



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

# City Council Priorities Update Fall 2024



# Priorities



## **Community Connection**

How do we widely connect all Alexandrians to City Government information, and that our services reflect the diverse lived experiences of our residents and businesses?

## **Employee Attraction and Retention**

How do we attract and retain diverse talent in the public service sector and ensure our employees feel valued?

## **Housing Opportunities**

How do we increase quality housing and its availability at a range of price points?

## **Eliminate Community Disparities**

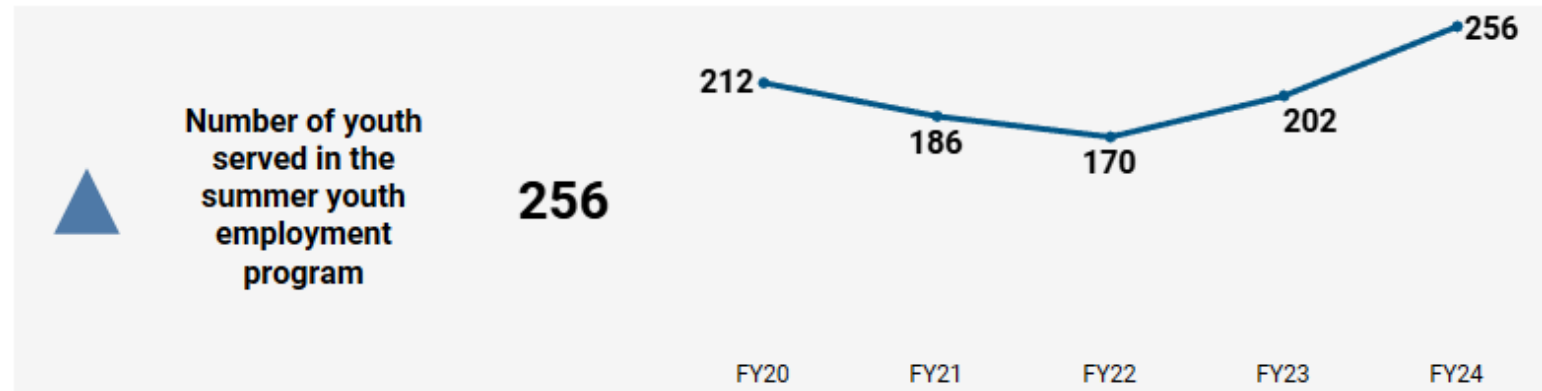
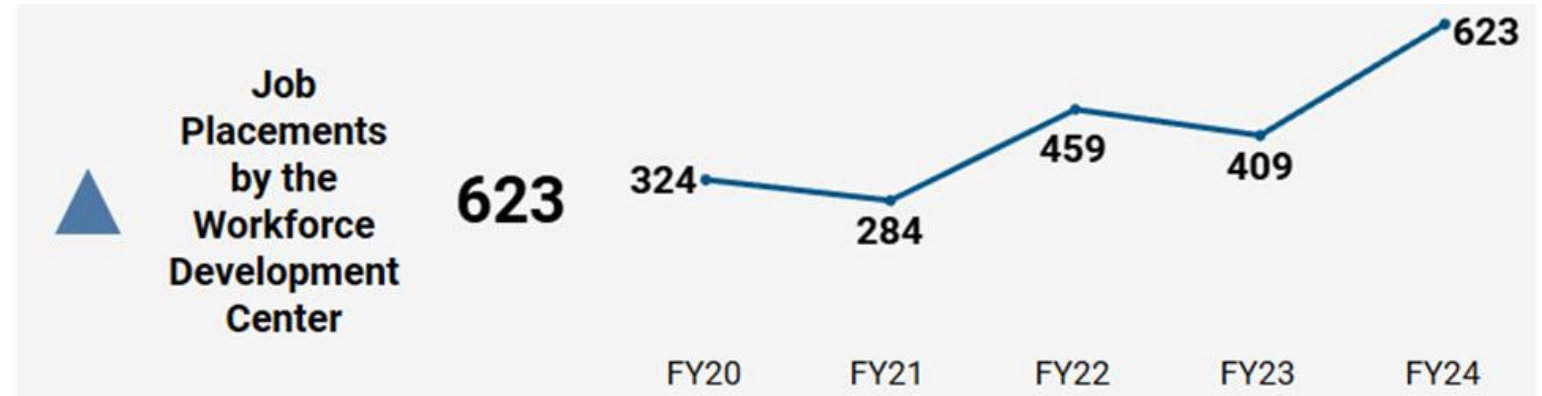
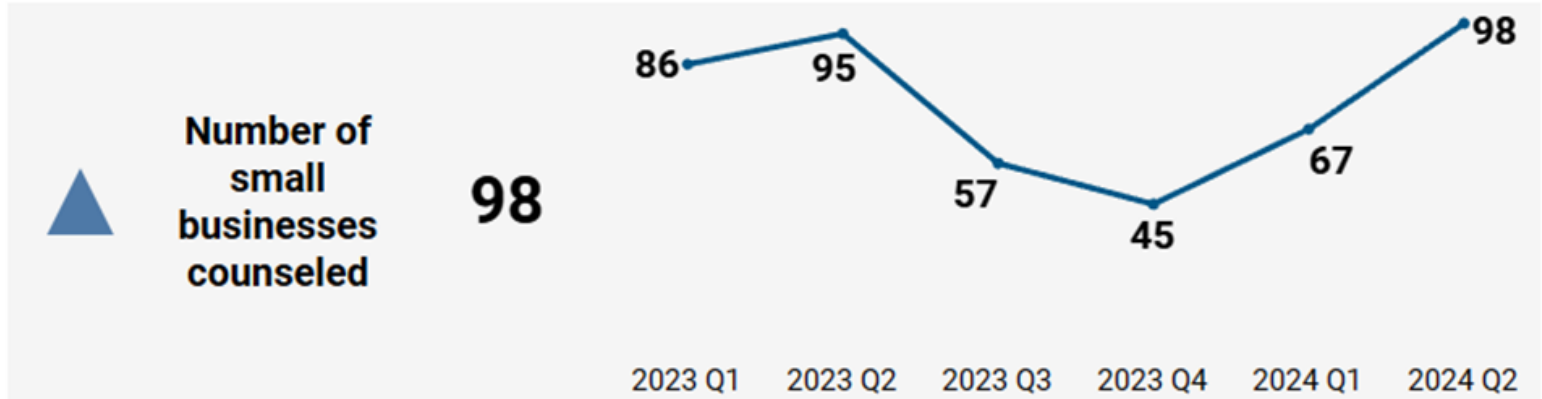
How can we better extend support to Alexandrians, especially our youth, in our efforts to eliminate social, health, and economic disparities within our communities?

## **Economic Strength**

How do we increase the economic strength of the city and its residents to ensure financial stability and attract quality jobs?



# Noteworthy Indicators





# Highlighted Initiatives



# Community Connection: Jr. City Academy

- For 6 weeks, 12 middle and high school students participated in the pilot Jr. City Academy
- Each week, the Academy traveled to a City Department to learn about what they do to serve the public, the issues it is responsible for addressing, and how individuals access resources.
- Feedback collected showed the participants feel more comfortable approaching City leaders and increased their leadership skills.
- City staff are working to plan out a second cohort, which they aim to launch in Spring 2025.



"I really enjoyed every single one of the visits. It was really fun to learn about the different resources around the city. I really hope that this wasn't a one-time thing and we can continue to do these same activities."

- Participant in the 2024 Jr. City



# Employee Attraction and Retention:

## Institute for Regional Excellence-Regional Executive Development Program

- The Institute for Regional Excellence-Regional Executive Development Program (IRE-REDP), developed by COG, offers leadership and management training for mid-level and senior managers from local governments in our region.
- Since 2007, 37 individuals from the City of Alexandria have participated in IRE-REDP
- The program not only builds leadership skills but also encourages collaboration among leaders from across the region. Participants work on team projects addressing critical regional issues.



*2024 Alexandria Graduates,  
Christina Damhuis (DCHS), and  
Marcus Downey (APD)*

"I've learned so much from the curriculum and my peers about effective leadership and public management. I will carry the knowledge, skills and network I gained in this program with me throughout my career!"

- Christina Damhuis, DCHS



# Housing Opportunities:

## Ongoing Efforts in Eviction Prevention and Housing Support

Since July 1, 2024, a total of 506 unlawful detainers have been filed in the City, which is 181 fewer than submitted during the same period in 2023.

The Eviction Prevention Task Force continues to offer residents easily accessible, culturally competent assistance in housing and resource navigation, and relocation services when necessary.

The Steering Workgroup focuses on analyzing data and trends related to eviction prevention. In addition to the Steering Workgroup, other active subcommittees include:

- Tenant Education and Community Outreach Subcommittee Led by Legal Services of Northern Virginia,
- Landlord Outreach Subcommittee
- Legislative and Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee

LSNV  
LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

## ALEXANDRIA COURTHOUSE NAVIGATION PROGRAM

FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

Do you have an eviction court date or notice threatening lease termination or eviction?

If so, come meet with legal aid staff and court navigators for free information/assistance.

**Place**  
 Alexandria General District Court  
 520 King Street, Second Floor  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 (Across from the CVS on King Street)

**Time**  
 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
 (schedule could vary depending on docket numbers)  
**Walk - ins are welcome! no appointment is required**

**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR TENANTS:**

- Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your scheduled hearing.
- If you pay the full amount that you owe, it is still best to go to court to make sure the case is dismissed.
- If you do not show up to Court, your landlord may get a default judgment against you.
- Cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed inside the Alexandria courthouse. **Free** lockers are available at the entrance for you to store your phone. Simply lock your phone inside the locker, take the key, and when you're ready to retrieve your phone, return the key.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Navigational direction/information
- Legal and procedural information
- Assistance with legal forms or documents (Civil Expungements only)
- Language assistance and interpreter access
- Referrals

\*Courthouse Navigators and volunteers WILL NOT provide legal advice or representation in court, send letters, or make phone calls on behalf of the tenant.

**Contact Us**

703.778.6800

lsnv.org



# Eliminate Community Disparities: City Services Map

A screenshot of the "City Services Map" interface for the City of Alexandria, VA. The interface is divided into four vertical panels, each with a colored background and a white icon. The panels are: 1. Health and Human Services (orange background, icon of a hand holding a heart and a person), 2. Education & After School Services (purple background, icon of a graduation cap), 3. Civic Services (green background, icon of a classical building), and 4. Transportation Services (blue background, icon of a bus). The text labels for each service are located at the bottom of their respective panels.

City Services Map  
City of Alexandria, VA

Health and Human Services

Education & After School Services

Civic Services

Transportation Services





# Eliminate Community Disparities: City Services Map

**City Services Map**  
City of Alexandria, VA

Find address or place

- Zip Code
- Public Libraries
- City Government Property and Facilities
- City Public Schools Areas
- City Boundary

Zip Code

Public Libraries

City Government Property and Facilities

- Government Facility
- Fire Station
- Rec Center
- Cultural
- DCHS
- School
- Other

Health & Human Services

Education & After School Services

Civic Services

Transportation Services

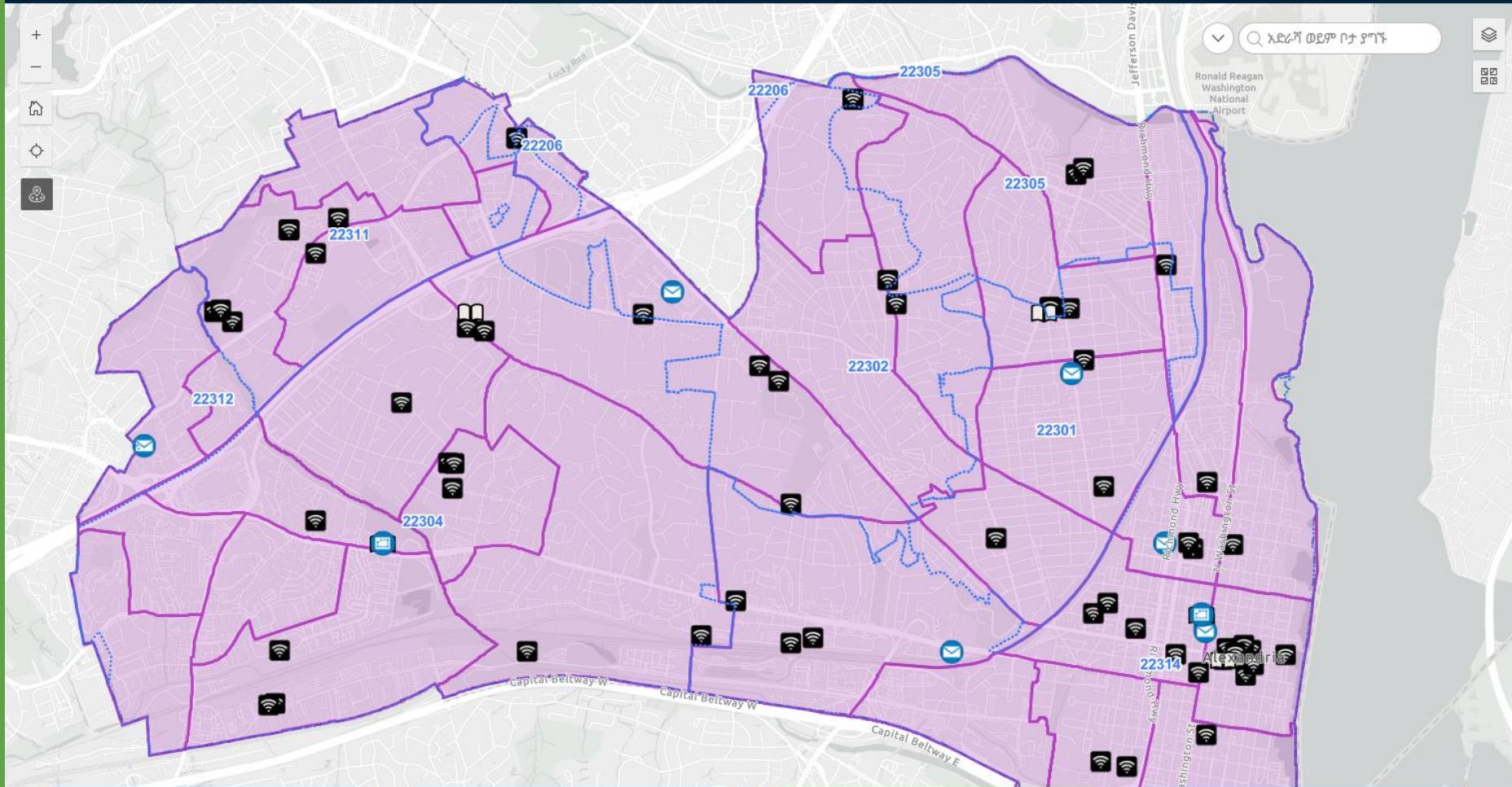
The screenshot displays a web-based map of Alexandria, Virginia, titled "City Services Map". The map shows various service locations marked with icons: schools (purple), libraries (blue), government facilities (grey), fire stations (orange), rec centers (green), and cultural sites (yellow). The map is overlaid with zip code boundaries (22206, 22301, 22302, 22304, 22311, 22312, 22314) and city boundaries. A search bar at the top right allows users to find addresses or places. A legend on the right side of the map lists the service categories and their corresponding icons. At the bottom of the map, there are four blue buttons labeled "Health & Human Services", "Education & After School Services", "Civic Services", and "Transportation Services". The City of Alexandria logo is in the top left corner.



# Eliminate Community Disparities: City Services Map



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# Economic Strength:

## 2024 Small Business Resiliency Grant Program

The 2024 Small Business Resiliency (SBR) Grant Program offered Alexandria business owners funding to overcome significant challenges in accessing resources as they continue to recover from the pandemic.

**Sixty-four** recipients are set to receive disbursements totaling more than \$440,000 via grants of up to \$7,000.

- Almost all grant recipients have 10 or fewer employees.
- More than half of them reported revenues under \$120,000.
- There was an even split between brick-and-mortar locations and home-based businesses.
- Funds were awarded across seven zip codes in Alexandria (we are awaiting census tract information from LEDC)
- None of the recipients had received a previous federally funded city grant, such as the back to business grant
- 31 of the 64 recipients have asked LEDC for a

*The SBR Grant recipients break down by race and ethnicity as follows:*

- 37% Black or African American business owners
- 31% White business owners
- 20% Asian business owners
- 7% Identify as multi-racial business owners
- 3% Prefer not to say
- 2% American Indian and Alaska Native business owners

In addition, 12% of all business owners identify as Hispanic/Latino.

- Five recipients – 7.7% – reported a disability, just over the 7.3% rate in Alexandria's population at large



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Questions?

