Community Provider Strategy Team (CPST)

Information Session Notes

October 19, 2023

1. **Welcome and Agenda Overview – Patricia E. Arriaza**
   1. Patricia Arriaza opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. **Meyer Foundation (Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Director, VA Partnerships & Strategy)**
   1. Foundation is located in Washington DC and works in the Metro DC region (Washington DC, Maryland-Mongomery and Prince George’s County, Virginia-Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park)
   2. Foundation went through changes two years ago and is now focused on helping community organizations work in system change, addressing root causes, and building power in communities based on experiences.
   3. This system approach looks at issues impacting the community, particularly relating to racism and equity and works to shift policies, priorities, and culture.
   4. One-year grants are available to partners working with and impacting communities in the region (see list above) to address equity, along with some options for multi-year grants.
   5. Focus on supporting long term initiatives, it takes time to change.
   6. Have four grant cycles each year.
      1. Can submit a grant request at any time.
   7. Requirements and timeline:
      1. Submit an interest form.
      2. 2024 funding cycle due dates: February 14th, April 6th, July 11th, September 22nd.
      3. Will be reviewed and if meets criteria, will ask for a full proposal.
   8. Once an organization is a grantee technical assistance is available.
   9. Organizations could collaborate on an application.
   10. Website: <https://meyerfoundation.org/our-grantmaking/>
3. Department of Family Services **(Jodie White)** 
   1. Fuel Assistance Program: currently accepting applications for assistance offered seasonally.
   2. Program offers assistance with payments for home’s primary heat source, application period is October 10-November 13, 2023.
   3. Payments begin in January 2024.
   4. Household approval is based on income guidelines and funding assistance is a unique amount per household and paid directly to the vendor until approved funding is depleted.
      1. If receiving SNAP, most likely would qualify for Fuel Assistance.
   5. Everyone in the home has to complete the application.
   6. Crisis Assistance Program is also available for those in immediate danger of not having heat between November 1-March 15th.
   7. From November through January 1st can apply for repair or replacement of a non-working system.
   8. Beginning January 1st if facing cutoff, can apply for funding assistance.
   9. There are many options for applying for these assistance programs, including mailing applications and over the phone.
   10. [Energy Assistance/Benefits](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/)
   11. To be added to the mailing list with information about energy assistance programs email: Jodie.White@fairfaxcounty.gov
4. Fairfax County Public Schools **(Angela Aldave)**
   1. Currently changing the way FCPS engages with the community to improve communication and engagement. Main goal is to inform and communicate with families and the community.
   2. [FCPS Strategic Plan](https://www.fcps.edu/strategic-plan)
   3. Regional Community Conversations with Dr. Reid: <https://www.fcps.edu/superintendent-engagement-2023-2024>
   4. Addressing attendance and working to keep students in school and helping families understand the calendar. [Attendance](https://www.fcps.edu/attendance)
   5. Recommend receiving the updated 23/24 COVID vaccine which has been developed to address virus variants.
   6. The vaccine is covered by health insurance, availability for those who don’t have insurance.
   7. COVID 19 Dashboard- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/case-information>
   8. Free COVID tests are available to order again.
5. Health Department **(Carrie Cannon)**
   1. COVID numbers are decreasing in the community.
   2. Vaccines:
      1. Health Department clinics are offering extended hours for children in need of vaccines for school. [Clinic Locations](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/immunization/locations)
      2. Recommend receiving the updated 23/24 COVID vaccine which has been developed to address virus variants.
      3. There is a new RSV vaccine for those over sixty which is recommended for certain members of the community, recommend talking to healthcare provider. [RSV Vaccine Information](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/what-know-about-new-rsv-immunizations)
   3. COVID 19 Dashboard- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/case-information>
   4. Flu shots are also important, the health department is encouraging residents to get a flu shot.
6. NCS Updates **(Patricia Arriaza)**
   1. Continuing to look for community member participation on the Selection Advisory Committee for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool proposal review.
      1. Must be a Fairfax County resident over 21 years old with no conflict of interest relating to organizations that have applied.
      2. Will provide training and orientation for committee members.
   2. Upcoming Fairfax County Board Proclamation: Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week at the October 24th meeting. Those who work with addressing hunger and homelessness please attend!
7. **Wrap Up & Summary**
   1. There were no provider updates.