

Background/Statement of Purpose for Economic Development Strategic Plan

Albemarle County's focus on economic development has developed significant momentum in recent years. The County has taken a very deliberate, thoughtful, and strategic approach that works within the framework of the community's vision as established in the Comprehensive Plan and other established policy items.

Albemarle County Economic Development Mission:

To promote responsible economic development activities that enhance the County's competitive position and result in quality job creation and career employment opportunities, increased tax base, enhanced natural resources and community character, and an improved quality of life for all citizens.

Albemarle County Economic Development Guiding Principles:

- **Economic Diversity:** Support a diverse and vibrant economy that offers a broad range of job opportunities across the full spectrum of skill levels while delivering high quality government services to our residents.
- **Organizational Collaboration:** Collaborate on all levels (local, regional, and state) to maximize the economic opportunities for the area in a cost-effective manner, including close partnerships with the City of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.
- **Entrepreneurship/Organic Growth:** Create an environment that encourages, values, and supports entrepreneurship and builds value from within by supporting those businesses or assets who have been a contributor to our community.
- **Build Awareness of Local Opportunities:** Build a strong level of awareness amongst students and young adults of the availability of local career and economic opportunities that keep young people here in our community and support efforts that build a skilled and talented workforce.
- **Educational Achievement and Partnership:** Recognize and support the strength of our local educational institutions and promote lifelong learning opportunities.
- **Leverage Intellectual Capital:** Strengthen and diversify Albemarle's economy by leveraging our intellectual capital to promote expansion of business interests to attract investment and enhance the livability of our community (and not detract from it).
- **Support Critical Infrastructure:** Support social infrastructure through business offerings that recognize family, educational, and cultural needs and that help people be successful, productive employees and encourage physical infrastructure that supports the County's desired economic development activity.