

**City of Alexandria, Virginia  
 FY 2027 Proposed Operating Budget & CIP  
 Budget Questions & Answers**

**March 31, 2026**

**Question:**

Can AEDP and the Workforce Development Center provide an overview of the funds dedicated and/or needed to support the work identified in ALX Forward to execute on proposals related to Workforce Development?

**Response:**

Implementation of ALX Forward is planned over a multi-year period, with specific budget requests prepared, annually. There is no new dedicated funding proposed directly for ALX Forward workforce development initiatives in the FY2027 budget.

<b>Strengthen talent pipelines.</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with employers and K-20 institutions to create industry-aligned programs and expand internships and apprenticeships that lead to local hiring.</li> </ul>	WDC	ACPS, local schools, VT, NVCC, AARWC, trades and labor associations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NEW</b> Circulate BRE insights to guide workforce and training providers in aligning their offerings (career tracks, credential programs) with employer demand and closing skill gaps in high-demand fields.</li> </ul>	AEDP	WDC, ACPS, local schools, VT, NVCC, AARWC, trades and labor associations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>EXPAND</b> Leverage data, partnerships, and training pathways to expand career pathways that include upskilling and reskilling programs that reduce barriers to workforce participation and improve access to quality jobs while retaining local talent.</li> </ul>	WDC	OA&I, ACPS, local schools, VT, NVCC, AARWC, trades and labor associations

More specifically, staff have designed potential plans for two of the projects identified above that could be implemented with limited additional funding in FY 2027:

- Youth Entrepreneurship Pitch Completion Pilot (\$50,000)—The Youth Entrepreneurship “Pitch Completion” Pilot, proposed as part of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) 2027, will engage ten Alexandria youth, rising juniors and seniors, in a fully paid, six-week, hands-on program designed to build entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and career readiness skills. Participants will explore pathways into self-employment and innovation-driven careers, including technology, design, and social enterprise, through a structured combination of learning, mentorship, and real-world business development.
- Talent Pipeline Pilot (\$50,000)—The program will use data, community partnerships and training pathways to transform career pathways leading to quality jobs. This will be done through upskilling and reskilling initiatives that ensure local talent is retained and those reentering the workforce have higher compensation and retain employment.

Staff can provide additional program details upon request.