



Funder's Forum / CCWC Funder's Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

3:30- 5:00 pm

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Present: Peg Talburtt, Phil D' Anieri, Larry Voight, Carole Knight, Andrea Plevak, Verna McDaniel, Debbie Swasey, Mary Jo Callan, Deb Jackson, Kevin Mitchell

I. Fieldstone Alliance Sessions

Deb Jackson talked about the recent Fieldstone Alliance Sessions that were sponsored by the United Way and the Office of Community Development. The sessions focused on nonprofit collaborations / partnerships and shared efficiencies. Several local agencies participated in the sessions with at least one of their board members. Deb reported the session went very well with many of the participants learning about what other agencies had to offer. The agencies worked to develop a list of what they had to offer and learned their capacity was more than the need. In fact, several agencies may begin to share a truck and possibly office space. Larry Voight mentioned his appreciation for the strong message of working collaboratively and enjoyed having a third party hired to conduct the sessions.

Mary Jo commented the purpose of these sessions was to have nonprofit organizations think about creating efficiencies. She said the next steps were to work on implementing the shared volunteer services and a zip truck in addition to meeting with Neal from the New Center to talk about the findings further.

Deb also noted the board feedback from those that attended was excellent and it exposed them to new ideas and ways to become more efficient.

Phil said we ought to be sending the message that this group (Funder's) should be taking this up and hearing these requests for collaborative purposes, or to have others lead on the behalf of the Funder's Forum/ CCWC group.

Peg commented about providing grants and having our group setting criteria for collaboration could also be useful- to have organizations pitch ideas to be funded.

II. Washtenaw County Budget Forum

Deputy Administrator Verna McDaniel spoke about the Board of Commissioners intentions to engage the community for the 2010-11 budget process. One of the groups to be included in this is nonprofit agencies. Conan Smith will lead the sessions and will ask for input. Verna noted the board wants to know how budget reductions will affect the nonprofit sector. The format will be similar to a town hall meeting the County has been providing over the past two years. The forum will also include nonprofit funders. The meeting will be held:

[Wednesday, June 3: Meeting with not-for-profit funders and agencies from 3-5 p.m. at the County's Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave., Pittsfield Township.](#)

III. Community Development funding cycle- process and recommendations

Mary Jo talked about the recent integrated RFP process undertaken by Community Development. She noted this was the first time for the integrated RFP where Community Development grant dollars and City of Ann Arbor have been integrated together. The process was focused on rating criteria for proposals and not program legacy. The Office of Community Development put out clear criteria for rating the grant proposals and funded on that basis. The overall response from agencies has been positive with people noting the process was fair, clear, and transparent. Several agencies who were not funded have been meeting with Community Development staff to discuss the rating criteria and ways to improve their proposals in the future.

IV. Phil suggested an idea to design an aggregate funding list which includes Funder Forum dollar amounts and funding cycles of each Funder's. Phil and Kevin will work on this for the next meeting.

V. FY 2010 DHS Budget

Deborah Swasey from the Department of Human Services presented the Washtenaw DHS budget recommendations for 2010. She discussed the programs include in the budget and the services they provide. There was some interest in the Strong Families Safe Children funding for the upcoming year.

VI. Other News

- a) Mary Jo Callan informed the group she has been appointed the co-chair of the CCWC to replace Ellen Clement.
- b) Peg Talburtt invited the Funder's group to attend a webinar at her office that focuses on stimulus money. She will send out an e-mail to everyone with further information on this.
- c) Phil informed the group the Ypsilanti Freight house received \$500,000 in stimulus funding to revive the structure.
- d) Phil announced the AAACF funding RFP for May 6, 2009 will focus on grants for nonprofit's collaboration and capacity building.
- e) Mary Jo talked about the potential transfer (pending board approval) of the Children's Well Being and Human Service funding to the Office of Community Development. She indicated that we should know more about this in June.

NEXT MEETING: The next Funder's Forum / CCWC Funder's Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2009 at 3: 30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

Submitted by: K. Mitchell
4/27/2009