

-MINUTES
FROM THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
BOARD MEETING (CDCIP)
Monday, December 9th, 2024
5:00pm

1. **Board Members**

Board Members Not Present

Heidi Steed

Brad Christensen
Joseph Murphy (Jurphy)
Jake Skog
Andrea Schaefer
Devon Schechinger
Jenny Bonk (Online)
Dallin Jones

Staff Present

Heather Royall
Kerry Thomas
Dennis Rutledge
Sarah Neilsen
Alexandra Hall

Also Present

Brandon Veihl (Online) — SVS
Sahil Oberai (Online) — UCA
Margo Draeger (Online) — CDCU
Ghulam H. Hasnain (Online) — Salt Lake American's Refugee Services for Survival
Heidi Justice (Online)
Vance Woodward (Online)
Lindsey Smith—WCG
Abdirizak Ibrahim — Salt Lake American's Refugee Services for Survival
Jackie Rodabaugh — WCG
Sasha Harvey (Online) — SDDS

2. **Terms**

CDBG — Community Development Block Grant
CDCU — Community Development Corporation of Utah
LEP — Low English Proficiency
SLC — Salt Lake City
SLDDS — Salt Lake Donated Dental Services
SVS — South Valley Services
UCA — United
UTA — Utah Transit Authority
WCG — Wasatch Community Gardens

ESG — Emergency Systems Grant

3. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Thomas starts the meeting by reminding the board that the minutes from the 18th had been misplaced, so they need to be signed along with the minutes from last week.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Christensen motions to approve the minutes for both meetings. Andrea seconds the motion. Minutes pass by universal consensus.

5. Review of Past Applicant Recipients

Ms. Thomas introduces the first agenda item and Mr. Rutledge reminds the board that Ms. Nielsen sent out an email about previous recipients and program reports so the board can compare last year's applications and funding amounts with the current year. Ms. Bonk requests the information to be available during the meeting. Mr. Rutledge agrees.

6. Application Review: CDBG — Public Services

Ms. Thomas introduces the Community Development Corporation of Utah's (CDCU) Community Navigation Program.

Q. Ms. Schaefer inquires about the number of beneficiaries (150) and how they came up with that estimate.

A. Ms. Draeger answers it is the amount is representative of how many individuals the CDCU's personnel can support with the requested funding amount and is derived by past data on current clients and expected expansion.

Q. Ms. Bonk asks if this program has been funded last year. Ms. Schaefer comments that it is a new program which Ms. Draeger confirms.

Q. Mr. Christensen asks if they keep track of long-term outcomes as a result of the program.

A. Ms. Draeger confirms this and lists the various avenues which they track outcomes in areas such as credit, housing, income, personal growth, etc.

Q. Mr. Christensen asks how a Community Navigator differs from a Housing Counciler.

A. Ms. Draeger answers that the Community Navigator is the initial point of contact that determines whether a client qualifies for a service or connect them to another resource, but they are not licensed counselors.

Q. Mr. Murphy comments that he appreciates the level of detail they put in the public outreach section of their application, then asks how well their recent outreach events were received by the public.

A. Ms. Draeger says she would have to follow up with more detailed information as she did not attend personally, but she has met many organizations in the community and continues to strive to connect with residents and that they are making efforts to connect with community members who may have LEP.

After a brief discussion, the board decides to first look at applications that have representatives present.

Ms. Thomas introduces the Wasatch Community Garden's (WCG) Green Team Program. Mr. Rutledge adds that this program was funded last year for \$30,000.

Q. Ms. Schaefer asks about the capacity of the gardens and future projections.

A. Ms. Rodabaugh answers that there is currently a waitlist, but they have changed from a part-time housing advocate to a full-time case manager, so they have the resources to support a greater number of clients. Additionally, they have officially moved locations and can put more focus on the program.

Q. Mr. Christensen asks what the difference between contracting with other organizations to provide wages versus bringing it in house and using CDBG funding.

A. Ms. Rodabaugh says that advantage is still a partner, but by bringing the program in house they have been able to use their budgets more efficiently, spend less on fees, and manage the program better.

Q. Ms. Schechinger asks where the excess produce goes.

A. Ms. Rodabaugh answers that it will go to current and graduated team members, other organizations such as Neighborhood house, and new partners that serve low-income individuals. They don't expect to hold on to the produce, and since they have moved, they are focusing on full production and are expecting to expand services greatly. She adds that on their new barn site they planted perennial plants which they are hoping to evolve into a place where more people come freely when in need.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks how their expected beneficiaries number 1016 when there are only sixteen individuals in their program.

A. The sixteen comes from the number of women who are enrolled in the program, but the 1016 is their estimate of the number of community members served by extension.

Q. Mr. Murphy also asks if this application serves primarily the Salt Lake community.

A. Ms. Rodabaugh answers that is the case, and many members come from the women's shelter in SLC.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks city staff if there is a rule about whether staff can be paid using CDBG funding if they are not a SLC resident.

A. Mr. Rutledge clarifies that the funding must serve the SLC community.

Q. To follow up, Mr. Murphy asks Ms. Rodabaugh about staff funding if the that member of staff is not from the SLC community, how would they respond?

A. Ms. Rodabaugh answers that they have access to a program that will be able to track if a member is not from the SLC area, so they can set aside funds to support them outside of CDBG awarded funds.

Ms. Thomas introduces Salt Lake American's Refugee Services for Survival. Mr. Rutledge adds that they were awarded last year for \$30,000.

Q. Ms. Schaefer asks if there is anyone in the Salt Lake County that provides similar services or if they are unique.

A. Mr. Hasnain answers that he believes they are unique because there are members within the organization that are part of the target group and have personal experience of what their clients are going through, and they serve clients around the clock. He gives the examples of 1) Somalian refugees being pulled over and having difficulty communicating with the police because of their accents or LEP and don't know where to turn to for help, and 2) a Somalian woman giving birth late at night and doesn't know how to speak English. Mr. Hasnain says his organization fills this systemic gap by providing 24/7 immediate service through the phone, social media, and instant messaging.

Q. Mr. Christensen asks if there is an example of something they were able to do with the funding from last year that they would have not been able to do without.

A. Mr. Hasnain answers that there was a wide range of services they could make accessible for their clients due to the funding such as legal services, interpreters, school system navigation, government services, and especially healthcare. Mr. Ibrahim adds a personal story of how he came as a refugee in 1998. Everything was difficult, even learning how to use UTA services and dressing in a way that was culturally appropriate in Utah. He says that people need this support so that they are not left behind.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks if there is a way to access their website and social media, which is primarily in English, in other languages.

A. Mr. Hasnain answers that there are a few practical reasons for setting up their information in English. 1) their services help other communities other than the Somali American population, 2) they partially rely on support from the public, and 3) many Somalians don't know how to read even in Somali, so creating a website in their language would more likely limit how many people receive the information

than expand it.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks if they post on their Facebook in multiple languages as well as their other social media.

A. Mr. Hasnain answers that their social media is in English for similar reasons to their website. However, they do partner with the Somali Community Self-Management Agency for some services who do communicate with clients in Somali. Mr. Ibrahim adds that they spread information a lot through group communication on WhatsApp. That way they can pass the information along to help others who speak a different language.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks about their association with the University of Utah which is posted on their website.

A. Mr. Ibrahim answers that they use the University of Utah Neighborhood Partnership Center's facilities for the food bank. Mr. Hasnain clarifies that through partnerships they can serve a wider community, but the University of Utah's side is primarily through the Somali Community Self-Management Agency.

Kerry Thomas introduces Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah's (BBSU) Big Futures program. Mr. Rutledge adds this is a new program that did not receive funding last year.

Q. Ms. Schaefer asks 1) for clarification on whether it is a completely new program or has existed as a sub-part of a different program, and 2) if they can provide examples of previous interactions between youth and professionals that BBSU facilitated.

A. City staff agrees to reach out for that information.

Ms. Thomas introduces Salt Lake Donated Dental Services's (SLDDS) program. Mr. Rutledge adds they have received funding for \$55,000.

There are no questions.

Ms. Thomas introduces the Legal Aid Society (LAS) of Salt Lake's Domestic Violence Victim Assistance (DVVA) program. Denis adds that they received funding this year for \$30,000.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks why they increased the requested amount from last year (from \$30k to \$50K).

A. City staff agree to reach out for more information.

Ms. Thomas introduces Utah Community Action's (UCA) Early Head Start Program. Mr. Rutledge adds that this is a new program, and they did not receive funding.

Q. Ms. Schaefer asks how the expected impact can be of 64 households, but only have 1 classroom of 8 children.

A. Mr. Oberai answers that this application is part of a larger program with other partners, and that they are planning on opening 4 more classrooms.

Q. Ms. Schaefer clarifies that the \$240,000 will cover, proportionally, 1 classroom of a bigger program.

A. Mr. Oberai confirms this.

Ms. Thomas introduces THRIVE Center for Survivors of Torture's (previously known as Utah Health and Human Rights) application. Mr. Rutledge adds that this is a new program that has not received funding from the city.

Q. Mr. Skog asks if there is a way to track city residents versus non-city residents for eligibility purposes.

A. Ms. Justice first clarifies that their name has recently changed from last year and that they have received CDBG funds in the past. Then, she answers that they do track various information through their salesforce system such location, staff time, and grant qualifications.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks how they select their target population for the year as they have recently shifted focus to Sudanese community.

A. Ms. Justice answers that they make efforts not to outreach to particular community groups, and generally work using referrals, but the Sudanese community has expressed a need for mental health services and their organization happens to have a therapist and case-manager from the Sudanese community. Therefore, they have a better capacity to help them. However, they have realized that the clients they serve are not proportional to the community in SLC.

Q. Mr. Murphy asks about their work with the Somali population in SLC.

A. Ms. Justice answers that they have served the community in the past and there are some newly settled Somali clients who have sought their services, but not have many Somali clients. Additionally, they don't have the capacity to serve more clients so they haven't been seeking more referrals for communities that haven't accessed their services as much in the past.

Q. Mr. Christensen asks about the sustainability section in their application where they refer to Medicaid reimbursement as a sustainable option for the program.

A. Ms. Justice answers they are in the process of getting partnered with Healthy U and Health Choice Utah to bill Medicaid. They currently have been denied, but were told to ask again in 6 months, so the process is ongoing. She also states that clients also seek health coverage.

Ms. Thomas introduces South Valley Services' (SVS) application. Mr. Rutledge adds this program

received \$30,000 last year.

There are no questions.

Ms. Thomas introduces the Neighborhood House's Teaching Strategies GOLD program. Mr. Rutledge adds that it is a new program that has not received funding.

Q. Ms. Schaefer comments that the Neighborhood House serves many age groups, but this program seems to be dedicated to pre-K and would like to verify that the funding is specifically for that age group.

A. City staff agree to reach out for that information.

7. Other Business

Mr. Christensen asks if a new quarterly report will be finished before the final funding night. Mr. Rutledge answers that city staff should be able to review and send the reports before final decisions need to be made.

Ms. Schaefer asks if there is an update on whether the city will change the minimum funding amount that can be awarded. Mr. Rutledge answers that there is no news yet, and probably won't change before the final funding night but he will keep the board updated.

Mr. Jones asks what the logic behind raising the floor. Mr. Rutledge answers that it limits the amount of administration while running the maximum number of programs with the minimum amount of dollars. He also adds that with inflation, \$30,000 often isn't enough to pay salaries, etc. If the floor is raised, applicants awarded the minimum amount will most likely have that amount raised, but there the council can set a floor themselves.

Mr. Skog comments that it would be unfair for the current applicants to ask for 30,000 and receive 55,000, so there probably won't be any change during this review period.

Mr. Jones follows up, asking what would happen if the minimum amount was raised and the organization didn't need it. Ms. Thomas adds that there are quite a few smaller organizations that would not be able to handle the increase of funds because they would not be able to spend it all.

Mr. Murphy asks to preview the list for next week, but Mr. Rutledge says the list is not finished yet because some applicants may still be ruled as ineligible, but he will send a completed list.

Mr. Rutledge says that any unconfirmed applications will be reviewed before moving to the ESG applications, so everything on the list of applications are eligible. Ms. Thomas adds that they don't want the board members to be overburdened.

Ms. Schechinger asks if city staff have heard back from BBSU and whether they are withdrawing their application or not. Mr. Rutledge answers that they are not withdrawing.

Ms. Bonk comments that the meeting sounds very professional from the online perspective.

8. Adjourn

Meeting is adjourned at 6:20 pm.

X 

CDCIP Board Chair Brad Christensen

This document along with the digital recording constitute the official minutes of the CDCIP Board meeting held January 6th, 2024.