



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | 4:00 PM

Council Chamber- City Hall

900 Church Street

Lynchburg, VA 24504

AGENDA

- I. Welcome** *Larry Taylor, Mayor*
- II. Work Session Agenda Overview** *Wynter C. Benda, City Manager*
- III. Work Session Agenda Items** *Wynter C. Benda, City Manager*
 - III.1.** Park View Community Mission's Life Skills Institute
 - III.2.** ~~Lynchburg Public Library update~~
- IV. Business Item Briefing(s)**
 - IV.3.** Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program – Housing and Non-Housing Goals for the 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Action Plan.
- V. Roll Call**
- VI. Closed Session**
 - VI.4.** Consideration of a closed meeting to discuss the possible resolution of a pending City lawsuit pursuant to Section(s) 2.2-3711(A)(7) and -(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
 - VI.5.** Consideration of a closed meeting to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property, namely property owned by the City, let by the City, and to be potentially sold for economic development purposes, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.
 - VI.6.** Consideration of a closed meeting to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the topic of the closed session being specific to granting a City franchise.
 - VI.7.** Consideration of a closed meeting to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; the subject of the closed meeting being specific to negotiations regarding the Campbell County Utilities and Service Authority Sewer Capacity Request.
 - VI.8.** Consideration of a closed meeting to discuss appointments for Council representation to local, regional, and State Boards and Commissions: Virginia First Cities, Virginia Municipal League, Central Virginia Planning District Commission, Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization, Council of

Local Elected Officials, Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Lynchburg Area Government, and Lynchburg Parking Authority pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE

January 28, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Dr. R. Todd Blake - Executive Director - Park View Community Mission

AGENDA ITEM # III.1

Park View Community Mission's Life Skills Institute

RECOMMENDATION

Hear a presentation from Park View Community Mission about their Life Skills Institute program.

SUMMARY

The Life Skills Institute partners with local employers, institutions and non-profit organizations to help participants remove barriers to successfully enter and advance in the workplace.

PRIOR ACTION(S)

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

The Life Skills Institute receives funding through the City from a Virginia Department of Social Services grant. The program is available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) recipients, as well as those with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

CONTACT(S)

Dr. R. Todd Blake - Executive Director - Park View Community Mission

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Life Skills Institute Report - 2024

REVIEWED BY

Kent White, Assistant City Manager

Date: January 23, 2025

Alicia L. Finney

Alicia Finney, Clerk of Council

Date: January 23, 2025

LIFE SKILLS INSTITUTE

2022 - 2024

Park View Community Mission



Report by:
Monica Link
Director, Life Skills Institute

Approved by:
Todd Blake
Executive Director, Park View Community Mission

WHY WE EXIST

Life Skills Institute (LSI) exists to both equip and empower neighbors in our community with the skills needed for life success. We reach this goal by providing job and life skills classes weekly..

Thanks to CVCC, Jeff Bennett provides high quality, research-based job readiness classes, Jeff's enthusiastic, motivational teaching style engages students and empowers them to put the skills they learn into practice in the workplace.



Help. Healing. Hope.

Life Skills Institute

WHAT WE OFFER

In addition to providing high level work readiness training, LSI offers a variety of life skills classes. These teach helpful skills to adults in the community. These classes include: financial literacy, computer skills, cooking and nutrition, health education and literacy, and how to maintain safe, clean homes for their family. The instructors for these classes are either passionate volunteers from the community, members of partnering organizations, or Park View staff. We're grateful to each instructor who makes these classes possible for our students!





THE CITY OF
LYNCHBURG

OUR COMMITTED PARTNERS



*"Success is best when it's
shared."*
-Howard Schultz

LSI would not exist if not for our partners. **The City of Lynchburg is our proudest partner and biggest supporter!**

Additional partners shown are some of our other cherished partners who have contributed to our success.

DATA ANALYSIS 2022 - 2024

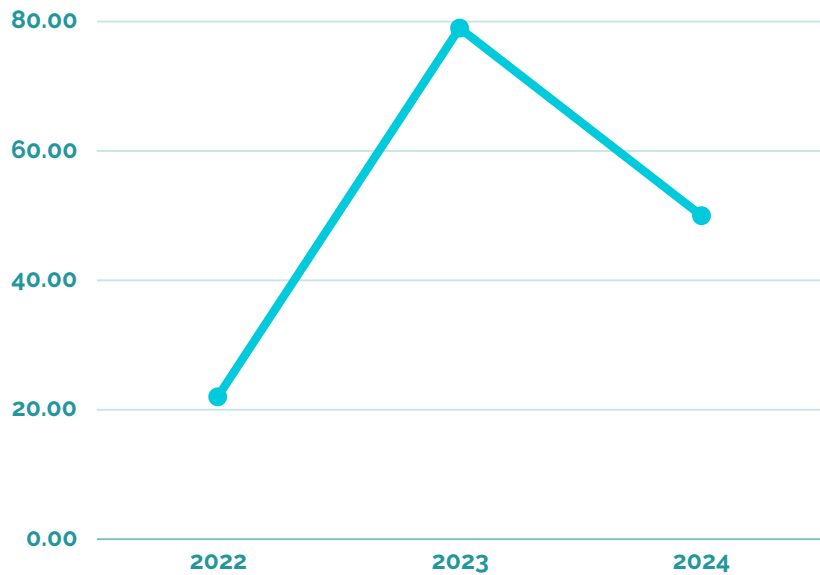
2022:
22 neighbors entered
employment.

2023:
79 neighbors entered
employment.

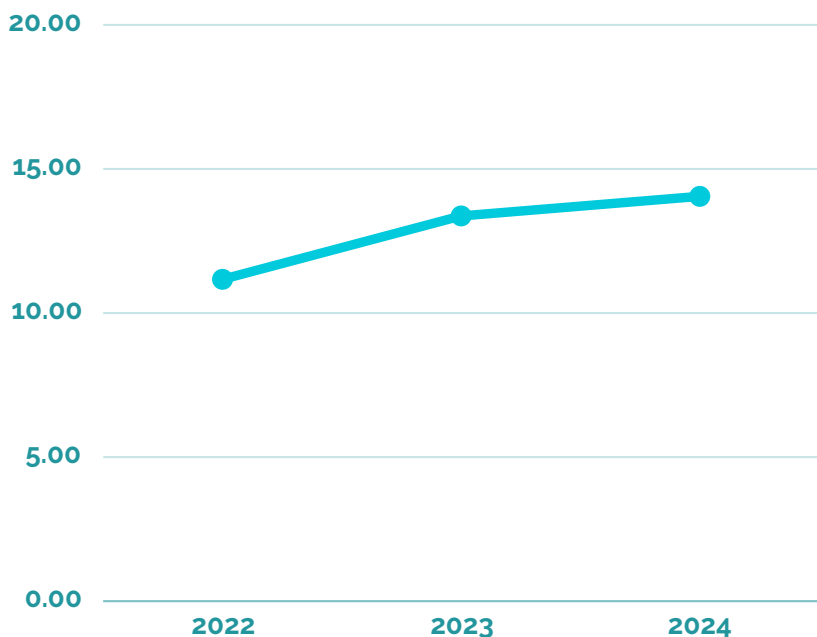
2024*:
50 neighbors entered
employment.

**2024 data reflects delays
associated with staffing
and reauthorization of
partner agreements and
grants.*

Individuals Who Entered the Workforce



Average Hourly Wages of Employees



2022:
The average hourly wage
was **\$11.17**.

2023:
The average hourly wage
was **\$13.37**.

2024:
The average hourly wage
was **\$14.05**.

*This is a 25% wage
increase since 2022, well
outpacing local inflation!*

LSI'S ECONOMIC IMPACT: A THREE YEAR GLIMPSE

Wages earned by LSI neighbors go back into our local economy.

2022:

- 22 neighbors entering full time and part time employment stood to make approximately **\$348,000** in income over the course of a year.

2023:

- 79 neighbors making approximately **\$1,668,000** over the course of a year.

2024

- 50 neighbors making approximately **\$1,183,000** over the course of a year.

151 neighbors who have entered the workforce since 2022 have the potential to put **\$3,200,000** into our local economy annually. Our neighbors are worth the investment!





KATE'S STORY

Kate first came to Park View's Community Resource Center (CRC) in the fall of 2023, unsure of where to turn for help. Initially, Kate was reluctant to accept assistance, uncertain if it was the right step. During her visits, Kate developed a strong rapport with Park View staff whom she soon began to call her friends.

By spring of 2024, Kate's circumstances had changed and she was ready to receive even more help. She landed an interview for a job at LU, but needed transportation and proper work attire. That is when she connected to LSI. Our team took the time to meet Kate where she was, helping her navigate the many logistical hurdles in a way that respected both her pace and comfort level. Kate landed the job and was excited to begin! Through LSI's partnership with GLTC, Kate had reliable transportation for the interview and first few weeks of work. She was also given clothing and shoes that would help her feel confident and prepared for her new role.

Kate's story is a perfect example of the commitment at Park View to walk at the pace set by the neighbor, whether they are ready to move quickly or need more time. Our staff understands that every person's story is unique and by taking the time to walk alongside Kate, we helped her move forward when she was ready. Her success story is not just about the resources provided, but also about the care and patience that allowed her to build confidence. At Park View, we are here to walk alongside each neighbor, no matter their pace.



THE SIX PROGRAMS OF PARK VIEW



1 Food for Families

Our food-insecure neighbors are offered supplemental groceries on a bi-weekly basis at no cost. We offer fresh produce, meat, baked goods, dairy items, and various personal care products.

Distribution Hours:

Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:30am-2pm

434.845.8468 ext. 300



2 Food for Thought

LCS students are able to take home supplemental food through weekend food bags, school pantries, and neighborhood food stations. The goal of this program is to help bridge the gap between school-provided meals.

434.845.8468 ext. 500



3 Park View Cafe

Wednesday nights, neighbors are able to enjoy free, nutritious, hot meals that are graciously provided by area organizations, churches, and civic groups.

**Meals are served between
4:30pm-5:30pm**

434.845.8468 ext. 300



4 Life Skills Institute

Adults in our community are able to select from free classes offered to empower themselves with tools for life such as: maintaining a clean and safe home environment, career and workplace skills, and financial literacy.

Call for updated class listings and availability

434.845.8468 ext. 800



5

The Clothing Connection

Our neighbors enjoy an inviting shopping experience as they select free clothing and household items.

Shopping Day: Thursday 9am-3pm

**Donation Days: Mon/Wed & Fri
9am-5pm**

434.845.8468 ext. 900



6 Community Resource Center

Individuals and families are provided with mentoring and one-on-one assistance, connecting neighbors and agencies with available resources pertaining to poverty, housing, and financial assistance.

**Hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri
9-2:30 & Tues 11-2:30**

434.845.8468 ext. 700

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**MEETING DATE**

January 28, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Beverly Blair, Director of Libraries

AGENDA ITEM # III.2

Lynchburg Public Library update

RECOMMENDATION

An overview of the Lynchburg Public Library system, including the recent addition of the Downtown Branch location and upcoming initiatives.

SUMMARY

The Lynchburg Public Library system provides a full range of library services to meet the informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs of the community. Library services include access to books and materials, including 77,356 physical materials, over 900,000 digital books, and 56 electronic databases available on the Library's website. Electronic databases include digital newspapers, language learning resources, digital encyclopedias, and homework help, all at no cost with a free Lynchburg Public Library card. Additional Library services include engaging weekly programs for people of all ages, including story times, book clubs, crafts, and seasonal events, and connections to local resources through regular on-site partnerships with local organizations, including Virginia Career Works, Johnson Health Center, Roads to Recovery, Academy in Motion, and the Lynchburg Imagination Library.

The Downtown Branch location opened in June 2024.

PRIOR ACTION(S)

None

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

CONTACT(S)

Beverly Blair, Director of Libraries

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Library Presentation 2025

REVIEWED BY

Beverly Blair, Director of Libraries

Date: January 22, 2025



Kent White, Assistant City Manager

Date: January 22, 2025



Alicia Finney, Clerk of Council

Date: January 22, 2025

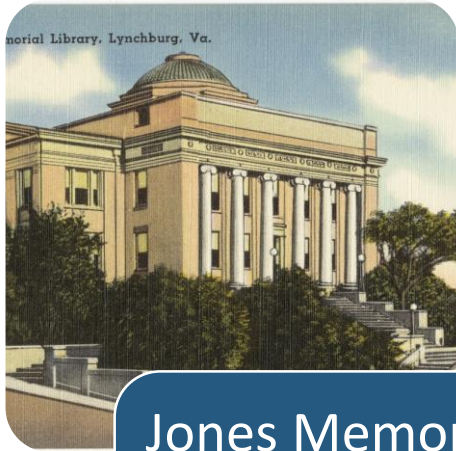
TURNING THE PAGE:

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF THE LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday, January 28, 2025



LYNCHBURG LIBRARY HISTORY



Jones Memorial Library

- 1908
- Service limited to white residents only



Friends of the Lynchburg Public Library

- 1964
- A library for all citizens



Lynchburg Public Library

- 1966
- Entrance view from Main Street
- 8,000 sq. ft. space

LYNCHBURG LIBRARY HISTORY



Pittman Plaza

- 1984
- Formerly a Sears Department Store, built in 1960



Downtown Branch Library

- 1987
- City Hall location
- Public Law Library



Jones Memorial relocates

- 1987
- Second floor of Main Library
- Local history focus



Dr. King Center for Human Rights

- 1991
- Free exhibit space, sponsored by the MLKLCC



Storytime Room

- 2015
- First addition to building
- Local donors included St. John's Episcopal Church and the Friends of the Library



New Downtown Branch Library

- 2024
- Relocated to former Visitor Center location
- Increased visibility, modern vibe

Upgrades and additions over past 30 years

LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY TODAY



FY 2024

- **18,000** library card holders
- **150,000** library visitors
- **17,000** public computer sessions
- **325,000** materials circulated
- **400** library programs
- **10,000** people attended library programs
- **1,430** lunches served during Summer Food Service Program



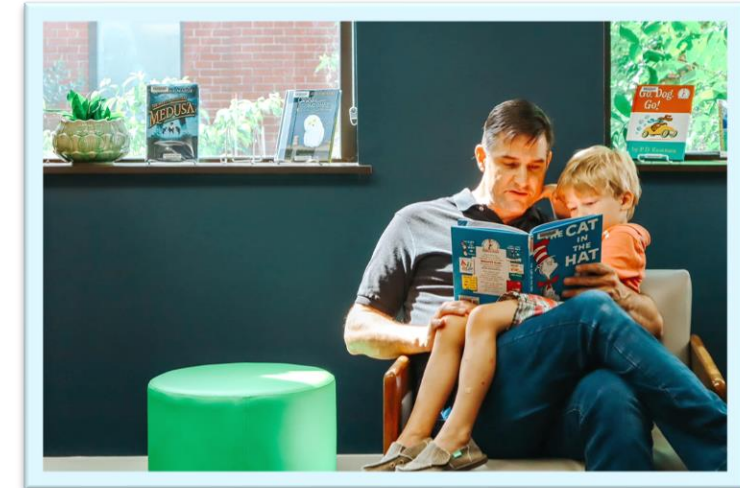
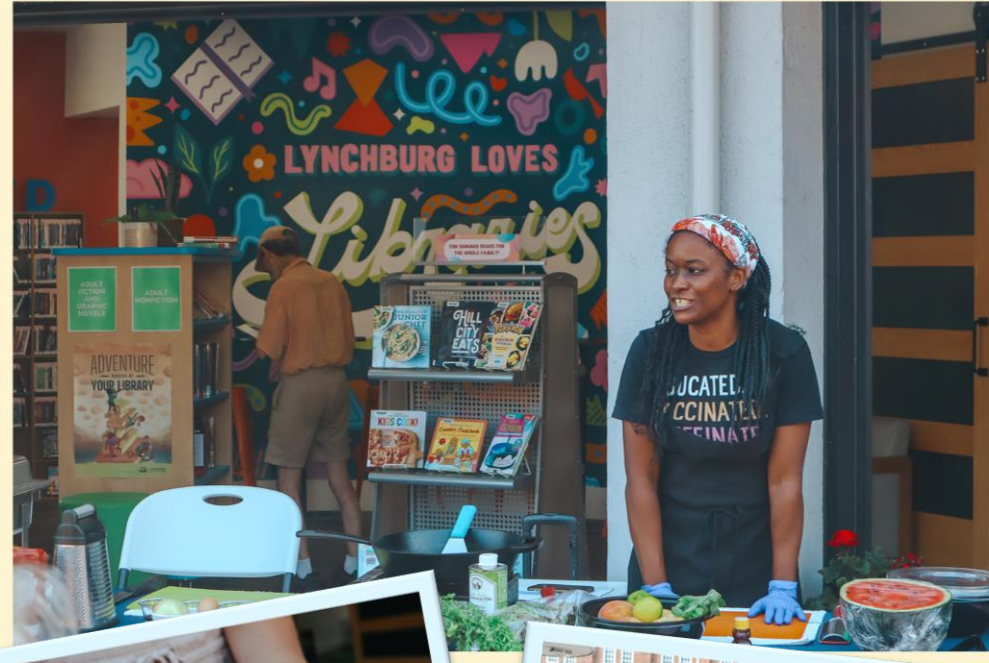
DOWNTOWN BRANCH SUCCESS AND STATS

Branch Comparison	Downtown '24 Avg	City Hall '23 Avg	% increase
Visitors	289	204	44%
Circulation	202	21	1116%
Cards Issued	10	2	469%
Computer Sessions	22	22	3%

Data snapshot of first 12 weeks

- Increase visibility and user access
- Increase programs and community partnerships
- Increase book circulation
- Increase library cards

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS



BOOKS AND BREWS 2024



Approx. 1,500
attended



Community Partner Event
Economic Development & Tourism
Downtown Lynchburg Association

LOOKING FORWARD

Main Library Renovation

- Repair infrastructure concerns
- Upgrade wiring, lighting, accessibility
- Community and program spaces

Community Outreach

- Friends of the Library fundraising for Bookmobile
- Neighborhood Center Pilot



Photo courtesy of Tymoff & Moss Architects

INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**MEETING DATE**

January 28, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Melva Walker, Grants Manager

AGENDA ITEM # IV.3

Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program – Housing and Non-Housing Goals for the 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

This item will appear for City Council vote on the February 25, 2025 Public Hearing agenda.
Approval of the 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Program Year (PY) 2025) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program goals for the development of the 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2026 (PY 2025) Annual Action Plan and adoption of a resolution approving the goals.

SUMMARY

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state and local governments, which receive federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program funds, to prepare a Consolidated Plan. The previous Consolidated Plan for Lynchburg was submitted in June 2020 and covered the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. With the submittal of the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program Action Plan in May 2025, another five-year plan must be prepared and submitted for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. This plan will outline the City's needs, goals, and objectives for community development (both housing and non-housing areas).

City staff conducted public workshops/meetings on January 22nd and January 23rd to receive input and recommendations for the proposed goals, needs, and objectives for community development.

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) conducted a public meeting on January 23rd to receive input and recommendations for the City's needs, goals, and objectives for community development (both housing and non-housing areas). The CDAC recommendations for the proposed goals will be presented for a public hearing by City Council on February 25th.

PRIOR ACTION(S)

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None

CONTACT(S)

Melva Walker, Grants Manager

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. CDBG HOME CONSOLIDATED PLAN FIVE-YEAR GOALS

REVIEWED BY



William Martin, Community Development Director

Date: January 16, 2025



Kent White, Assistant City Manager

Date: January 22, 2025



Alicia Finney, Clerk of Council

Date: January 22, 2025

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM 2025-2029 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN GOALS (HOUSING AND NON HOUSING)

January 28, 2025



PURPOSE & ACTION

Purpose:

- **City Council will be seeking the input of citizens and other interested parties on the proposed housing and non-housing goals for the 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan (CP) and Fiscal Year (FY) 2026; Program Year (PY) 2025 Annual Action Plan.**
- **Following a public hearing in February, adopt the housing and non-housing goals for the 2025-2029 Five-Year CP and FY 2026 (PY 2025) Annual Action Plan.**

PURPOSE & ACTION

Why:

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state and local governments, which receive federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program funds, to prepare a Consolidated Plan. This plan will outline the City's needs, goals, and objectives for community development (both housing and non-housing areas). City Council is seeking the input of citizens and other interested parties regarding the proposed goals.



Join the City of Lynchburg
to discuss their 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual
Action Plan.

EXPECTED ACTION

- The 15-day public comment period will be initiated on February 7, 2025, by a legal notice being published in *The News and Advance* and through various forms of social media and email communications.
- This item will appear for City Council vote on the February 25, 2025 Public Hearing agenda.