## Frequently-asked Questions

**1. What's the purpose? And who will benefit?**

The purpose is two-fold: 1) to make our community more welcoming by providing verifiable ID cards to those who need them,  2) to promote and increase trust and positive relationships between local enforcement and the entire community.

Those who benefit include immigrants, homeless folks, those returning from prison, some youth, and people with mental health conditions.

**2. What are the benefits?**

People need IDs to get certain prescription drugs, access several municipal and health care services, to check into a hotel, enroll kids in school, get a library card. Those who need a verifiable ID feel more welcomed by the community when they have one.

**3. What's the need? How many might need an ID card in our community?**

A national study found that 11% of U.S. citizens lack a government ID.  There are over 11,636 people over 60 in the city/county who have no car. Some of them also lack a drivers license. According to 2017 Census Bureau data, Alb. County's Latino population is 6,092; Charlottesville's is 2,486. A number of them and other immigrants need verifiable IDs. And there are over 260 homeless people in the Charlottesville area,

**4. What information is required during the application process?**

At a minimum, applicants must provide proof of identity and of residence. For details, see Appendix.

**5. How long is the information about applicants maintained?**

We will maintain card holders' information for four weeks, then delete it.

**6. What other localities have their own IDs?**

Over 20,000 people have received community ID cards, in: Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Chapel Hill and several other N. Carolina localities; in Mercer County and the City of Plainfield, NJ; in South Bend, IN; Gainesville and Palm Beach, Fl.; in Cincinnati, South Carolina and some other states.

**7. Are immigrants and others who are fearful of contact with the government willing to participate?**

Many of them are reluctant at first. Communities that have been successful provide a great deal of information about the cards, benefits, and the application process. Often they hold educational sessions in churches and other places that are trusted by local communities. In general, the response to ID card programs has been very positive. And law enforcement officials who support local IDs play a big role in reducing fear (see #8).

Aiken, SC, (population approximately 30,000) began its ID program in 2017. In its first six months, about 500 IDs were issued. In South Bend, IN (population 101,700), 1100 people signed up in the first year.

**8. What do law enforcement leaders say about this program? Do they participate?**

In every community that we have studied, law enforcement involvement in the program has been critical. When law enforcement leaders see how this program can increase trust and build relationships with communities that sometimes do not trust police, they have become strong supporters. Locally, the Charlottesville and Albemarle County police departments, their sheriff departments, and the city's Commonwealth Attorney support the program's goals.

In North Carolina, 22 police departments support local ID programs.

**9. Who is the sponsoring organization?**

In our community, New Beginnings Christian Community, Hinton Ave. United Methodist Church, and Welcoming Greater Charlottesville sponsor the program.

**10. Can an ID that isn't gov't issued be effective, and accepted?**

Yes, as long as organizations being asked to accept the card - police, social services, libraries, schools, etc., have input in developing the program. That's how we have developed our program.

**11. Are there Virginia state laws affecting our ability to create local (non-gov't) card?**

We haven't found any state laws that deal with local ID card programs.

**12. Will this card shine a light on our city, make us look like a "sanctuary city"?**

It depends on how we manage the program. We emphasize the increased community safety and trust in police that result from this program. In addition, our ID card is for **all** residents who want it. We know of only one state where local ID cards are a concern to state legislators -- North Carolina. And yet, the program has been very successful there.

We know of no communities with local ID programs that have experienced increased tensions with federal officials.

**13. Will ID holders get benefits that others don't?**

Card holders do not receive government services that others don't receive. Some local stores and restaurants may give card holders a discount.

**14. Is this a political activity?**

No. The program has two very clear goals: provide a verifiable ID card to every resident who wants one, and increase public safety by improving relationships with law enforcement.

**15. What about residents from outlying counties/cities? Will they be allowed to have our card?**

Our initial focus is on Charlottesville and Albemarle. If people in the other parts of the planning district want to be a part of our program, we'll consider it after our first year.

**16. Do any other VA communities have ID programs?**

Some local government agencies provide IDs to jail inmates. We don't know of any community-wide programs in VA.

**17. Do ICE officials interview people applying for an ID?**

We have heard of no such interviews. ICE policy states that they do not conduct operations in schools, churches, or health centers.

**18. What are the costs? How long is the card valid?**

Our ID card costs $10/year (cash). Cards issued in 2019 are good for one year, then must be renewed. Cards issued in 2020 and after are good for two years (and must be renewed).

# Appendix

To receive our ID card, applicants must bring the following:

## 1. DOCUMENTS TO PROVE YOUR IDENTITY:

### A. Any ONE of these will be sufficient. An original document of:

- Passport
- State issued driver's license or ID card (current or expired)
- Foreign national ID card (from one's home country, sometimes called "voter ID cards")
- Matricula consular (an embassy ID)
- Previously issued FaithAction ID card
- Military ID cards, either for U.S. or one's home country
- A current or expired work permit
- B1 or B2 card
- Work permit

### B. If you don't have any of the above, any TWO or THREE of the following will be sufficient:

- Original birth certificate
- Health records
- ITIN documents
- Notarized letter from a trusted family member or community advocate
- Current or expired community or school ID card
- Bank identification card
- Employee ID card
- Expired military ID card, from the U.S. or from your home country.

## 2. DOCUMENTS TO PROVE YOUR ADDRESS

### A. Any ONE of these will be sufficient. An original document of:

- Utility bill (cable, water, electric, gas, Internet, phone)

- Rental agreement
- Housing rental agreement
- Receipt for housing rent payments (if it has your address)
- Bank Statement
- Medical bill
- VA driver's license or state ID card
- Credit card bill

**B. If you don't have any of the above, any TWO or THREE of the following will be sufficient:**

- Legitimate business mail that's dated or post marked with name and address
- Personal mail (postmarked or dated)
- Notarized letters from trusted family or community advocate
- P.O. Box (as long as you also give us your actual home address - it will go on the card)
- Furniture rental agreement for current housing
- Expired lease or letter of continued residence

**UNACCEPTABLE PROOF OF ID DOCUMENTS**

- Store ID (such as Sam's Club)
- Foreign national driver's license
- Old, worn, deteriorated documents where name and/or picture are not legible
- Copies of original documents