

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held remotely. Audio at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-services/community-action-advisory-board>

May 5, 2020

PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT	STAFF
Alishia Topper, chair	Amy Roark		Michael Torres
David Poland			Rebecca Royce
Melanie Green			Beth Landry
Thomas Breitenbauch			Janet Snook
Jamie Spinelli			
Doug Boff			
Hilaree Prepula			
Karyn Kameroff			
Linda Glover			
Bridget McLeman, secretary			
Adam Kravitz, vice chair			
Amy Boget			

Guests: Alissa Page, Kia Peden (Clark County): CODAs Interpreters; Peggy Sheehan (City of Vancouver); Cara Kangas (211info); Elizabeth Fitzgearld (CCVLP); Edie Blakely (Clark College); Diane McWithey (Share)

I. Roll Call

II. March 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously on voice rollcall vote following a motion by Hilaree Prepula that was seconded by Thomas Breitenbauch.

III. CSBG COVID-19 Supplemental Funding Recommendations

Melanie Green made a motion to approve funding in the amount recommended in the following chart. The motion was seconded by Karyn Kameroff, and passed unanimously on voice rollcall vote.

CSBG COVID-19 Supplemental Funding		
<i>Staff recommendation: fund all applications at 88% of request</i>		
Program	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
211info: Information & Referral	\$54,034	\$47,500
CCFB: Fresh Alliance	\$40,750	\$36,000
VLP: Access to Justice	\$145,000	\$127,500
Clark College: Financial Wellness	\$60,351	\$53,000
PIC: Career Academy	\$51,741	\$48,000
Share: Hunger Response	\$99,900	\$88,000
Total	\$454,776	\$400,000

Summary: The CARES Act provided \$1 billion in CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) funding to prevent, respond to, or recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Clark County estimates receiving approximately \$400,000 to allocate. Current Clark County Community Action Program providers submitted applications. Staff will adjust awards depending on actual allocation.

- 211 Info seeks to increase staff availability 24/7 through July to respond to the pandemic.
- Clark County Food Bank has increased staffing and food costs resulting from the pandemic.
- Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program expects a 50 percent increase in overall requests for legal services, especially in employment, tenant defense, and protection orders services.
- Clark College anticipates financial coaching for an additional 300 students.
- Partners in Careers requires more staffing and supplies for smaller and remote classes.
- Share has increased food costs and staffing needs caused by higher demand and fewer volunteers.

IV. Task Force Update

- The Advocacy Task Force has suspended meeting during the Governor's Stay Home directive.
- Department of Commerce has authorized a six-month extension for submitting the Community Needs Assessment. Some community forums may be conducted online.

V. CARES Act Legislation Update (Org. Std. 4.4, 5.9)

The CARES Act may award funds in the following categories, but timelines, amounts, and guidance are unknown.

- ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant): HUD allocated \$9.7 million to Washington for homeless services to shelters, rental assistance, and support. No decision has been made on how much each jurisdiction will receive. Department of Commerce may be trying to determine the impact of reduced CHG (Consolidated Homeless Grant) funding first. A second allocation to the State may follow.
- FEMA is providing funds through counties' emergency management systems. Clark County has requested \$1.5 million to sustain shelter, implement quarantine and isolation, and expand support of persons with behavioral health needs. No word on whether this will be approved.
- Department of Commerce: Clark County received \$1.146 million for quarantine, isolation, and shelter expansion for people at high risk who are unable to socially isolate. A hotel has been leased.
- EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program): FEMA funds provided directly to providers.
- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant): HUD awarded \$890,013, which the Urban County Policy Board allocated towards small business assistance and tenant-based rental assistance case management.
- HOME Investment Partnerships: Waivers have been granted towards management of existing grants, but no additional grants have been announced.
- CSBG (Community Services Block Grant): In addition to the funding discussed above, CSBG has been modified to enable providers to serve people at up to 200 percent of the federal poverty limit. Additional funding may be available with a separate stimulus package.

VI. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund and Homeless Services Updates

- City of Vancouver is funding St. Paul's and St. Luke's shelters, Living Hope Church's 17 campsites, and the Vancouver Mall parking (up to 40 cars) for additional capacity.
- An RFQ for rental assistance services resulted in two applications. Recommendations will be heard by City Council on May 18.
- The City received \$700,000 CARES Act funding, which will be divided equally between services and small businesses. They are coordinating to ensure no duplication of efforts by other agencies.
- The Affordable Housing Fund projects are moving forward.
- The Navigation Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-noon, for mail services only.
- A link to C-Tran board members will be sent to CAAB members regarding services during Covid-19.

VII. July – December 2019 All Funding Report (Org. Std. 8.7)

The semi-annual All Funding Report shows total spending by fund. It is not anticipated providers will see any economic impact in contracts due to the pandemic until year 3, if at all.

VIII. Open Forum
No discussion.

IX. Other Business

- May is Community Action month
- Next meeting: 8-10:00am, July 7, 2020, at the Center for Community Health.

Meeting adjourned.

Bridget McLeman, secretary
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