



Richland County  
Community Impact Grants Committee  
**MINUTES**  
November 19, 2024 – 4:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Mackey, Chair; Derrek Pugh, Paul Livingston, and Cheryl English

NOT PRESENT: Gretchen Barron

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Weathersby, Anette Kirylo, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Stacey Hamm, Maddison Wilkerson, Ashiya Myers, Patrick Wright, Jackie Hancock, Kenny Bowen, Kyle Holsclaw, Aric Jensen, and Thomas Gilbert

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jessica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 4:03 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. **November 12, 2024** – Mr. Livingston moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. English.  
In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English  
Not Present: Barron  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Livingston.  
In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English  
Not Present: Barron  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ ACTION**
  - a. **Areas of Impact**—Ms. At the last committee meeting, Mackey noted that the application and Community Partners list were reviewed. The committee approved reviewing the Community Partners list every three years. In addition, the application was approved, except for the areas of impact.  
  
Staff took note of the comments from the last meeting and narrowed down the impact areas. Previously, the application had generic categories (e.g., education, housing, food insecurity, etc.). The impact areas have been refined to match better what is in the Strategic Plan. The areas for consideration are as follows:
    - Programs to promote home ownership through education or financial planning and education
    - Youth and recreational activities to reduce community violence and improve safety
    - Programs to create sustainable childcare for working parents to further workforce development
    - Food Insecurity
    - Veteran’s Assistance to improve health and wellness  
Mr. Livingston expressed concern regarding the youth and recreational activities to reduce community violence and improve safety. He stated the County provides funding to the Recreation Commission and Sheriff’s Department, which should be focusing on this area. He would prefer to focus on specific skills, youth seminars, technology, or other things not addressed through the Recreation Commission and Sheriff’s Department.  
  
Mr. Pugh pointed out that there are other non-profits that help support the youth but do not receive funding from the County.  
  
Ms. English stated she always looks at targeted disparities where we reach out to those less fortunate. She recommended giving priority to those non-profits that are working on targeted disparities and skill building.

Ms. Mackey indicated we need to be mindful that we have an outside agency that reviews and ranks the applications. Therefore, if we are only calling out one impact area that requires additional ranking, it is an added task for the reviewer and calls into question whether it is fair to the other categories.

Ms. Mackey moved to approve programs to promote home ownership through education or financial planning and education as one of the impact areas, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to approve youth activities to reduce community violence and improve safety, seconded by Ms. English.

Mr. Pugh indicated he understands Mr. Livingston's point regarding the County funding the Recreation Commission and the Sheriff's Department. Still, other non-profits help carry the burden and do not have access to funding. He noted the County provides funding to many organizations. For example, it was noted there are no resources for activities and feeding of the senior population even though we provide funding for Senior Resources. We cannot, on the one hand, say we do not want these categories because these entities already receive funding and then turn around and say we want to provide funding for senior services when we provide funding to Senior Resources.

Ms. Mackey maintained we have to be mindful that we created the Community Impact Grant Committee to make an impact. We have been so broad that we are not focusing on areas where we can see the impact. We want to focus on key areas and impact change. Then, in a few years, we may be able to change to other impact areas because we have seen improvements.

Mr. Livingston requested a friendly amendment to include "...youth activities to reduce community violence, improve safety, and workforce skills."

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey moved to approve programs to create sustainable childcare for working parents to further workforce development, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to approve the area of food insecurity, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Ms. English stated for the record in the future to focus on targeted disparities.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to approve Veteran's Assistance to improve health and wellness, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston acknowledged the senior services being provided do not allow them ample opportunities to socialize and interact with other individuals.

Ms. English indicated the Department on Aging does a lot in this area. Still, they are regrouping because they were previously under the Lieutenant Governor and are now a standalone agency.

Ms. Mackey noted the Recreation Commission also offers senior activities.

Ms. Maddison Wilkerson, Budget Director, pointed out that the word education was included twice in the first motion. A more precise motion would be "Programs to promote home ownership through education and financial planning." In addition, she requested to reword the second motion as follows: "Youth and recreational activities to reduce community violence, improve safety, and develop workforce skills."

The committee accepted Ms. Wilkerson's recommended language.

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

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:32 PM.



### Informational Agenda Briefing

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Lori Thomas	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant County Administrator
<b>Department:</b>	Administration	<b>Division:</b>	
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	November 14, 2024	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 19, 2024
<b>Approved for consideration:</b>	County Administrator	Leonardo Brown, MBA, CPM	
<b>Meeting/Committee</b>	Community Impact Grants		
<b>Subject:</b>	FY 2026 Impact Areas for Community Impact Grants		

At the November 12, 2024 Community Impact Grant Committee meeting, staff was requested to work with Committee Chairperson Mackey to recommend and specify areas of impact for the FY 2026 Community Impact Grant applications. Based on this request, below are the areas for consideration.

- Programs to promote home ownership through education on financial planning and education
- Youth and recreational activities to reduce community violence and improve safety
- Programs to create sustainable childcare for working parents to further workforce development
- Food Insecurity
- Veteran's Assistance to improve health and wellness