ 200,000.00	Food Insecurity
490303	Oliver Gospel Mission	Meals	\$ 50,000.00	Food Insecurity
488397	Pathways to Healing (PTH)	Rape Crisis Rapid Response	\$ 85,000.00	Youth Activities
489467	Senior Resources, Inc	Community-Based Services for Richland County Seniors	\$ 548,046.00	Youth Activities
489565	Feonix - Mobility Rising	Feonix Transportation Assistance Hub and Access to Care	\$ 49,982.00	Food Insecurity
486849	Able South Carolina	Promoting Access to Safe Services (Year 4)	\$ 37,093.02	Youth Activities
487036	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands	BE GREAT Academy Scholarships	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491689	Career Development Center at Saint John	Career Development Center/Workforce Readiness	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491153	Central Midlands Development Corporation	Innovation & Second Chances	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491755	Christian Assistance Bridge (CAB)	Fighting Food Insecurity: Empowering Families Through Community Support and Resources	\$ 10,000.00	Food Insecurity
491693	Columbia International University	Youth Programs to Assist Community	\$ 40,047.00	Youth Activities
487293	Communities In Schools of South Carolina (CISSC)	School-based Community Services for Underserved Low-Income Students	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
489013	DD&J Junior Tennis Foundation	Champions In Action(CIA): Tennis and Leadership Development Program	\$ 40,000.00	Youth Activities
489986	Empowered to Win Global (ETWG)	Community Impact Grant	\$ 10,000.00	Youth Activities
491532	Girls on the Run (GOTR) Columbia	Empowering Girls in Grades 3-8 through Girls on the Run Programming	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491889	Greater Waverly Foundation	Community Garden	\$ 15,000.00	Food Insecurity
486867	Greenview Swim Team	Greenview Dolphins Instructional Training Lesson Program	\$ 15,000.00	Youth Activities

Application ID	Organization Name	Application Title	Requested Amount	Impact Area
487412	Home Works of America	Critical home repairs for low-income elderly, disabled, Veterans	\$ 50,000.00	
488300	Homeless No More	Empowering and Strengthening Homeless Families in Richland County	\$ 50,000.00	Multiple
491815	Indian Waters Council, Boy Scouts of America	ScoutReach for Boys & Girls in Richland County	\$ 36,000.00	Youth Activities
490483	Koinonia Foundation/Youth & Teens Ministry	Mount STEM Summer Enrichment Program	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491493	Latino Communications CDC	Food for Your Heart	\$ 150,000.00	Food Insecurity
488506	Mary L. Jacobs Life Center	Youth Empowerment & Safety Initiative (YES Initiative)	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491890	Midlands Area Food Bank	Richland County Food Distribution Program	\$ 50,000.00	Food Insecurity
488736	Midlands Education and Business Alliance	Richland County STEAM for ALL	\$ 10,000.00	Youth Activities
490301	Midlands Technical College Foundation	TBD	\$ 50,000.00	Veterans Assistance
491628	NoMa STEAM	Inspiring Our Youth to Impact the Future	\$ 13,555.00	Youth Activities
491891	North Columbia Community Enrichment Foundation	Sacks of Love	\$ 9,000.00	Food Insecurity
491722	Palmetto Place Children and Youth Services	Pathways to Independence: Empowering Unsheltered Youth Through Comprehensive Support and Workforce Development	\$ 45,000.00	Multiple
490324	Range Fore Hope Foundation	Operation Home and Health: A Military Community Empowerment Initiative	\$ 25,000.00	Multiple
491439	Reconciliation Ministries SC	Feeding Hope: Empowering Communities Through Sustainable Food Distribution and Workforce Development	\$ 50,000.00	Food Insecurity
490251	Richland County Recreation Commission	Richland County Recreation Commission Community Program Services	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491553	SC UpLift Community Outreach	Improving Financial and Homeownership Education in Richland County	\$ 50,000.00	Home Ownership
490372	Serve and Connect	Decker Collective	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
491477	Sistercare, Inc	Sistercare's Teen Outreach Program (STOP): Intimate Partner Violence and Dating Violence Prevention for Richland County Youth and Teens	\$ 20,000.00	Youth Activities
488283	South Carolina Philharmonic, Inc	Choose Harmony	\$ 30,000.00	Youth Activities

Application ID	Organization Name	Application Title	Requested Amount	Impact Area
491473	South Carolina Research Foundation (FoodShare)	Community Cooks: Food Security through Nutrition Education	\$ 49,254.00	Food Insecurity
490782	St Luke's Fresh Start MInistry	Expanding Fresh Start Ministry	\$ 10,000.00	Multiple
491277	The Alston House, Inc	Feeding the Midlands' Most Vulnerable Residents	\$ 21,641.00	Food Insecurity
491587	The Big Red Barn "Retreat" (BRBR)	Warrior PATHH	\$ 50,000.00	Veterans Assistance
491304	The Cola Town Bike Collective (CTBC)	Reliable Transportation for Homeless Veterans	\$ 10,000.00	Veterans Assistance
490360	The Ram Foundation	Reading, Arts, Mathematics Summer Enrichment Program	\$ 20,000.00	Youth Activities
491899	The Therapy Place	Bridges School	\$ 50,000.00	Childcare
487196	United Way of the Midlands	Young Men United	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
490904	Varna International Music Academy	Varna International Music Academy	\$ 75,000.00	Youth Activities
491581	Wiley Kennedy Foundation	Coalition of Community Fellows	\$ 50,000.00	Youth Activities
487119	Wings for Kids	Soaring Beyond School: The WINGS After School Program at Harbison West Elementary	\$ 50,000.00	Childcare
491831	Yew Belong Community Services, Inc	From "Root to Rise: Using Evidence-Based Mentoring to Improve Mental Health and Promote Life Skills for LGBTQIAP+ Youth in Richland County	\$ 34,836.00	Youth Activities
491699	Youth Corps	Workforce Of The Future	\$ 49,860.00	Youth Activities
			\$ 3,062,814.02	