



Social Services Committee

April 11, 2024 - Meeting Overview



Agenda

- Call to order/declaration of a quorum
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2024
- Public Comment
- FY 2025/26 Funding Discussion
- Staff Report
- Public Comment
- Adjournment



Public Comment

FY 2025/26 Funding Discussion





Overview

- City Support, Workforce Development & Reparations
- Federally Funded Programs
 - HOME TBRA, ESG, CDBG-PS, ARPA
- Community Needs Assessments
 - Ascension, NorthShore, US Health & Human Services
- SSC Purpose
 - Mission & Ordinance
- Considerations
 - SSC Input, Challenges, Current Recommendations, Community Assessments, Staff Recommendation

City Support Programs




General Assistance/Emergency Assistance

- General Assistance
 - \$473,747 total expended in FY 2023
 - 129 HH, max allowable \$985 per month
- Emergency Assistance
 - \$39,713 total expended in FY 2023
 - 31 HH, one-time payment up to \$2,000
- Additional Services
 - GED, Adult Basic Ed. courses, financial literacy, mental health/substance abuse treatment



Community Member Relief Fund/Refugee Assistance Program

- One-time relief payment to vendor
 - \$29,290 expended
 - 16 HH assisted/payments primarily for rent
- Specifically for HH not qualified for EA/GA
- Life-threatening event (*eviction, utility disconnect, etc.*)



Guaranteed Income Program (11/2022-11/2023)

- \$900,000 in direct subsidies provided
- 150 Participants
 - Adults 18-24 years old & adults 62+, undocumented
- Eligibility: HH income \leq 250% Federal Poverty Line
- \$500 per month for one year
- Renewed for 2024

Workforce Development & Reparations



Workforce Development Efforts

- Workforce Development Division
 - ASPIRE: Careers in Healthcare
 - GROWW: Gaining Resourceful Opportunities While Working
 - LEP: Local Employment Program
 - EMERGE: Careers in Retirement and Senior Living
 - Lead Service Line Replacement
- Evanston Workforce CONNECT



Workforce Development Outcomes

- **ASPIRE: Evanston Healthcare Workforce Program**
 - 17 Job Shadow opportunities
 - 48 Summer Interns
 - \$37,500 in scholarships to 15 students of Oakton Community
- **GROWW**
 - 50+ Evanston residents employed/6 reentering citizens
 - 30+ Employer partnerships established
- **LEP**
 - 732 LEP hours on 11 City projects



Reparations Program

- \$25,000 disbursement to eligible Ancestors/Direct Descendants
- 124 payments made to date
 - 54 HH for Home Improvement
 - 80 HH for Cash Benefit
- 89 payments made in 2023
- \$2,225,000 expended in 2023

Federally Funded Programs



HOME TBRA & ESG

- HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance:
 - \$76,077 to HH w/children under 18
 - 7 families supported in FY 2023
- ESG Prevention:
 - \$48,858 total: \$45,669 to HH - \$3,189 staffing
 - 11 HH/30 persons
- ESG Rapid Re-Housing:
 - \$39,057 total: \$15,117 to HH - \$23,939 staffing
 - 7 HH/17 persons



ESG Additional Support

- **ESG Street Outreach:**
 - \$11,508 total expended in 2023
 - 135 HH/140 persons
- **ESG Shelter Operations:**
 - \$36,942 total expended in 2023
 - 233 HH/252 persons
- **Match Requirement:**
 - \$549,236 total expended - State and Private funds



ESG Match/Leverage Example

Funding for other “pass through” grants may not include staff costs

Allocation from local funds to the program helps keep the program viable and keep the federal funding in the community.

- 2023: Connections for the Homeless provided **\$549,236** direct assistance
rent, security deposits, mortgage, & utilities



CDBG-PS/City Funded Partners

- Books & Breakfast
- Childcare Network of Evanston: Learning Together, Mental Health
- Connections for the Homeless: Youth Program, Outreach/Drop-In
- Family Focus
- Impact Behavioral Health Partners
- Infant Welfare Society
- Interfaith Action
- James B. Moran Center
- Meals on Wheels
- North Shore Senior Center
- PEER Services
- YOU
- YWCA



ARPA

American Rescue Plan Act

- Affordable Housing Subsidy
 - \$810,000 awarded
 - 2,918 votes received
 - Funds would help landlords rent units at affordable prices
- Affordable Refugee Housing
 - \$645,000 awarded
 - 2,890 votes received
 - Funds would support housing services to citizens with Refugee status, Asylum seekers, and grantees

Community Needs Assessments (Partner Priorities)



Ascension Saint Francis

- Social & Structural Determinants of Health
 - Food Access & Food Security
 - Economic Vitality & Workforce Development
- Access to Care & Community Resources
 - Resources, Referrals, Coordination, & Connection to CBS
 - Timely Linkage to Quality Care, including Behavioral Health and Social Services
- Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Use Disorders



NorthShore University HealthSystem

- 16 Health Issues Identified
 - Health Inequity/Discrimination
 - Poverty
 - Violence/Safety
 - Youth Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Special Populations
 - Medically Underserved
 - Low-Income
 - Minorities
 - LEP Population



U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services

5 Social Determinants of Health

- Economic Stability
- Education Access & Quality
- Health Care Access & Quality
- Neighborhood & Build Environment
- Social & Community Context

SSC Mission



SSC Purpose

- Fund programs that benefit low- and moderate-income persons
- Comply with federally mandated restrictions
- Ensure fair and just access to opportunities
- Help people thrive in the community
- Align with City Council Goals



Ordinance 109-O-22

- Advisory Capacity to City Council (*for funding sources: CDBG-PS, ESG, Community Grants Fund*)
- Recommendations (*services that address a broad range of needs*)
 - Case Management
 - Mental & Physical Health Care
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Childcare and Out of School Programs
 - Job Training & Placement
 - Legal Services
 - Access to healthy food
 - Outreach & Drop-In Services/Emergency Shelters



Category Objectives

- **Holistic Case Management**
 - Enables households to thrive in our community
- **Safety Net Services**
 - Provision of food, domestic violence services, emergency shelter & street outreach
- **Support Services**
 - For low- and moderate-income Evanston residents including mental health care, child care, legal services, employment services, substance abuse counseling, etc.



Considerations



SSC Input from February Meeting

- Provide benefits enrollment/links to services
- Support residents & improve community
- Help residents remain in Evanston
- More detailed financial review (impact of loss of funding)
- Mid year review of outcomes
- Reducing admin burden (minimum award amounts)



Current Assessment Challenges

- Program/Agency Budget Information
- Quantification of Service Impact
 - Ability to meet current needs (waitlists)
 - Identified gaps in service net (needs that aren't being met)
- Increased Capacity to serve Evanston residents



Suggested Recommendations

- Services to Evanston Residents
 - Preference for programs that serve >50% residents
- Equity Impact
 - Preference for programs that serve >50% BIPOC residents
 - Consider prioritization (example: services that support housing or education access)
- Reduced frequency of full application/ increased length of application cycle (in keeping with best practices)



Assessments/Community Indicators

Current plans underway

- Strategic Housing Plan (August)
- Inclusionary Housing (September)
- Comprehensive Plan (October)
- HUD 5 year Consolidated Plan (November)

Wraparound Services (ongoing negotiations/TBD)



Staff Recommendations

- Ongoing Assessment of Services
 - Review of community assessments to help identify needs
 - Continue updating reports for existing services
- Extension of grant cycle: 2024/2025
- Open new grant cycle for FY 2026 funding next year

Discussion





Public Comment



Thank you!