SEED round 6 underway

The sixth round of LISC, Bon Secours and Capital One’s Supporting East End Entrepreneur (SEED) Program is in full swing. As in previous years, applicants have three months to fill out the application and prepare a business plan. The applications are due May 1, 2017.

The sixth round of SEED will have a more targeted focus. “We are concentrating on blocks O St. on up to Nine Mile along the 25th Street corridor for the SEED program this year,” said LISC Executive Director Candice Streett.

There are a number of reasons for this change, not the least of which is the proposed grocery store development that is planned for the 25th Street and Nine Mile Road intersection.

“In order to sustain retail like a grocery store, we need to be sure it’s not isolated,” explained Helen Dunlap of LISC MetroEdge, the economic development affiliate of LISC that did a corridor assessment this past spring.

By focusing on bringing business to the few blocks leading up to the grocery store, the SEED program will promote a vibrant business environment to surround the grocery store development.

For more information on the SEED program, please contact SEED Program Coordinator Killeen King at kking@lisc.org.
Highland Park gets the "Biz"

Capital One and Virginia LISC are launching 6 Biz, a small business grant assistance program in Highland Park. The program will target businesses near the Six Points roundabout along the Brookland Park Boulevard and Meadowbridge Road corridors.

6 Biz is the second part of a neighborhood strategy to spur business revitalization, coming after a corridor safety effort launched two years ago. LISC is working with Storefront for Community Design to identify two-three existing businesses that can use 6 Biz grant funds to leverage the City of Richmond's CARE program for facade improvements and new signage.

A corridor improvement plan is also in the works and is being developed by the Timmons Group and Baskervill through a grant from National LISC.