

Virtual Public Engagement—CDBG CARES Act Round 3

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Barbara Jefferson; Charles Stephenson; Tom Rose; Peggy Placier; Keith McIver, facilitator

Common themes:

Rental assistance, mortgage relief and utility assistance.

Barbara: This pandemic has forced me and my family to conserve; tighten my fiscal money belt; look out for the future;

Winter is coming; she has seen evictions happening; does not know what the future is going to bring

Landlords taking advantage of people who lost their jobs;

The pandemic has forced people to prioritize their rent/mortgage payments with food.

Peggy: the utilities had a pause (a hold) on evictions, but things are back to normal.

Keep people in their homes that they are in.

Use vouchers and housing assistance to help low-moderate income people.

The utilities companies must understand that they will have to take a hit too.

Internet access is poor for low to moderate income households with children.

Children and households being forced to do homework on a phone or single computer/household.

Operational support to local, non-profit organizations

Charles Stephenson: Chronic Vs Acute Homeless Crisis.

Provide an opportunity for people who became homeless because of an eviction to get back on their feet before they become chronic homeless.

Someone who has been homeless beyond 30-45 days develop other habits: become depressed; drugs dependent; alcohol dependent; mental health issues.

Chronic homeless have underlying issues that are not resolved with a bed and shelter.

But the chronic homeless know which agency has what resources.

Financial assistance to small businesses

Vocational training for workforce members with a reduction in employment.

Tom Rose:

Identify those businesses that are suffering now: the entertainment industry; the hotel industry; the restaurant industry.

They employ low-income workers who will be affected when this industry slows down.

But there are other businesses that are not suffering:

Healthcare industry
Medical industry
Construction industry
Outside jobs
Disinfectant jobs: maybe temporary jobs
JobPoint, Inc (Steven Smith)

Identify jobs that do not need or require Certificates; Licenses, Long-training.

Big Ideas – Larger Themes To Address

Charles Stephenson:

Need to coordinate this federal money to address the pandemic and long-term solutions.

State Housing authority
The County Commission money
FEMA Money
Small Business Administration (SBA) Funds
PPP grants
Emergency Solutions grants
City CDBG funding

Important to have agencies at the table to coordinate this money: for example the Voluntary Action Agencies; United Way; community-based organizations

Want to make the process as easy as possible.

What about those small business that were not eligible for PPP or other federal funding?
Priorities funding for minority and women-owned businesses.