

**PY 2019 CARES Act Substantial Amendment and
National Housing Trust Fund Allocation Planning Meeting
May 28, 2020 - 1:00 p.m.**

A Zoom meeting was held on Thursday, May 28, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss eligible CDBG COVID-19 activities and provide a little guidance on how we can utilize these funds that the county will be applying for in the next two weeks. Those in attendance on the Zoom meeting included the following:

Robert McFerrin, Reporter, WFMJ TV
Julie M. Green, Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission
Nic Coggins, Assistant Director, Trumbull County Planning Commission
Robert J. Marino, Chairman, Trumbull County Planning Commission
Dena McMullen, Brookfield Tosanwnship
Kim Mascarella, Howland Township
Rebecca Edwards, Director, Trumbull Mobile Meals
Arnie Clebone, Trustee, Liberty Township
Sister Jean Orsuto, Emmanuel Community Care Center
Rachel McCartney, Youngstown State University
Tom Shay, Fiscal Officer, Braceville Township
Lisa Ramsey, Deputy Director, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership
Alicia Williamson, Director, Someplace Safe
April Caraway, Director, Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board
Laura Carey, Director, Girard Multi-Generational Center
Renee Fox, Reporter, Tribune Chronicle
Rachel Nader, Attorney, Community Legal Aid
Jenna Amerine, Grants Coordinator, Trumbull County Combined Health District
William Turner, Workforce Development, Trumbull County
Lauren Johnson, Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber
Edward Stark, Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Beth Carmichael, Trumbull County Tourism Bureau
Brian Bugos, Trustee, Champion Township
Susan Montgomery, Fiscal Officer, Newton Township

Julie Green stated that the State of Ohio does not have final guidance posted on their website, however, due to the fact that Trumbull County must have a final program developed by Monday, June 1, 2020, to submit a legal advertisement for publication on June 4, 2020*, it is important for everyone in attendance to provide their needs and questions so that she can talk with the state and develop a final plan and funding request. Julie Green stated that Eligible Activities include child care, down payment assistance, education, homeless services, public safety, transportation, services for victims of domestic violence, drug abuse counseling and treatment, senior services,

*The final advertisement was submitted to the Tribune Chronicle on June 3rd and the legal advertisement is to be published on June 6th which is at least 5 days prior to the public hearing scheduled for June 11th at 6 PM.

health care, job training and emergency assistance payments for rent, mortgage and utilities. Julie Green said that she has sent questions to the state on what is considered an eligible activity so we can provide that feedback to the community. She has also requested instruction on whether the county is authorized to enter into sub-recipient agreements with non-profits or other governmental agencies.

The funds will be available on a rolling basis starting in mid-June. Julie stated that there is \$27,257,013 available in the CDBG-CV Program – Round 1. She also stated that requested instruction from the state on whether we can request funds for legal assistance through Community Legal Aid to assist those at risk of becoming homeless through eviction or foreclosure. Julie said that she wants to ensure we compile a comprehensive resource list available for our businesses and home owners alike. *A platform already exists that is maintained by Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership entitled MahoningValleyTogether.org where additional resources identified and secured can be published.*

Julie reviewed the PY2019 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act CARES Act Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment as prescribed by the State of Ohio including the various programs. The first of the three programs, the ESG-CV COVID19 Response Program funds will be available to one state-appointed organization per Homeless Planning Region. Coleman Professional Services is therefore eligible to apply for homelessness prevention and RRH funds on behalf of our region.

The two remaining programs include the Economic Development Working Capital Loan Program and the CDBG Target of Opportunity COVID-19 Response Program. Julie stated that she wants to focus and receive feedback on both programs, and unless otherwise notified by the State of Ohio, the funds can only be used for public facilities and services located outside of the Cities of Warren and Niles. The eligible activities include child care, down payment assistance, education, homeless services, public safety, transportation, services for victims of domestic violence, drug abuse counseling and treatment, senior services, health care, job training, and emergency assistance payments for rent, mortgage and utilities, education, recreation, domestic violence, legal services, fair housing, homebuyer/down payment assistance, energy conservation counseling/testing and transportation. The public facilities include fire stations, hospitals, day care centers, disaster shelters, libraries, public schools, domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, nursing homes and senior centers. Julie said that Personal Protective Equipment for first responders and any public facilities within your community would be an example of an eligible activity. Julie opened the meeting to questions:

Laura Carey from the Girard Multi-Generational Center asked about the Target of Opportunity and if non-profits are eligible. Julie said that she asked the state if we can enter into a sub-recipient agreements and provide non-profits as we have in the past. Julie stated that the Multi-Generational Center would be an eligible participant in this program. Laura would like to upgrade the HVAC system at the center to improve the air quality which serves an elderly population. Julie stated that the purpose of these funds is to address the needs that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and

that were not accounted for in this year's budget. Julie said that she would ask the state if the HVAC upgrade meets these criteria and whether it is an eligible project under this program.

Sister Jean Orsuto of the Emmanuel Community Care Center asked about assistance with rent, mortgage, and utilities and funds to relocate the homeless in existing shelters to provide safe alternative housing. She discussed the larger coordinated effort with the Christy House, Coleman Professional Services and the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board to rehouse the homeless in hotels as the singular emergency shelter for the county is too small in size to allow for safe residency of all of the homeless population in the county. It is projected to cost approximately \$200,000 over the next year to pay for these associated extra costs of which less than half have been identified and secured. The Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board have requested \$140,000 to cover the balance of the projected costs associated with relocating and housing homeless persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Julie stated that limited clientele includes homeless persons, battered persons, migrant workers, severely disabled adults, elderly persons, illiterate adults, and persons living with AIDS.

Alicia Williamson from Someplace Safe said that they are at full capacity and using their former facility for overflow and are now operating and inhabiting two buildings. She wanted to know if these additional operational costs are eligible through this program, can they apply. Julie stated that since both buildings are located inside the City of Warren she has asked the state if the county is able to fund Someplace Safe since not all of the persons served by the domestic violence shelter originate from the City of Warren.

Rachel Nader stated that there may be a wave of foreclosures in the fall/beginning of next year. Julie said that this grant period is mostly likely going to be 12 to 14 months long and it was stated that Community Legal Aid foreclosure prevention services could be included in grant request.

Jenna Amerine from the TCCHD stated that funds to pay for quarantine and isolation services and testing are needed as well as funds for contracted services with a nursing facility/healthcare liaison.

Julie stated that the Planning Commission received \$45,000 from area foundations for Personal Protective Equipment and testing. These funds are available to providers that care for seniors and homeless persons as well as first responders through the Planning Commission and TNP.

Lisa Ramsey asked about the Elections Board, and if they will be needing services during the election in the fall. Julie Green suggested that other funds that may become available from the state legislature that may be a source for them to look into.

Lauren Johnson from the Chamber asked about the economic development programs. Julie said that existing RLF can be used right now for the working capital loan program. Nic Coggins has a flyer that he is sending out to persons he thinks would benefit from it. She said that if there is a good response to the program Trumbull County will definitely apply for more funds starting on July 1 the county may apply for up to \$200,000. Nic Coggins reviewed the Economic Development Working Capital Loan Program. He stated that we would be required to disburse all

existing CDBG Economic Development RLF funds entirely prior to submitting a request for more funds. Nic Coggins stated that the funds may be used to assist businesses located outside of the Cities of Warren, Niles and Girard.

Mr. Coggins stated that eligible activities include payroll costs and monthly expenses, including payments on rent, mortgage, utilities, inventory, and other recurring monthly expenses. Ineligible activities include refinancing existing debt, capital improvements/remodeling, relocating an industry or business. Mr. Coggins stated that job creation requirements are to create and/or retain, and the minimum is one full-time person which could include the business owner. Julie Green stated that there is an Economic Development Poverty and LMI map on the OCD's site that shows maps of jurisdictions that qualify. She stated that if an employee resides or is employed in a Census Tract where 70 percent or more of the residents have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income, the employee is presumed to be a low- and moderate-income person. Such a presumption can also be made if an employee lives in a Census Tract or Block Group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level, or if the assisted business and the job under consideration are in a Census Tract or Block Group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level. The same Census Tract criteria would apply to employees living in or employed in a federal empowerment zone or enterprise community. Beth Carmichael requested clarification on available programs to assist businesses in Trumbull County. She along with Lauren Johnson will place information and flyer on their respective web sites and newsletters and share with their contacts.

Julie Green asked for any more questions from those in attendance and also told them to email questions to her. She told those in attendance to see what their community or agency has had to pay for or perform during the pandemic that was not included in their original budget or general funds this year in order to address the pandemic. She said that this includes but is not limited to costs for testing, cleaning, PPE, quarantine costs, etc.

Mr. Clebone asked if there is a budget for the business loans. Julie said the state put a maximum of \$5,000 per job and maximum loan would be \$25,000. He also asked that if they should be soliciting applicants. Julie Green said that Nic is going to share the flyer and asked him to share with businesses.

Rebecca Edwards at Trumbull Mobile Meals asked if they qualify because they have a need for equipment for frozen foods.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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