

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Meeting
Wednesday February 7, 2018
2100 Clarendon Blvd – Courthouse Plaza
Room 311

Members Present: Michael Sampson, Sandra Green, Jennifer Bible, Rosemary Leffler, Tim Denning, Lincoln Cummings, Lara Malakoff, Maryclare Whitehead, Lawrence Withers

Staff Present: Caitlin Jones, Jennifer Daniels

County Board Members Present: Libby Garvey

Tim Denning, CDCAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1. *Approval of January 3, 2018 Meeting Minutes*

The January 3, 2018 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. *Internal County CDBG-Funded Program Updates*

Howard Feldstein, Arlington Employment Center (AEC)

Howard Feldstein, from the Arlington Employment Center (AEC), discussed the progress and plans for AEC programs funded through the Community Development Fund.

The Culinary Training program along with DC Central Kitchen, provides culinary training to at-risk homeless individuals. Historically, the training program had an impressive graduation rate, with 95% of people who join program graduating and 100% finding permanent employment. AEC made the decision to discontinue the program after FY 2017 for several reasons. First, the economy has been steadily improving, so much so that people who normally would come for training no longer needed the program. In addition, of the 20 individuals who were referred to the DC Central Kitchen for their program, 18 failed drug test, all had traces of THC. AEC is not able to provide funding for individuals who fail a drug test. For FY 2018, AEC has begun sending individuals who are interested in culinary training to other training programs.

The Computer Training program provides basic and advanced training to individuals who have little to no computer training. The program teaches beginning and advanced Microsoft Office skills and offers the A+ certification. AEC enrolled 106 people in the computer training program in FY 2017 and the job placement rate was 87%. Nearly 90% of participants in program are recent immigrants and almost all graduate from the program.

The Homeless training program matches individuals who are unemployed with employers to provide internship or work experience opportunities, with AEC paying the cost. In FY 2017, 10 individuals were placed with companies as an internship and 8 of the individuals who were placed were hired.

Finally, the Individualized Training program helps to place clients in high-skilled jobs as well as obtain marketable skills needed to fill those jobs. In FY 2017, AEC enrolled 50 clients and has already enrolled 35 in FY 2018.

Last year AEC connected 1,054 individuals with employment and the average starting wage was around \$15.40. AEC sees a large number of Veterans, many of whom are enlisted. This has been a challenging segment because they don't know how to look for a job in the civilian world.

AEC regularly follows up with clients and also makes referrals to other agencies with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Jorge Laura, Housing Division, Housing Outreach Program

Jorge Laura is responsible for the neighborhood outreach and CAF inspections programs in the Housing Division. Mr. Laura conducts outreach programs about fair housing issues, as well as educates residents along Columbia Pike about condominiums and other homeownership opportunities. Jorge focuses his work more on outreach and education, so that tenants and property owners understand the types of issues that could be considered code violations, etc.

In FY 2017, Jorge provided referrals and assistance to 397 residents. Mr. Laura facilitated a total of 44 educational workshops that included over 600 participants. This included 14 tenant workshops and 2 fair housing workshops at schools and community centers. Overall 220 individuals were educated about fair housing in FY 2017. Mr. Laura also conducts regular outreach to apartment complexes to talk to management companies, interview tenants and ensure everything is operating smoothly at CAF properties. In addition, Mr. Laura conducted two clean up events in Nauck and Arlington Mill and will again be planning a clean up event in these neighborhoods for FY 2017.

In FY 2018, Mr. Laura will begin providing inspections and assessments for properties being purchased with assistance from the Moderate Assistance Purchase Assistance Program (MIPAP), focusing specifically on housing quality.

Andres Tobar, Day Laborer Program, Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC)

The Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC) is located in South Arlington in Shirlington right off of Four Mile Run. Staff employed by SEEC help to ensure safe and orderly operation of the organization's pavilion and day laborer program. The idea behind the program is to create a safe environment for individuals who are looking for work but might not be eligible to work because of their immigration status. Individuals are required to sign in at the office to be able to participate in the program and SEEC creates IDs with pictures for day laborers to use.

SEEC receives County general funds for the majority of its operations but also receives grants / in-kind services and goods from the faith community and other community foundations. In addition, the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and other local faith organizations provide clients with food and when SEEC does not receive food donations, someone on staff will cook for clients.

In FY 2017, SEEC moved offices and began renting space out of the AFAC warehouse. Prior to this move, SEEC was residing in space owned by Arlington County. On average, SEEC assisted about 100 day laborers per month in FY 2017. SEEC also operates a program to train immigrant women in green housekeeping methods. Since the program began, more than 100 participants have completed the program.

SEEC also regularly refers clients to County services such as AFAC, Arlington Free Clinic, legal aid organizations, and other DHS programs to help with support services. SEEC also works with Arlington Thrive to provide rental assistance to day laborers.

Saul Reyes, Promotora Program, BUGATA

Saul Reyes provided an overview of BUGATA's Promotora program, which encourage civic engagement of low-income residents in the Buckingham community. The goals of the program are to build social networks, use neighborhood leaders to reach isolated residents, identify barriers faced by Latinos to accessing services, and work with low-income Latinos and other renters to participate actively in ensuring implementation of Arlington's Affordable Housing Master Plan.

BUGATA trains "promotoras" to work with community members educate them about and connect them with resources and then in turn, train more community members to become community organizers. In FY 2017, BUGAGA assisted 306 residents in one on one cases and had over 3,000 interactions with residents in the Buckingham community. BUGATA also held community meetings, events, and workshops on issues pertinent to the low-income community. To date, BUGATA has trained 5 promotoras, but the goal is to train at least 3 per year.

3. *Current Status and Future of Community Development Fund Programs*

Tim Denning, CDCAC Chair, provided an overview of the programs that fund the Community Development Fund, including CDBG, CSBG, TANF and AHIF Housing Services. This overview included the eligibility and funding constraints of each program. Tim also provided a contextual overview of the current budget issues facing the Community Development Fund.

The purpose of the conversation was to think of strategies for dealing with these budget issues, including leveraging other funding sources, better messaging for nonprofits, and program consolidation.

Tim has asked that CDCAC continue to think of ways to manage budget pressures and advocate for nonprofits that receive Community Development Fund grants.

4. *Chair's Report*

Nothing to report.

5. *Staff Report*

Jennifer reminded CDCAC members to sign up for Housing News & Notes, the Housing Division's bi-monthly newsletter.

6. *Member Report*

Nothing to report.