

News Release



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Charleston County to host Powered by Purpose Conference for local nonprofit organizations

Charleston County Community Development and Revitalization, in partnership with [South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development](#) (SCACED) and [Increasing H.O.P.E.](#), will host the Powered by Purpose Conference on Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 at the North Charleston Convention Center. The free-to-attend conference is designed to strengthen and support Charleston County's nonprofit sector by offering resources, connections, and capacity-building strategies tailored to local needs.

Topics covered throughout the conference will center on strengthening organizational capacity, deepening community engagement, and navigating the funding and policy landscape.

Additional event highlights will include:

- Keynote speakers
 - [Coastal Conservation League's Executive Director Faith Rivers James](#)
 - [TheCaseMade's Founder and CEO Tiffany Manuel](#)
- Panel discussions led by nonprofit leaders
 - Topics will include: Purpose-driven leadership, nonprofit sustainability, fundraising, collaborative problem solving, building public trust, and transparency.
- Breakout sessions organized into three tracks:
 - **Build:** Foundational skills for emerging nonprofits (e.g., budgeting, governance, compliance)
 - **Grow:** Tools for scaling impact (e.g., communications strategy, data and evaluation, digital tools)
 - **Lead:** Sessions for executive leadership (e.g., succession planning, equity-centered leadership, advocacy)
- Vendor exhibits
- Networking opportunities
- One-on-one technical assistance following the event

"Nonprofit organizations are vital to Charleston County, supporting everything from affordable housing and food access to severe weather shelters and services for youth and veterans," said LoElla Smalls, director of Charleston County's Department of Community Development and Revitalization. "The Powered by Purpose Conference is designed to empower these organizations and provide resources that will help them deliver these essential services with even greater impact and efficiency."

Qualified organizations will receive up to two in-person attendance passes, post-conference technical assistance tailored to organizational needs, two individual 1-year all access subscriptions to the Nonprofit Learning Lab (includes hundreds of self-paced education modules), free event parking, and free meals during the event.

To qualify to attend, nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations must serve Charleston County's communities. Learn more and apply to attend [here](#).

In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those needing assistance should contact Charleston County at (843) 746-8175 during regular business hours.

