

Accessible and Innovative Jobs

OBJECTIVE: We need jobs that fit our skills, interests, and needs, and are located near where we live. We need to improve access to innovative jobs for all people in the community, prioritizing those who have traditionally been excluded from the job market. This includes residents who are Black and Hispanic/Latino, youth, seniors, houseless, justice-involved, single parents, have physical or mental disabilities, and those without formal degrees or education.

BACKGROUND: Large institutions and businesses that provide most of our local jobs are located far from many affordable residential and public housing areas and may not be connected by transit. Residents who try to innovate with food trucks, flea markets, pop-up stores, and home businesses are often met with regulatory barriers. These barriers, which include difficult permit applications, seemingly arbitrary restrictions, and costly requirements, particularly impact Black and Hispanic/Latino residents.

We want to remove regulatory and transportation barriers so that residents have opportunities to learn about and obtain new jobs in Durham. We want jobs that allow people to build skills, grow professionally, make money, and develop generational wealth. We want regulations that protect the health and safety of Durham residents while also allowing opportunities for innovative jobs that serve the community, especially jobs in environmental, sustainability, and technology sectors.

Quotes from Durham Residents

“more job creation (all kinds of work for different skills and abilities)”

“Diversity of business types in different areas. Change zoning to allow mix of use types throughout city/county.”

“Opportunities for cooperatives, collaboratives, open air markets”

“Need more entry points (farmers market, incubators for restaurants, construction and technology)”

“A successful way to identify jobs that would fit the needs of the community instead of others making assumptions about what jobs would be great to bring to our community”