

Public Input Hearing
Shepherdstown Grant Committee
CDBG-CV Grant Opportunity
2.25.2021
6:32pm

Attendees:

Steve Pearson (Media: The Observer)
Marianne Davis (President, Shepherdstown Shares)
Chris Stroeck (Committee Chair)
Mary Fortuna (Committee Member)
D.W. Gregory (Committee Member)

Welcome

Introductions

Overview

Chris Stroeck reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the basic details of the grant opportunity. Cares Act Funding, through the State of West Virginia and for COVID Relief is available to beneficiaries within the corporate limits of Shepherdstown. The grants are competitive and must benefit 100% persons who are low to moderate income for our town.

This hearing is to obtain input from the public about needs within the corporation. Specifically, food, housing, and utility insecurity. This committee has been communicating with Shepherdstown nonprofit Shepherdstown Shares. We are looking at applying for funding for two separate projects: food and other personal necessities through Shepherdstown Shares, and rent and/or utility relief for persons in danger of eviction or utility shut-off.

S. Pearson asked about limits of funding amounts. It was discussed that there is no project too small and that all applications must be based on documented need and proof of eligibility will be required for reimbursement.

S. Pearson asked about analogous applications from the county. It was discussed that the county could certainly apply for such funding and may be doing so, but that this would not be the activity of the Shepherdstown Grant Committee.

M. Davis requested that the Observer help amplify the message that anyone in need could apply to Shepherdstown Shares for assistance. The mission of Shepherdstown Shares' Food Pantry is to help people who are struggling by providing necessities and allowing them to focus on paying their rent.

M. Davis stated that 28% of households currently served by Shepherdstown Shares are within corporate limits, and there may be more because some have only provided P.O. Boxes.

S. Pearson asked about increased capacity for Shares if the grant is received. It was discussed that because at this time the specific amount being requested has not been identified, there is not a way to predict increased organizational capacity.

M. Fortuna stated that in order to determine the amount of funding being applied for, the need must be accurately estimated. This was the purpose of the current hearing. The second hearing will be March 6th at 3pm.

M. Davis stated that Shepherd University has its own pantry but there is some stigma associated with students receiving benefits there, as it is staffed by their peers. Some students receive benefits from Shepherdstown Shares' pantry.

It was discussed that the town now has an email list serve capability which would be a good way to request information about residents who may be in need.

S. Pearson commented that if it were possible to communicate to the public in a non-identifying way that there are people in town who are struggling, it might help remove barriers to seeking need for people who have been avoiding that.

M. Davis on behalf of the board of Shepherdstown Shares thanked the members of the Shepherdstown Grant Committee for consideration of their organization as a recipient of this grant, and commented that the process of applying for the grant has been a catalyst for refining and improving the organization's internal procedures.

7:14pm meeting adjourned