

City of Biddeford
Citizens Advisory Committee
July 27, 2022 5:30 PM City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room & Zoom

Minutes

1. Open CAC Special Meeting

1.1. Abigail opens meeting at 5:35pm

2. Agenda Review

3. Discussion

3.1. Review of Social Service application

- Middle School Homeless Liasson (AKA Empowerment Program Manager) Position is losing NON-CDBG Funding, @CDBG funding doesn't quite meet program need (~\$21k available, ~\$35k needed)
- Empowerment Program Manager serves as single-point resources for students experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and their families.
- Apex's ability to meet documentation requirements is still to be determined.
- Loretta asks how many students are served?
 - ~15x
- Leah asks if McKenney Vento status would serve as documentation?
 - TBD
- Cat asks if school could be designated provider and manager of documentation, sub-contracting APEX employee to fill position
- Discussion of shifting Service funding to fully fund Empowerment Program Manager
 - Abigail recommends keeping Seeds funding as-is, looking into shifting some funding from Meals on Wheels (who is presumed to have access to other resources)
- Hud has suggested adding benchmark requirements to APEX programing, regular check-ins to ensure ongoing compliance w/documentation requirements
- Cat motions to fund Apex Empowerment Program Manager position, pending documentation plan acceptance, with the condition of added check-ins, and a convo with Meals on Wheels about shifting funding out of their program.
 - Leah Seconds
 - All in favor

3.2. Discuss Social Service funding allocations

- How to proceed with ~\$60k in social service funding, moving forward?
- Leah notes that in prior years there has been CDBG focus on infrastructure (side walks, gardens, etc.. Asks what category these expenditures fall into?
- Is housing a category of its own?

- Is there a Social Service category that can address housing/homeless concerns
 - Yes, housing counseling could fit. Acquiring property would need to come from non-social services pool of money (the big pot)
- Leah Suggests pairing a building project with social service
 - Address need for units AND need for housing education/support
 - Bring up funding for surveying & architect fees
 - Enable adding new units
 - Facilitate down-town infill at sub-market rates.
- Concept of renovating a building to add General Assistance units mentioned
- Job training and Small biz education program mentioned
 - Collaboration with Center of Technology?
- Loretta asks if the city owns residential (or convertible) properties?
 - How many?
 - Can we request a list?
 - Abigail is working on this. We may need to push for it as a group
- Leah suggests we ask for list of ALL city-owned property, cull it our selves
 - Leah offers to work on finding eligible & appropriate properties on the list, once secured.
 - Suggestion that ask for list be public, to push action
 - General consensus that Adding units is a good goal.
- Convo on format of fund allocation to continue.
 - General support of having bi-annual reapplication of programs

3.3. If time, discuss priority areas for ADA improvements, and review budget and timeliness requirements for program year

- No discussion

4. Adjourn at 6:40pm

Approved at August 24, 2022 CAC meeting



Cat Bates, Chair

9/1/2022
Date