

Subject: Neighborhood Partnerships Funding/Investment
Related Department: AED

FY 2025 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up

4/4/2024

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Cunningham at the work session on March 7, 2024, regarding the following question:

What's the thinking about the relative sizes of the neighborhood partnerships funding? Should we be investing in the implementation a little differently?

Arlington's three Neighborhood Partnerships – the Columbia Pike Partnership, Clarendon Alliance, and Langston Boulevard Alliance – are important entities within the County's economic development ecosystem. The Partnerships serve as important representatives of and advocates for residents, businesses, property owners, and civic organizations in their respective areas. Additionally, the Partnerships supplement the County's economic development work in areas such as placemaking, small business development, and the marketing and promotion of Arlington.

Currently, the County provides varying levels of funding support to each of the Partnerships. In FY 2024, the Columbia Pike Partnership is allocated \$410,000 while the Clarendon Alliance and Langston Boulevard Alliance are allocated \$140,000 and \$145,500 respectively. The FY 2025 Proposed Budget maintains funding for Columbia Pike and Langston Boulevard at current levels and provides a modest (\$5,000) increase to Clarendon.

As some background, each organization was formed with different original goals at different times with different geographic service areas. The missions, revenues, and capacities of each organization vary greatly.

Understanding how the Partnerships most effectively support economic and community development and the long-term role of the County in supporting these organizations requires further study, outreach, and analysis. If the Board would like to further explore the desired long-term goals and outcomes for the Partnerships, Arlington Economic Development (AED) is well positioned to oversee such a study. Input from each Partnership and County departments that routinely interact and work with the three Partnerships would be required. This work would need to be performed by a consultant given staff capacity challenges and to ensure the study is comprehensive and completed before the start of the FY 2026 budget process. AED estimates one-time funding of no more than \$50,000 would be sufficient to hire a qualified firm.