



May 17, 2022

Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Ms. Carranza:

I am writing this letter in support of Community Investment Collaborative's (CIC) application for an SBA PRIME grant to provide training and technical assistance to disadvantaged entrepreneurs in Albemarle County and central Virginia. In addition, the Albemarle Economic Development Authority will consider \$25,000 in support for CIC's programs and, if approved, those funds can be used as matching support for this grant.

Since 2012, CIC and Albemarle County have partnered in many ways to support small businesses. We have supported their entrepreneur workshop both financially and with volunteers from our staff, we have seeded two microloan funds, \$30,000 prior to 2020 and then \$200,000 in 2020 as part of a Business Recovery Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and through annual support of the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center, now hosted at CIC. In 2021, Albemarle County partnered with CIC on an Agribusiness grant program supporting this target industry within our region.

In support of the proposed PRIME programming, we commit to the matching funds described above along with continuing our referral partnerships and utilizing CIC as a key partner in advancing Albemarle County Economic Development priorities.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this proposal. Please contact me directly at 434-972-4016 or rjohnson2@albemarle.org if you have any questions about our commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson
Director, Economic Development Office