



FY27

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES





City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Alyia Gaskins
Mayor

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March 11, 2026

The Honorable Mark Warner United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr. United States House of Representatives 1119 Longworth
House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

On behalf of our City Council and our community, I respectfully request your support for City of Alexandria projects submitted for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending in the upcoming fiscal year. We believe this funding source represents a vital mechanism for initiatives that directly benefit our residents, businesses, workers, and visitors.

The requested funding offers a strategic approach to addressing the unique needs and priorities of municipalities like Alexandria. Unlike broad federal grants, this directed funding allows for a more tailored response to pressing local needs such as infrastructure improvements, public safety enhancements, and workforce initiatives. By designating funds for specific projects, with your support, this directed spending ensures that taxpayer dollars are efficiently utilized to deliver tangible results that immediately impact our community.

City staff have identified several projects that meet federal eligibility criteria and are poised to make meaningful contributions to the City of Alexandria's wellbeing and prosperity. The projects submitted for FY 2027 for your consideration are:

- **Fireboat replacement**
- **Modernization Of Alexandria's 9-1-1**
- **Upgrade to computer-aided dispatch systems**
- **Transforming housing for Alexandria's workforce in Arlandria**
- **Strengthening workforce and independence initiative for fathers**
- **King Street and Commonwealth Avenue pedestrian improvement project**
- **Flood mitigation project at Key Drive & Quaker Lane**
- **Accessibility upgrades at Freedom House Museum**

These projects reflect clear City priorities and address recognized needs such as housing, public safety, emergency communications, transportation, historic preservation, flood mitigation, and workforce development. Each represents an opportunity to leverage federal investment to accelerate a critical initiative or expand a proven program that directly benefits Alexandria's residents.



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At our May Legislative meeting, our City Council will have the opportunity to endorse the attached resolution, which will express the support of Council for the City's Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending requests for Fiscal Year 2027.

As our esteemed representatives in Congress, I respectfully request your support and advocacy during the upcoming appropriations process for the City of Alexandria's Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending requests. Your leadership and dedication to our community are instrumental in ensuring that Alexandria continues to thrive and flourish.

Thank you for your continued service to our community and for your commitment to securing federal funding for critical projects and programs that benefit residents, businesses, workers, and visitors throughout our City. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these requests and welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the proposed projects in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyia Gaskins".

Alyia Gaskins
Mayor
City of Alexandria



AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 3908-3916 ELBERT AVENUE

Requested Amount: \$1,900,000

- The City is seeking funding to advance the Community Lodgings, Inc. Elbert Avenue redevelopment in Arlandria.
- The project is fully approved and construction-ready, focused on expanding workforce housing.
- It will redevelop an aging 28-unit property into 91 high-quality affordable apartments.
- Units will serve households earning 30–60% of Area Median Income using a public-private financing model.
- The redevelopment will triple occupancy, maximize existing infrastructure, and support local economic stability.

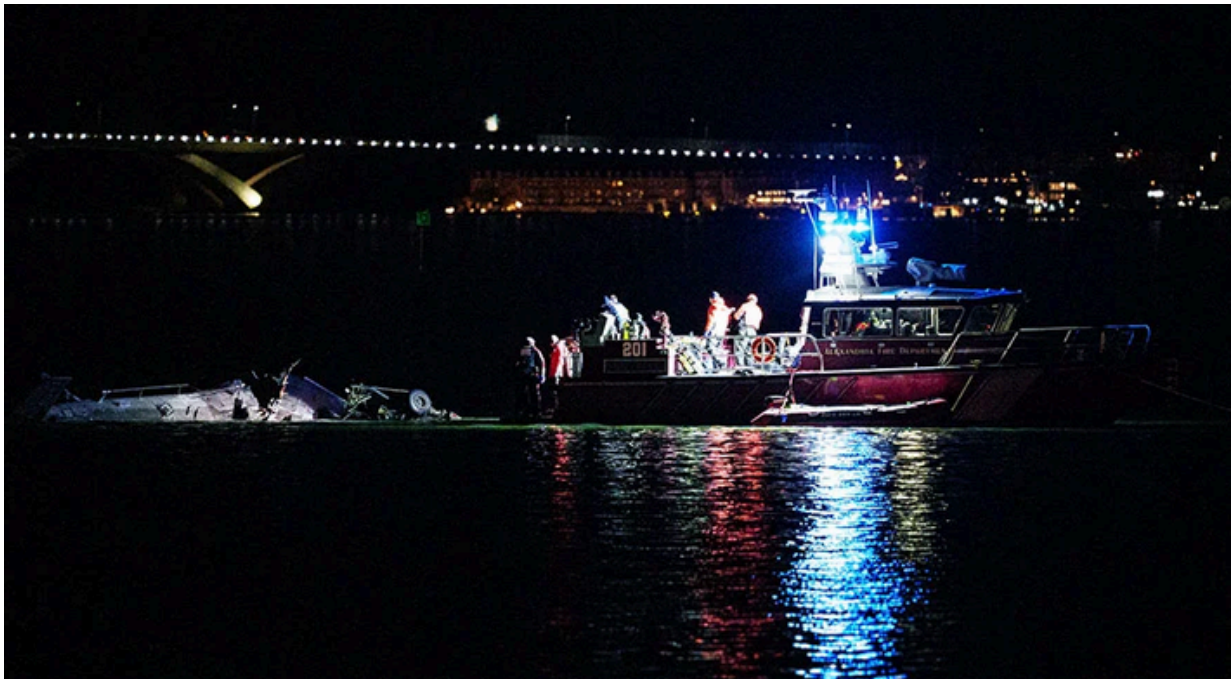




FIREBOAT REPLACEMENT

Requested Amount: \$1,550,000

- The 2001 Wilson Bridge agreement requires Virginia to provide water service for fire protection on the bridge, a responsibility fulfilled by AFD.
- The fire boat serves as a primary response asset for fire and rescue incidents along the Potomac River in Alexandria and the broader National Capital Region.
- It is strategically berthed at the Alexandria City Marina, enabling rapid response to the waterfront and Woodrow Wilson Bridge corridor.
- The vessel supports federal coordination efforts, including planning, training, security, response, and recovery missions with the U.S. Coast Guard and other partners.
- It plays a key role in homeland security operations, including National Special Security Events like the State of the Union and Independence Day.
- The fire boat conducts continuous radiological detection monitoring and supports federal continuity of government operations (OPRON).
- Its location near Reagan National Airport enhances emergency response capabilities for one of the busiest runways in the country.
- The current vessel was severely damaged during a January 2025 helicopter rescue mission, making replacement necessary to maintain critical response capabilities and meet statutory obligations.



Fireboat in service during aftermath of 2025 plane crash



MODERNIZATION OF ALEXANDRIA'S 9-1-1

Requested Amount: \$1,200,000

- The City seeks funding to modernize the Department of Emergency and Customer Communications (DECC) 9-1-1 system, replacing a 2019-installed platform that is due for a scheduled hardware refresh.
- A shift by Arlington County to a cloud-based 9-1-1 system requires Alexandria to migrate as well to maintain regional interoperability, shared redundancy, and the integrity of the long-standing partnership.
- The upgrade builds on existing momentum, including \$300,000 in state grant funding per jurisdiction from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, but additional resources are needed to complete the transition.
- Alexandria's 9-1-1 infrastructure supports critical federal facilities and assets, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, National Science Foundation, Mark Center, and multiple Metrorail stations, underscoring national security and continuity implications.
- Investment is urgent as jurisdictions nationwide adopt next-generation, cloud-based emergency communications to handle rising call volumes, multimedia demands, and cybersecurity risks, ensuring Alexandria remains aligned with regional partners and avoids gaps in coordinated response.

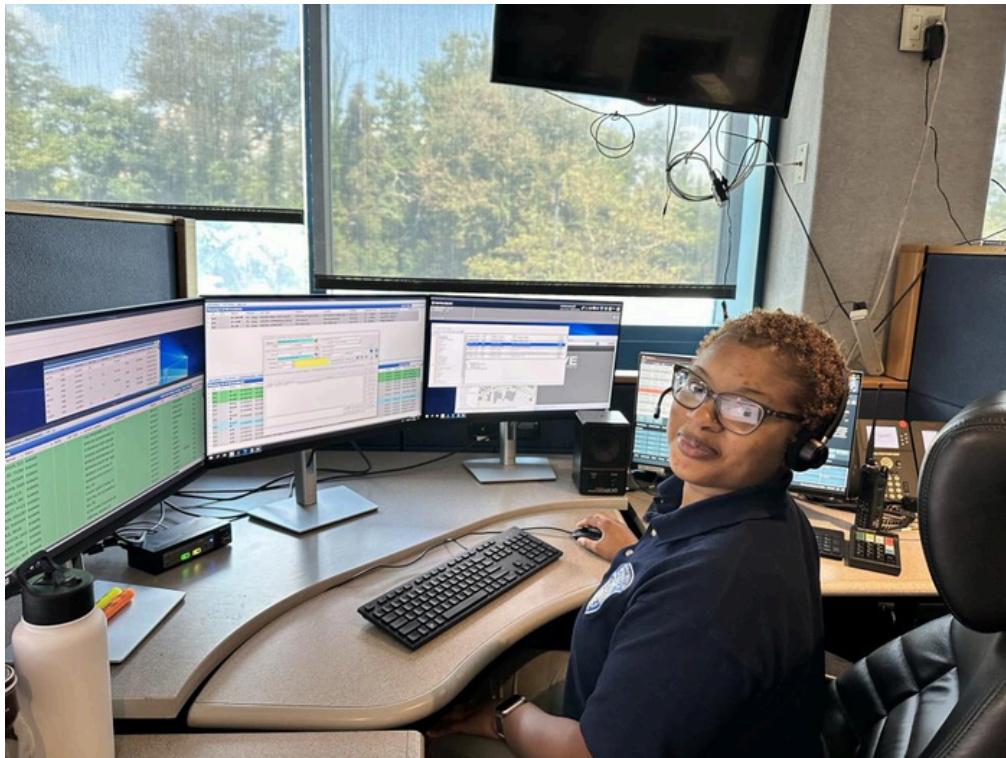




UPGRADE TO COMPUTER-AIDED DISPATCH SYSTEMS

Requested Amount: \$1,200,000

- The City requests funding to modernize DECC's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, originally installed in 2015 and now past due for a comprehensive upgrade.
- Transitioning to a cloud-based CAD system aligns with Arlington County's planned upgrade, ensuring continued regional interoperability and coordination.
- The upgrade will enable real-time data sharing across jurisdictions, reducing call transfers and allowing faster, more seamless dispatch of emergency resources.
- Alexandria's CAD system supports critical federal facilities and infrastructure, including major federal agencies, the Mark Center, and multiple Metrorail stations, reinforcing national security and operational continuity.
- Investment is urgent as agencies nationwide adopt next-generation emergency communications systems to meet rising demand, improve resilience, and avoid gaps in coordinated regional and federal response.





KING STREET & COMMONWEALTH AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Requested Amount: \$1,350,000

- Leverages major state investments from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Fourth Track and bridge replacement projects to deliver critical local safety and accessibility improvements at the King Street Metro area.
- Transforms a high-traffic multimodal hub at King Street Metro Station, which serves millions of annual trips across Metrorail, buses, Amtrak, VRE, biking, and pedestrian activity.
- Modernizes 100+ year-old infrastructure by taking advantage of bridge replacements (originally built in 1904 and 1906) to expand space for safer streets and improved mobility.
- Delivers safer, separated infrastructure for all users through protected bike lanes, wider sidewalks meeting ADA standards, improved bus stops, and better access for emergency vehicles.
- Advances safety, sustainability, and equity goals by reducing conflicts between modes, encouraging walking, biking, and transit use, and supporting citywide plans like Vision Zero and the Environmental Action Plan.





STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE & INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE FOR FATHERS

Requested Amount: \$1,200,000

- Directly addresses workforce shortages by connecting fathers, many involved in or at risk of involvement with child welfare systems, to high-demand industries like skilled trades, logistics, and infrastructure.
- Paid, work-based learning is the centerpiece: 50 fathers will earn \$20/hour for up to six months while gaining hands-on experience and transitioning into permanent employment.
- Strong, measurable outcomes:
 - 80% program completion
 - 70% placement in unsubsidized jobs
 - 60% earning industry-recognized credentials
 - \$22+ average hourly wage at exit
- Delivers real economic return: At full employment, participants will generate \$2M+ in annual wages, increasing tax contributions and local economic activity.
- Strengthens families and reduces system involvement by improving fathers' financial stability, child support compliance, and long-term engagement in their children's lives.
- Removes barriers to employment through comprehensive supports including workforce coaching, financial education, and navigation of child support and community resources.
- Leverages strong partnerships, including the Capital Youth Empowerment Program's Fathers in Tech initiative, to expand access to training, mentorship, and leadership development.
- Promotes long-term financial security and generational wealth through free tax preparation and support establishing 530(a) education savings for children.
- Scalable, high-impact model that aligns workforce development with family stability, reducing reliance on public assistance while strengthening the regional economy.

Fatherhood Program

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Fathers in Tech Program: The Hero's Journey.

The **Fathers in Tech Program** at CYEP is designed to strengthen family dynamics by enhancing father involvement and emphasizing the critical role fathers play in their children's lives. Through a combination of skill-building workshops and workforce development sessions, the program empowers fathers to improve their relationships with their children and families while advancing their careers.

CYEP provides a supportive environment where fathers can address challenges such as child support and gain the tools needed to succeed. By participating in FIT, fathers develop valuable skills, build confidence, and unlock their potential, leading to stronger families and greater economic stability.

At CYEP we recognize the importance of supporting fathers in today's society. Our program is tailored to help fathers achieve personal and professional growth, providing access to resources and opportunities that foster long-term success. We are committed to empowering fathers to become positive role models and active participants in their children's lives.

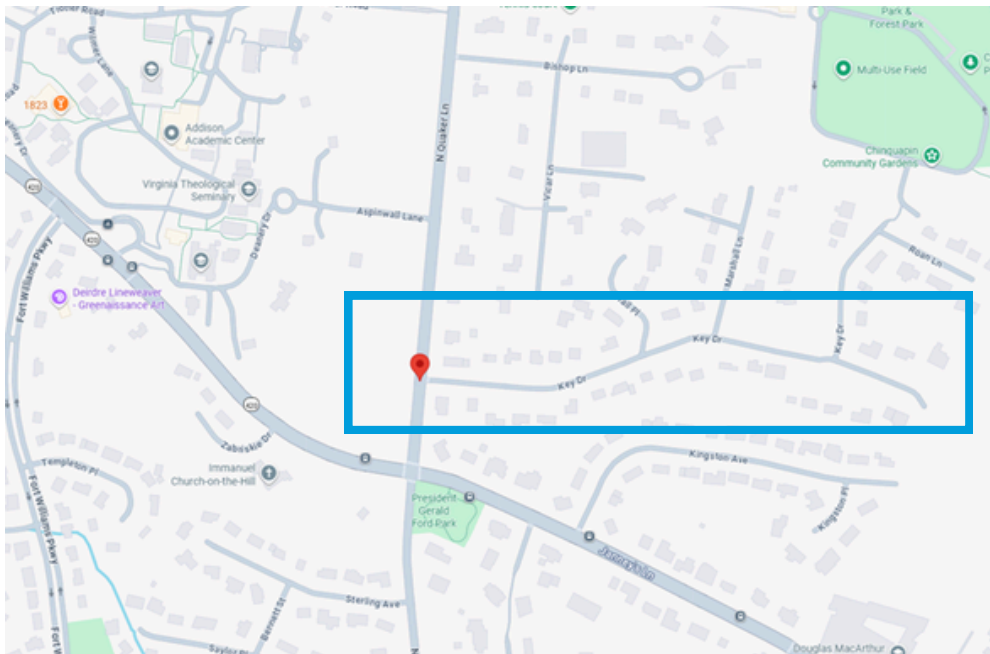




KEY DRIVE AND QUAKER LANE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT

Requested Amount: \$1,600,000

- This is a shovel-ready project that can begin as early as Q3 2026 and be completed by 2028, allowing for immediate impact.
- The project addresses frequent, recurring flooding in a residential neighborhood along Key Drive that is already experiencing regular property impacts.
- Existing infrastructure is outdated, built decades ago for historical rainfall patterns that no longer reflect today's more intense and frequent storms.
- Undersized culverts are a primary failure point, currently overtopping during moderate to heavy rain and causing flooding of nearby homes.
- The project will upgrade culverts and stabilize the channel, significantly increasing stormwater capacity and reducing flood risk.
- This is a targeted "spot improvement" project, part of a broader, strategic flood mitigation approach designed to deliver results quickly (typically 8–20 months per project).
- Federal funding of approximately \$1.6 million would accelerate delivery, enabling faster construction and earlier relief for impacted residents.
- The project aligns with a larger \$175M–\$288M citywide flood mitigation strategy, making it a key component of a long-term resilience plan.
- Delivery is faster than traditional infrastructure projects because much of the work is completed in-house or through on-call contractors, avoiding lengthy procurement timelines.
- Projects are identified using both data and community input, including site visits and resident reports through the Alex311 system.





ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES AT FREEDOM HOUSE

Requested Amount: \$2,000,000

- Preserves a nationally significant historic site at Freedom House Museum, which was ground zero of the domestic slave trade, where thousands were trafficked from Virginia to the Deep South.
- Aligns with the nation's 250th anniversary by offering a powerful opportunity to confront the paradox of freedom and slavery at America's founding.
- Invests in critical interior rehabilitation and ADA accessibility, supported by a City match through the Office of Historic Alexandria, ensuring the site is preserved and open to all.
- Expands access to historically significant spaces, including the basement where enslaved men were held, an essential step in telling the full, unfiltered story of the site.
- Advances inclusive storytelling and education, helping visitors understand the lasting impacts of slavery across Virginia and the nation while ensuring this history is accessible, visible, and preserved for future generations.





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