



**City of Charleston Business and Neighborhood Services to Partner with Global Entrepreneurship Support Organization, Envolve Entrepreneurship for 2018 Award Season**

***Former American Entrepreneurship Award expands its business plan competition with interest-free funding opportunities for diverse early-stage entrepreneurs in Charleston, SC***

**Washington, D.C. – July 16<sup>th</sup> 2018:** The city of Charleston Business and Neighborhood Services (BNS) Division is partnering with Envolve Entrepreneurship (Envolve), a 501(c)(3) entrepreneurship organization, to provide various support services, and resources for Charleston’s entrepreneurs. The organization aims to embolden early-stage businesses by providing diverse entrepreneurs with easy access to capital, knowledge, and resources via its secure website – [www.EnvolveGlobal.org](http://www.EnvolveGlobal.org).

Through this partnership, Envolve and BNS will host a series of workshops and webinars for start-up and early-stage businesses in Charleston in preparation for an upcoming business plan competition, hosted by Envolve. The competition, which launched, Wednesday, June 27, will provide winners with funding, mentorship, and a range of additional support services for their business. The competition is open to both budding and experienced entrepreneurs in Charleston, and the application is available via Envolve’s website, <https://envolveglobal.org/envolve-awards/envolve-award-usa>.

Envolve CEO Christopher Upperman said, “The city of Charleston is heating up and becoming a hotspot in the south for start-up activity and a logical expansion city for Envolve. Our programming helps communities sustain growth by supporting entrepreneurs through business education, resources, and awards. We’re excited to partner with the city of Charleston Division of Business & Neighborhood Services to empower Charleston’s next generation of business leaders.”

On behalf of the Mayor of Charleston, John Tecklenburg, and Director of Business Services, Clay Middleton, the City of Charleston’s Business Services Manager Jordan Lanier said, “We are excited to partner with Envolve to provide resources and new opportunities to Charleston’s entrepreneurs. Our city has great entrepreneurial spirit, which will be both highlighted and strengthened by Envolve’s competition and award.”

Envolve was created by the social responsibility division of international business the Libra Group. It integrates the Libra Group’s former American Entrepreneurship and Hellenic Entrepreneurship Award programs, which have declared 35 winners since 2012, supporting job creation and economic growth in Greece and the USA. The awards have declared 35 winners across Greece and the USA since 2012, supporting job creation and economic.

To learn more, please visit [www.envolveglobal.org](http://www.envolveglobal.org).

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**About Envolve Entrepreneurship**

To learn more about Envolve, please visit [www.envolveglobal.org](http://www.envolveglobal.org).

Envolve is a 501(c)(3) organization that strives for a global society where all business owners can prosper and grow. The organization is committed to developing and cultivating entrepreneurial ecosystems, by ensuring business support services are more readily available to diverse entrepreneurs. To learn more about the Libra Group, please visit [www.libra.com](http://www.libra.com).

**About the City of Charleston Business & Neighborhood Services Division**

For more information on the city of Charleston Business & Neighborhood Services Division, visit [www.charleston-sc.gov/businessservices](http://www.charleston-sc.gov/businessservices).