****

**Human Service Provider Call**

**9/17/2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81979408164?pwd=TTF4Q0lqR1V2dk05NXpRYkZVT3pWZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81979408164?pwd=TTF4Q0lqR1V2dk05NXpRYkZVT3pWZz09" \t "_blank)

This call is to help streamline communication and support and encourage collaboration to make the most of resources during this COVID 19 pandemic. It also provides the opportunity for updates on local needs from the nonprofit sector. Please refer to United Way website for previous notes and resources-<https://dbqunitedway.org/covid-19-nonprofit-support>

This call has created great opportunities to build partnerships and for our system to work together to coordinate and broaden our impact. There has been a great deal of collaboration with the city, nonprofits, philanthropists, legislators, and more. THANK YOU!

**United Way**

Danielle Peterson

* Over The Edge - Fri. Sept 4th. We know how important it is to have this event and be as successful as possible to be able to support our funded partners. Had 31 edgers (less than last year), but raised more money than last year, around $62,000.
* United Way Campaigned Kick off happened virtually on Thursday September 10th with approximately 300 views. All funds raised through workplace campaigns, residential campaigns, or corporate gifts are invested back into our community through our community impact grant that helps support 31 local nonprofits through three pillars of health, education, and income. Needs have skyrocketed over the last three months. We’re worried about our ability to connect with donors to reach our goals.
* Census – counts available through September 30th. IA has been one of the worst for completion according to a worker who stopped into our office yesterday! This is tied to a lot funding. Please share this information!
* Dubuque Area Labor Harvest is consistently needed volunteers to help deliver groceries. Typically, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30. Connect with Tom Townsend or Paula Paider Licht
* Get connected portal – if you have any opportunities, especially virtual, please post. Over 4,500 people on this site. <http://dbqunitedway.galaxydigital.com/>
* Please be sure your agency information is updated and accurate in the 211 information system. This system is getting more calls than ever due to COVID and the recent storm. It is important that 211 is able to give out accurate information to those calling in. <https://www.211iowa.org/>

**City of Dubuque**

Jerelyn O’Connor

* City is receiving another allocation of CBDG Cares Act money through the Iowa Economic Development Administration, $521,000. Submitted application on how that money will be spent. Have to meet all the federal funding requirements to primarily benefit low to moderate income persons. Proposed breakdown:
  + $200,000 added to the COVID related rent and mortgage assistance program
  + $71,469 to support rapid rehousing due to COVID related events
  + $100,000 nonprofit support program
  + $50,000 credit repair program after COVID related income loss
  + $100,000 catch all category – childcare, job training, and job supportive programs

**Iowa Workforce Development**

Ron Axtell

* FEMA and the US department of labor informed Iowa that the lost wages assistance program has ended. The additional $300 only lasted six weeks so that program has ended.
* Iowa reinstated the work search requirement as of September 8th. For normal unemployment, people have to make 2 job contacts a week. That was waived when the pandemic started. There are a lot of employers looking for workers. Theory is that there are a lot of people who should be looking for work.
* Iowa Works Center and satellite offices started providing limited in person services on September 8th to assist people with job searching activities. Basic services include assisting people with job searches, applications, resume preparation and other. If you would like to meet in person, call the local office first to schedule an appointment. Walk in services may be limited due to social distancing.
* Any questions, please refer people to our website. It is being updated all the time. There is a link for phone numbers and a lot of other information.

**Greater Dubuque Development**

Anna Roling

* Hearing from employers that applicant pools have dried up. Not seeing applicants come in. It was a struggle to hire before the pandemic and it’s even more of a struggle right now.
* Have about 750 jobs posted. Slightly lower than usual but some have multiple openings for same job. Seeing above 1,000 job openings in the community.
* There are a lot of factors why people are choosing to stay out of the workforce; childcare, school; genuine fear of the virus.
* Kristin is working with NICC on a grant to boost programs to help people get more training or skills. Earn and learn model. Would also offer assistance with training and transportation. Have funds available in our childcare pilot through the Opportunity Dubuque Works program.
* This summer on Access DBQ jobs, we launched a skills tool. If someone uploads resume to site, it reads and scans it for skills needed for job postings. Do not have to have a resume. Can upload your skills directly into the site as well. It also scans jobs for needed skills and matching the skills to the open jobs. Job seekers can see open jobs that match their skills and businesses can see applicants who have matching skills.
* Open jobs in manufacturing, customer service, banking, finance, nursing/CNA positions, childcare, and others. Not just low wage jobs. There are hirer paying jobs that are still open as well.

Alex Baum

* Working with Marshallese leaders in the community to gather a list of people who are looking for a job. There are a number of people out there, but because of a number of barriers, are not be applying. This is an opportunity to help them overcome these barriers. Help establish a process that is comfortable and not intimidating to complete applications. Work with companies to adjust their HR policies a bit, we could fill some job openings.

**Almost Home/St. John’s**

Gwen Kirchhof

* Still looking for 3 human service assistants at Almost Home men’s shelter and an overnight person. Part time positions. Have reached out to colleges, unfortunately most kids are leaving in November and not coming back until January.
* Almost Home is still planning to open our men's homeless shelter on October 1st. We have hired our new shelter manager.
* Almost Home, St. John's and River Bend Foodbank are teaming up for a mobile food pantry on Saturday, September 26th from 9am to noon. St. John's is located at 1276 White St.

**Iowa Legal Aid**

Carrie O’Connor

* In 2019 between July – Sept. 202 cases; 66 were housing, 45 were evictions. Same period 2020, 232 cases; 83 housing and 61 evections.

**Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa**

Amanda Dupont

* The hotline is getting a steady amount of calls with a variety of calls from individuals who are literally homeless and individuals who are at risk of becoming homelessness.
* Uptick in calls from people who are living on the street/car/camping. Working with them to get them services.
* Have extra Federal COVID money. Things are steady. Adding on top of current case load, trying to figure out how to manage all of it. Nothing new but increasing a little bit.

**City of Dubuque Housing**

Dawn DeMaio

* Still seeing a lot of inquiries for CBDG grant. 553 people who are called about getting assistance. Over 200 who have been issued full applications. About 81 people who have brought back application. Of the 81, a small number return application. Assisted about 18 households. Still trying to get people pushed through federal guidelines to get assistance. No clear indicators as to why full applications have not come back. Hope they will come in so we can get money out. Some people struggle to get needed documentation, so we have gotten creative with what they can accept.
* Got money from Disaster Recovery Funds. Decided how we are going to approach assisting people with this pot of money.
  + First tier - Families who submitted their application but did not meet 50% threshold. Making contact with those individuals and going to offer them one month assistance. Already paid out almost $7,000 of $25,000 in the last week. Six rent payments and three mortgage payments.
  + Second tier – People who contacted us but didn’t qualify for the assistance because of rears and utilities prior to the March 1st date. Reaching out to see where they are with their utility expenses. Looking at assisting them with up to $700 for utilities.
  + Third tier – don’t know if we’ll get there. Assisting people who didn’t qualify for the full application because they were either not leased up by January 1 or not working as of January 1.
* The last two weeks, we have gone down to Pastor Stan’s church, the Marshallese Church. Have gone community to assist them with the voucher. Did about 30 applications. Prior to that, gave a presentation on the short term assistance program. Have had applications go out but not come back. Have had the applications translated in Marshallese but may not be the best translation. May not be coming back because application is overwhelming or don’t know if they can gather the needed documents. OR they may think they don’t qualify.
* We are at capacity with running five different programs.

**County of Dubuque:**

Ed Raber

* Census takers in Dubuque County, doing outreach specifically downtown. Iowa is typically #1, 2 or 3 in the top of retuning Census information.
* Dubuque Co. Board of supervisor did not pass a mask mandate.
* Have been a number of communities in the rural areas that have on their own adopted the language themselves and enforcing that.
* The message we received from many in the small cities outside of Dubuque, if our goal is to influence behavior, in some places creating a rule/mandate does not help behavior change. Having community leaders support and recommend, that is the way to go. They were very much against a mandate.
* Continue to be hiring and have issues with serving our clients at Sunnycrest. It’s getting more challenging not less challenging. Supervisors are very interested in hearing from any of you around the county about next steps of what we are supposed to be doing.

**Community Foundation**

Peter Supple

* Disaster Recovery have committed over 1 million to local nonprofits. Money is making a high impact. We are still in recovery mode.
* Last week approved $14,950 for First Congregational Church café plus ministry work, meals and hygiene products.
* Tabled the one request from this week.
* About $300,000 still left in the fund.

**Childcare Coalition**

* Call today at noon. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89795680828?pwd=OHcvSGgxdytmQnpRTnRSSy9LYi9UQT09> Meeting ID: 897 9568 0828, Passcode: 231664, Dial by your location: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
* There are mixed feelings from parents and kids regarding virtual education. Some are struggling a lot, some are finding this set up beneficia. It seems parents who have flexible schedules are faring better. There are also some employers offering support, such as Gronen has brought in retired teachers to help tutor students as well as Clarke University is having their education students helping children of staff employed at Clarke.

**St Mark Youth Enrichment**

Dawn Coggan

* Kids seem to be settling into hybrid schedule. Have heard, older kids, more demands on them than when they are in school. The amount of kids living in lower SES that are not in school. On school board call. Potential for kids not being in school either online or behind a desk.
* Trying to keep in person site open. Dyersville had to close to 2 weeks. Just shut down Seton.

**HACAP**

Heather Harney

* This website is updated weekly on the status of the IFA Eviction Prevention Program. Data by county can be viewed by selecting the county towards the bottom. To date HACAP/Operation New View have processed 75 applications in Dubuque with $175,000 distributed in financial assistance. <https://www.iowafinance.com/efp-reporting/>
* Headstart – working on getting staff onboarded to HACAP staff. Should all happen by Oct. 1st.
* Merger should also take place between Operation New View and HACAP. New employee training with all current ONV staff.
* Office is moving, sometime in October to the United Way building on Main St.