



**Strategic Planning, Funding and Advocacy Committee (SPFAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
12.5.2022**

**Present:** Leah McCall, Ashley Burton, Julia Steinberg, Marc Craig, Jenny Poma, Erinn Johnson, Max Glick, Taylor Eberhart, Charlie Cavell, Natalie Broda

**Welcome & Recap**

**Advocacy and Public Awareness**

1. Discussion around the \$80 million in unallocated ARPA funding and how The Alliance can help.
  - a. There will be more money available than \$80 million which must be assigned by end of 2024.
  - b. Suggested to invite Dave Woodward to a lunch meeting to discuss, and Commissioner Marcia, Hilarie and Leann at the Executive's Office.
  - c. City of Pontiac \$14 million ARPA request to be matched, including critical home repairs and affordable housing, introduced in June but has been stalled at County Executive.
    - i. \$1.5 million for home repairs, still to be approved by city council.
    - ii. \$4 million matching request for parks.
    - iii. \$3 million matching request for community center.
    - iv. \$3 million matching request home repair program.
    - v. \$2.1 million matching request for placemaking and career prep.
    - vi. \$1 million for small business supports.
    - vii. \$1 million for child care.
  - d. Long term basic needs fund discussion
    - i. 2,500 families in Oakland County considered working poor employed with kids in home on eviction prevention list.
    - ii. Access to \$5000 eviction prevention/rental assistance, and access to \$3000 in flexible spending emergency basic needs funds.
    - iii. Advocacy for this would be helpful by contacting Marcia or meeting with Charlie and Marcia, and talking with Hilarie, Leann and Shane.
  - e. Waiting to hear from MSHDA about changing Oakland County FMR.
2. Medical Debt Forgiveness
  - a. Discussion around using ARPA funding for medical debt forgiveness.
    - i. Counties including Toledo, OH, have set precedent to use ARPA funds for medical debt forgiveness.
      1. \$250k to forgive \$25 million.
    - ii. Pontiac Community Foundation and Kirk in the Hills have projects working on medical debt forgiveness.
  - b. Bring Commissioner Marcia into the conversation.
  - c. These are the qualifiers that RIP Medical Debt lists:



- i. When we purchase a portfolio of medical debt, we abolish debt for individuals who:
    1. Earn less than 4x the federal poverty level (varies by state, family size).
    2. Debts are 5% or more of annual income.
  - ii. We only buy debt that has been pre-qualified by our partners to meet at least one of these criteria.
  - iii. We never collect on debt we purchase, only relieve it.
3. New Alliance Event
    - a. Oakland County housing expo./affordable housing event to bring elected officials together to discuss, educate on, etc.
      - i. Select items/topics and timeline.
    - b. CHN has funds to pay for part of the event.
    - c. Would like county buy-in in hopes the Executive Office would sponsor event.
    - d. Ask Dave Coulter to give keynote speech.
  4. Discussion around barriers preventing the Alliance from Lobbying efforts and instead taking a targeted approach.

### **Strategic Plan**

1. Discussion around how to update the current Strategic Plan based on what has already been accomplished and the information within the Blueprint to End Homelessness.
  - a. Review work plan outlines in the Blueprint and pull out Alliance related items to add to Strategic Plan dashboard.
  - b. [Blueprint can be found here.](#)

### **Action Items:**

- Marc Craig to schedule meeting with Marcia, including Charlie Cavell and Leah McCall.
- Charlie will give an email introduction for Leah and Jenny to start conversations with Ajay and Brendan.
  - Leah and Jenny to touch base on next steps.

**Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2023, 10:00am - 11:00am**