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**Charlotte Small Business Innovation Fund to Award Nearly $1 Million in Latest Round of Grants Thanks to New Investments by Honeywell, Duke Energy and the Knight Foundation**

*Fund Managed by Charlotte Center City Partners and Foundation For The Carolinas Has Already Distributed $3.6 Million to Over 100 Small Businesses*

*Grant application window opens June 25*

CHARLOTTE, (June 18, 2021) – New investments by Honeywell, Duke Energy and the Knight Foundation will enable the Charlotte Center City Small Business Innovation Fund to award nearly $1 million in a fourth round of grantmaking this summer. Applications for those grants will be accepted beginning Friday, June 25, at noon, and will close at the same time on Friday, July 9 (now July 14).

The Small Business Innovation Fund was launched with a $2 million investment by founding partner Honeywell as the pandemic emerged in 2020 and supported by generous donations from Bank of America, Duke Energy and the Knight Foundation, as well as a number of other corporate citizens. Grants distributed from the fund are intended to spur innovation by small businesses as they adapt to the new economic realities introduced by COVID-19.

Through the first three rounds of the program, approximately $3.6 million in grants have been awarded to 116 local small businesses, with 87% of them owned by minorities, women and/or veterans. $1.5 million was provided by the City of Charlotte in Round 3 through federal CARES Act funding and was available city-wide.

Round 4 will focus on innovative projects related to the unique opportunities facing Charlotte small businesses today, as COVID-19 restrictions abate and businesses respond to new patterns of work and commuting, and a community with pent-up demand for gathering, traveling, and engaging in cultural and urban experiences.

To prepare for the opening of the Round 4 application window, Charlotte Center City Partners will host a pre-application webinar on Tuesday, June 22 at 9:00 a.m. The team will share insights from Rounds 1-3 on how to apply for a Round 4 grant and will answer questions about the fund. To register, please visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_urOj6et_SG6mAFhSNyVGng>.

The session will be recorded and made available on Charlotte Center City Partners’ website ([www.charlottecentercity.org/innovationfund/](http://www.charlottecentercity.org/innovationfund/)). For more information about the webinar, please see the attached invitation. If business owners choose to submit an application for Round 4, they can do so through the Foundation For The Carolinas grant portal.

Eligibility rules for Round 4 are similar to Rounds 1 and 2, where businesses must have an existing physical location in Charlotte Center City, generally defined within two miles of Trade and Tryon streets, or be expanding business, services or products within the Center City geography. Specific eligibility rules are available on the Center City Partners website. Any business that submitted a previous application for Rounds 1, 2 or 3 will need to submit a new application for Round 4.

After very strong interest from Charlotte small businesses during Rounds 1, 2 and 3, the Center City Small Business Innovation Fund Grant Review Committee is looking forward to reviewing the new applications. They are grateful to all of the businesses for their creative entrepreneurship and service to their community.

**ABOUT HONEYWELL**

*Honeywell (*[*www.honeywell.com*](http://www.honeywell.com)*) is a Fortune 100 technology company that delivers industry-specific solutions that include aerospace products and services; control technologies for buildings and industry; and performance materials globally. Our technologies help aircraft, buildings, manufacturing plants, supply chains, and workers become more connected to make our world smarter, safer, and more sustainable. For more news and information on Honeywell, please visit* [*www.honeywell.com/newsroom*](http://www.honeywell.com/newsroom)*.*

**ABOUT CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY PARTNERS**

*Charlotte Center City Partners envisions and activates strategies and actions that will assure Charlotte Center City is a welcoming an equitable, economically vibrant, culturally rich, and beloved place for all. For more information, visit* [*www.charlottecentercity.org*](http://www.charlottecentercity.org)*.*

**ABOUT FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS**

*Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is the sixth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of $2.8 billion, FFTC’s mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit* [*www.fftc.org*](http://www.fftc.org)*.*