

**Trumbull County General Public Hearing
PY 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program
VIA Zoom
May 19, 2020**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m. Those in attendance via Zoom include: Julie Green, Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission; Nic Coggins, Assistant Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission; Jenna Amerine, Trumbull County Combined Health District; Renee Fox, Tribune Chronicle; and Arnie Clebone, Liberty Township Trustee

Julie Green stated that this is a General Public Hearing for PY2020 CDBG Program, and that in order to apply for CDBG funds in 2020 we are required to have a general public hearing to provide information on national and state program objectives, the approximate amount of money that will be available in PY2020, the range of eligible activities, a summary of performance in past CDBG Program and a summary of other program requirements.

She stated that there are various competitive programs that the county is eligible to apply for annually or biannually including but not limited to Economic Development, Community Housing Impact and Preservation, Residential Public Infrastructure, Neighborhood Revitalization, Critical Infrastructure and Target of Opportunity Programs. The County may apply for funding through each of these programs according to the threshold limits defined for each grant in the PY2020 Consolidated Plan prepared by the Office of Community Development; Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). Eligibility requirements and criteria for these programs are detailed in the State of Ohio's Consolidated Plan which she will have on the Planning Commission's web site in the next few days. A second public hearing will provide more detail on what we are applying for. Julie Green stated that for program year 2020, Trumbull County is not eligible to apply for allocation funding because it is a biennial fund and Trumbull County received funds in 2019.

Julie Green also stated this public hearing is being held in anticipation of receiving supplemental CDBG COVID-related supplemental funds which should be around \$435,000. The COVID funds can be used for anything COVID-19 related for either planning or responding to the crisis. Julie Green stated that the funds can be used for the purchase of PPE and testing, but details have not been released, and it will probably need to be spent within 18 to 24 months.

Jenna Amerine then stated the request of the TCCHD. She stated that the health district received some funding that has to be used by March 15, 2021. She said that PPE is a big need but not the top priority but that quarantine and isolation support is needed right now and mass vaccine distribution will be needed once a vaccine is made.

Julie stated that mass vaccine distribution would be a good CDBG Project to fund.

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Julie stated that private foundation funding has been received: \$20,000 from the Raymond John Wean Foundation and \$25,000 from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley.

Nic Coggins gave a report on assistance to small businesses affected by COVID-19. Arnie asked about the type of business that can be assisted and what are the limitations. Nic Coggins said that we are looking for a business that has been established for at least a year and is not essential and had to scale down or closed because COVID-19.

A discussion regarding the pending CARES ACT funds to be distributed from the State of Ohio to counties according to the Local Government Fund Distribution Formula was also conducted. Arnie Clebone asked if the funds could be used for things such as infrastructure projects, but Julie Green explained that the funds have to be COVID-19 related such as the purchase of PPE, isolation and quarantine provisions and testing. Julie Green did tell Mr. Clebone to follow up with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments on funds they may have available for infrastructure projects.

Mr. Clebone also asked about loans for Liberty businesses affected by COVID-19. He is willing to combine Liberty Township resources with Trumbull County's funds to offer loans to township businesses.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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