

# CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

## Virtual Meeting

**Date and time:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:00 pm EDT

**Event link for public attendees (CCFAC members should use link provided by staff):**

<http://bit.ly/CCFAC-Public-Hearing-30Oct2020>

**Audio conference:** +1-202-860-2110. Access code: 173-812-0422#

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Call to Order

Chairperson M. Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided pre-meeting instructions.

Roll Call, in the order as presented:

- Michele Menapace (Alexandria, VA)
- Tom Bash (Springfield, VA)
- Karla Bruce (Washington DC)
- Mary Ann Floto (WDC) (Washington DC)
- Fazia Deen (Falls Church, VA)
- Holly Dougherty (Roanoke, VA)
- Mike Finkle (Fair Oaks, VA)
- Michele (Cookie) Hymer-Blitz (Herndon, VA)
- Richard (Dick) Kennedy (Reston, VA)
- Clayton Medford (Woodbridge, VA)
- Valerie Sutter (Annandale, VA)
- Marlene Blum (Vienna, VA)
- Jim Edwards-Hewitt (Alexandria, VA)
- Mary Ann Floto (Washington, DC)

Guest speakers present:

- Michael Mahrer (Falls Church, VA)
- Lauren Goldschmidt (Woodbridge, VA)
- Todd Dempsey (Fairfax, VA)
- Karen Mellon (Fairfax, VA)

### Inter-agency staff present on WebEx:

Michelle Brizzi (NCS), Regina Coyle (DHCD), Keisha Dotson (NCS), Jenny Hsu (DHCD), Andrew Janos (DPMM), Laura Lazo (DHCD), Cathy Muse (DPMM), Lee Ann Pender (DPMM), Katie Strotman (NCS) Mike Suppa (CSB), Kehinde Walker (DHCD), Lori Wymore-Kirkland (JDRC).

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Chairperson M. Menapace moved that this is a state of emergency due to COVID-19 Pandemic FOIA is applicable, the reasons for conducting the meeting online, and that the meeting be safely conducted through WebEx software. The public can gain access through

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## Public Hearing on Housing and Community Development Needs

**Speaker #1:** Michael Mahrer, Director of Development and Public Relations, Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

Summary Highlights and Issue: In Northern Virginia, 1 in 17 adults do not speak English proficiently, and 51% of Fairfax County's elementary school students live in homes where English is not the primary language. The ability to read, write, speak and understand English is essential for low-income, beginning-level English learning immigrants to gain employment, access information, manage their health, and support their children's learning. Many students were lost, confused, and did not know what resources were available to aid them in this time of the COVID crisis.

In pre-COVID Fairfax County, 6.4% or nearly 75,500 people live in poverty, which is currently \$25,750 for a family of four. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, a Fairfax County family of four would need to earn \$79,000 annual to meet actual expenses, and in the current crisis, inequities for English language learners are more extreme. Low-income workers are less likely to: have sick leave, fewer options to telework, and maintain social distance from others.

Action Requested: Adult Language and Literacy Education is a key human services need. It is unknown what challenges will arise the incoming year and learners' understanding of English is essential. It was requested that the CCFP continue to fund adult literacy programs.

Question (F. Dean): Is there acclimation of norms and values included in literacy classes?

Answer: There is funding given for life skills (i.e., driver's licenses and library cards) and civics, as well as a family learning program providing children of English learners with instruction and homework assistance while their parents are attending ESL classes.

Question (D. Kennedy) What actions need to be taken to support the general mission?

Answer: Technology is at a deficit with respect to computer access. Over 500 volunteers must navigate the technology of Zoom to have the meetings. Some volunteers find it difficult to reach out due to cultural constraints.

**Speaker #2:** Lauren Goldschmidt, Director of Community Services, Service Source

Summary Highlights and Issue: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for additional support to find and keep employment for people on the spectrum. It is anticipated that there will be long-lasting change resulting from the pandemic that will

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impact employment opportunities and service delivery for the upcoming years. For example, a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report released in April 2020 anticipates a high unemployment rate through at least 2021. The unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities, including people on the spectrum, is disproportionately impacted.

Action Requested: Meaningful employment has a profound and positive impact on many other areas of an individual's life – including independence, financial security, confidence, mental health, housing, and peer relationships. It was recommended that CCFP funding be prioritized to support Fairfax County residents with autism obtain and maintain employment.

Question (M. Menapace): Are there companies creating departments for individuals on the spectrum?

Answer: Skill Source links with companies looking for specific skillsets, for example they are currently linked up with a company providing data annotation (categorization) services.

Question (F. Dean): Are there any direct and prompt feedback to the Skill Sources employee's service.

Answer: Yes, with Lyft. Customer satisfaction rating has increased.

Question (M. Blum) How is the County doing on hiring individuals on the spectrum?

Answer: The Workplace Inclusion Now (WIN) program and the John Hudson Internships programs that are spearheaded by the County are now available.

## **CCFP Categories for the FY 2023 Cycle**

K. Strotman reported that Neighborhood Community and Services (NCS) has received 100 responses so far, which includes responses from NCS's listservs, BAC's, and faith providers. In terms of the Community Outreach Inventory, there are individuals affiliated with difficult to reach populations. The survey is due to end on October 30, 2020. NCS is verifying that categories are relevant and vital.

## **Election of Vice-Chair for FY 2021**

M. Finkle is leaving the CCFAC Vice-Chair position. The Nomination Committee has met and have not yet come to a resolution on the election of a new Vice-Chair.

## **Approval of September 8, 2020 Meeting Notes**

On the motion of C. Blitz, second by D. Kennedy, the CCFAC approved the September 8, 2020 meeting summary. J. Hewitt abstained.

## **Bylaws Amendment**

The following proposed amendment to Section III (Terms of Offices) of the CCFAC Bylaws was adopted: "Officers shall be elected in the spring and assume their duties at the close of the meeting during which they are elected." The language on the maximum

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of two consecutive terms remains in the Bylaws. Motion by D. Kennedy; second by J. Edwards-Hewitt.

## **CCFP FY 2021-2022 RFP Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) Debrief**

SAC member Todd Dempsey reported that 18 county residents spent 1,100 hours to review 157 grant requests. The County funded 119 programs or 76% of submissions for a total of \$14 million for the next CCFP grant cycle. A total of 16 programs were identified for restoration funding, if needed. Feedback received from the SAC is that grant questions could be simplified, the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) analytics could be simplified to minimize the redundancy and obtain more objectivity, limiting the maximum grant amount, and reengineering the TAC involvement to be more supportive to the SAC.

D. Kennedy requested for possible suggestions on how smaller projects may score more competitively. The response was to simplify the questions on the application. Recommendations were made to increase TAC support by giving background information on organizations and the specific needs within the varying communities. Staff will conduct a meeting with a SAC workgroup to discuss how the TAC can better support the SAC members.

## **Information from Appointing Organization**

C. Hymer-Blitz reported that the Inclusion Awards will occur on December 14, 2020 (virtual).

D. Kennedy informed the group that the E-affordable housing newsletter now specifically mentions CARES Act funding and dealing with evictions, which may be of interest to members.

## **Other Business**

Chairperson M. Menapace reported that Michael Becketts (Agency Director, DFS) is considering moving the Community Services Block Grant (CSB) out of the CCFP. There will be a presentation at a Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) in November and a second meeting for a vote. Chairperson Menapace will ask Michael Becketts to attend to discuss the CCFAC. Mr. Becketts desires to slow this process down in order to allow for community input. If CSBG funds are placed in a separate application process, the number of applicants may decrease. Chairperson Menapace will have a meeting to clarify how this change may impact the CCFAC. CCFAC members were invited to attend the upcoming CAAB meeting as it is open to the public.

L. Lazo reported that the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) release has been delayed until the end of October. J. Hsu will send a link to CCFAC members once it is available.

J. Hsu reported that the County was awarded additional Community Development Block Grant CARES Act funding of \$4.85 million that will fund emergency rent and utility payment assistance for low-income households and fund outreach coordinators.

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Chairperson M. Menapace, M. Finkle, and H. Dougherty volunteered to serve on the committee. The goal is for the Working Advisory Group (WAG) to meet once within the next month, however, there may be another meeting scheduled if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

## **Next CCFAC Meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting**

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