

# Education - \$84,785,185

The City of Roanoke seeks to *foster an environment for lifelong learning which encompasses cradle to career and beyond through shared services and community involvement*. The City joins our community in ensuring access to educational opportunities through the course of each individual’s life. The City seeks to help develop successful students and productive and educated adults, prepared to succeed to full extent of their abilities.

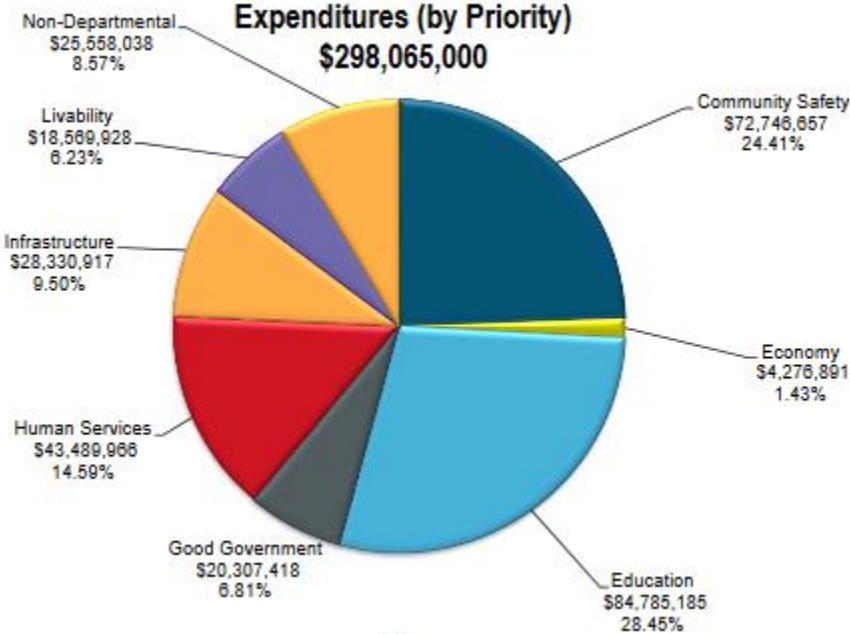
The City seeks to achieve these stated objectives through the use of the following strategies and tactics:

Early Learning and School Readiness – The City invests time, money and resources in preparing children to read proficiently by the end of the third grade.

Preparation for Post High-School Success – The City works with the community to identify and support programs and initiatives that equip students to succeed beyond high school, whether their path leads them to college, a trade or vocation, or community service.

Support of K-12 Educational Program – The City invests time, money, and resources in ensuring Roanoke City Public Schools are able to provide the facilities, curriculum, and teachers necessary to deliver quality educational programs.

Adult Learning – The City invests time, money, and resources in opportunities for adults to continue to learn to enhance skills, broaden their general knowledge or further their creativity.



### **Early Learning/School Readiness**

We are committed to success for all the children of Roanoke. In order to prepare students for success in learning, it is important to establish a firm foundation during the pre-school years. The support of a stable home life with parents or guardians who have knowledge and skills that enable them to raise healthy, inquisitive children is one part of that foundation. An adequate supply of quality, affordable daycare and early learning programs is another essential part of the foundation. The outcomes that will result in addressing this causal factor include:

1. Children ready for formal schooling and learning experiences  
It is crucial that the Federal Government, the Commonwealth, and the local community support early childhood education programs serving preschool-age children so that they may attain the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for optimal development in formal schooling and beyond. It is essential that preschool-age children have the instruction, experiences, and environment needed in order to continue learning in more structured settings. The community is saturated with literacy-rich material, messaging, and programs that encourage learning starting at birth. It is important that departments work with community organizations to provide the necessary framework for children to succeed.
2. Families and community value and support learning  
Families are supported as their children's first teachers. Families and members of the community will be exposed to various educational programs that support their children's early learning experiences. Local government will partner with the community to offer experiences for parents and guardians to gain a clear knowledge of their role in their children's preparedness for formal learning. These programs will help families and communities nurture and teach children to be open to and interested in learning.

### **Support of K-12 Educational Programs**

K-12 educational programs, such as the City's public schools, private schools, and home-schooled efforts seek to provide formally structured learning designed to give students the tools they will need to be successful in the next stage of their lives following graduation. The support of their families is just as important during these challenging years as students transition from childhood to young adulthood. Also, there are programs offered by other City departments, outside organizations, and the community in general that can supply additional training and mentoring for our young people. All of these groups working together can prepare our students to succeed. The outcomes that will result in successfully addressing this causal factor include:

### 1. Successful students

We have high expectations for all students, and we are invested in their success. Successful students graduate with content knowledge, technical skills, and habits of mind that allow them to move to the post-secondary option of their choice, regardless of their income, ethnicity, disability, or other challenges. The mission of Roanoke City Public Schools' K-12 educational programs is to graduate students who are prepared for life in a rapidly changing world. We expect that other formal education programs have similar goals. Fully state accredited public schools where students meet federal guidelines provide excellent learning opportunities. Schools must be safe places where all students are engaged and challenged by state-of-the-art learning experiences. These state-of-the-art learning experiences are delivered through programs, activities, and opportunities for students that will include advanced academic programs, experiences in the arts, enriching co-curricular and athletic activities, and strong career and technical education programs.

### 2. Families and community value and support learning

Families and community entities that value K-12 educational learning will be actively engaged in all aspects of the student's education. Programs that strengthen and encourage a family's ability and desire to support their child's learning will result in the child's educational success and greater interest in formal schooling. A range of programs and opportunities will be needed to support the unique needs of a diverse population.

## **Adult Learning**

Learning does not stop after K-12 education. Community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, technical schools and certification programs provide another level of academics and training that can further develop an educated citizenry and a better-prepared workforce to support our Valley's current businesses and serve as an incentive to entice new ones to our area. City departments, outside organizations, regional and state entities, and the community can provide resources to support formal learning as well as offer opportunities for personal growth and lifelong learning in areas of interest. Adult learners also require family support as they balance the demands of family, employment, and financial commitment in order to obtain an advanced degree, a certification or license to increase or improve job skills, or simply to enhance personal learning. The outcomes that support this causal factor include:

### 1. A productive and educated citizenry

It is essential that the citizens of Roanoke be provided with the opportunities necessary to be productive members of the community. Productive citizens increase the livability of a community through regular employment and committed volunteerism. An educated citizenry will provide the basis needed for the community to be productive. Key to this outcome is opportunities for obtaining the needed degrees, diplomas, certificates and licenses required for a productive work force.

2. A skilled workforce

Workforce development programs and initiatives enhance the economic well-being of the area by improving the skills and abilities of citizens and employees. By leveraging training resources and opportunities, the skills of the Valley's workers are improved; therefore, allowing industries to grow and attracting other businesses to the area. Other products of a skilled workforce include increased competitiveness and employee retention in the region.

3. Lifelong learning opportunities

Lifelong learning refers to a vision that one has for constant personal growth and enrichment. Learning opportunities should be available to all adults in our community on an ongoing basis. Lifelong learning means that people have opportunities for individual learning pathways, suitable to their needs and interests. Lifelong learning encompasses structured learning such as classes and training as well as cultural activities, hobbies, and opportunities for fun new leisure activities.

4. Families and community value and support learning

Key to this outcome are community and family support of programs and resources which foster an environment for adults to obtain degrees and certificates, expand upon their job skills, or just to continue their personal learning. A range of programs and opportunities will be needed to support the unique needs of a diverse population. An educated citizenry is better able to support family and community.