

**Minutes Pending Approval**  
**Block Grant Working Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 4, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Community Development Division**  
**Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor, Room 5B - 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairman Lubshina

**I. Roll Call**

**Block Grant Working Committee Members Present:** Gerald Lubshina (Chairman), Veva Walton, Terri Simmons, Linda Cole, Ken Gaul, George Scowins

**Members Absent:** Claudia Urrutia, Dan Hoffman, Warren Barton, Judy Durham

**Staff Present:** Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Tara Neff, Betty Hart

Betty Hart introduced herself as the new Director of Innovation & Strategy for the City of Aurora.

**II. Minutes of Meetings**

A. No minutes were submitted for approval.

**III. Old Business**

- A. Ms. Munro reported back to the Committee on a question that came up at their July 13, 2021 meeting regarding the Citizen Participation Plan. Committee member had requested additional clarification with the proposed amendment of adding the word “Private” to foundations in the Plan. Ms. Munro briefly explained that there are some differences on how foundations are structured. She said that the word “foundations” will be kept as is in the Citizen Participation Plan, that way all foundations are encompassed.
- B. Mr. Ragona gave a brief presentation on actions taken by the Community Development Division (CDD) since March 2020 to assist businesses and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also gave a recap of ongoing projects being offered to homeowners, seniors, and first-time homebuyers. Mr. Ragona stated that there is still funding available to continue assisting nonprofit agencies during the pandemic and that additional funding recommendations will be presented to the BGWC at a future meeting. BGWC members inquired about the 2022 HUD funding cycle. Mr. Ragona advised that this would likely be opened in October 2021. Discussion took place.

**IV. New Business**

**A. 2021 Substantial Amendment - #2 to Annual Action Plans (2020) – Recommendation for Approval**

Mr. Ragona provided the Block Grant Working Committee with a summary of the proposed Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment (2020-#2). He stated that CDD released an application to assist non-profit agencies specializing in providing basic needs to prevent, prepare, and to respond to Corona Virus. A total of 14 applications were received, and staff is recommending the approval of 8 activities. Mr. Ragona gave a brief summary of the following funding recommendations.

<b>Proposed New or Amended CDBG-CV Activity</b>	<b>Recommended Re/Allocation Amount</b>	<b>Program Year Funding Source</b>	<b>Original Funding Allocation</b>	<b>Project Reallocation Comments</b>
CDBG-2020-CV-11 - Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry - Roof Replacement	\$100,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for roof construction costs.
CDBG-2020-CV-12 - City of Aurora - Financial Empowerment Center	\$50,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for program staff salaries to provide clients with free financial counseling.
CDBG-2020-CV-13 - APS Training Academy - STEAM Training Program	\$50,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for program staff salaries to provide educational opportunities focusing on STEAM education for low income students.
CDBG-2020-CV-14 - NAMI DuPage - Mental Health Education and Support Services	\$40,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for program staff salaries for clients that are experiencing mental health issues.
CDBG-2020-CV-15 - Hesed House - SEEDS Case Management	\$25,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for program staff salaries to assist clients that are experiencing homelessness.
CDBG-2020-CV-16 - Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Kane County - Child Advocacy for Abused and Neglected Children	\$20,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG-CV)	N/A - New Project	Funds to be used for program staff salaries for child advocacy for abused and neglected children.
CDBG-2020-CV-17 - Northern Illinois Food Bank - Senior Citizen Food Box Program	\$40,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus	N/A - New Project	Funds will be used for food distribution for home delivery to senior citizens.

		Funding (CDBG-CV)		
CDBG-2020-CV-18 - Mutual Ground - Case Management	\$50,000	2020 Community Development Block Grant - Corona Virus Funding (CDBG- CV) & CDBG-CV- 2020-03 - Emergency Rental Assistance	N/A - New Project	Funds will be used for program staff salaries to assist clients experiencing domestic violence.
Estimated Allocation / Reallocation Total	\$375,000			

Discussion took place.

A motion to recommend approval of Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 was made by Ms. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Gaul. The motion was approved unanimously.

**V. Other Matters**

**VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- A. Monday, August 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – Public Hearing, Substantial Amendment 2021- #2 (Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor-Room 5B)
- B. Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m. – Block Grant Working Committee Regular Meeting (Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor-Room 5B)  
Mr. Ragona advised that the September meeting may be cancelled due to lack of agenda items. BGWC members will be notified of any meeting changes.

**VII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:02p.m. was made by Mr. Gaul and seconded by Mr. Scowins. The motion was approved unanimously.