

**City of Cleveland Heights
Citizens Advisory Committee
September 10, 2019
Council Chambers, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Akers
Laura Black
Bradley Eckert
Simcha Geller
Christine Henry
T. Nadas
Brittany Rabb
Barbara Shelton
Steve Titchenal
André Witt

David Benson
Bradley Eckert
Cory Farmer
Jonathan Goldman
Gretchen Mettler
Donalene Poduska
Jessica Schantz
Amy Smith
Sonya Trice

MEMBERS ABSENT

Allison McCallum (exc.)

Rory Saint Jean (exc.)

STAFF PRESENT

Brian Iorio

GUESTS PRESENT

Craig Cobb
Paul Herdeg

Mary Dunbar
Prentice Jackson

CALL TO ORDER

Cory Farmer Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Bradley Eckert called the roll. A quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

Chairman Farmer welcomed the meeting's guests from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, Paul Herdeg and Prentice Jackson. Mr. Herdeg discussed the process for developing the Consolidated Plan for the period 2020-2024. The plan encompasses the 51 municipalities that make up the Urban County and the four entitlement jurisdictions of Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood and Parma. He described the approximately \$2.5M received through

the HOME Consortium and the eligible uses for housing such as home repair, multifamily development and rehab and down payment assistance.

A large part of the Consolidated Plan concerns analysis of both Census and HUD data. This information is presented to the participating jurisdictions, associated agencies and non-profits, and general public for public input. Mr. Herdeg asked the CAC to consider suggestions for priority funding for both HOME and CDBG.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 6, 2019 and August 13, 2019 public hearings were approved as amended.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no financial reports for August at this time. The meeting notice occurred prior to the end of the month. The financial report will be reviewed at the September 17, 2019 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Farmer asked that the subcommittees present their reports.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee members: Gretchen Mettler (Chair); Allison McCallum (vice-chair), Rory St. Jean, Sonya Trice (Committee Members)

<u>Year 46</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Committee's Recommendations</u>
CDBG Admin	\$157,102	\$147,000
Fair Housing	\$40,700	\$29,000
GIS	\$37,100	\$37,100

Future Hts Community Capacity Building	\$50,000	\$50,000
ADA Curb Ramp Construction	\$195,000	\$195,000
Severance Tower Local Advisory Council Board Community Garden	\$13,000	\$12,000
Severance Tower Local Advisory Council Board Community Center	\$13,000	\$1,500
2020 Strategic Impact Opportunity	\$100,000	\$100,000
Compton Road Greenway	\$30,000	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$635,902	\$595,600

CDBG Administration

Funding request: \$157,102

Recommendation: \$147,000 (partial)

The Department of HUD regulations and guidelines require that an entitlement community receiving CDBG funds provide administration for the general management of the funds, oversight and coordination of recipients, and regulatory reporting. The request of \$157,102 includes salaries and operating costs, including indirect costs, for CDBG administration. The subcommittee continues to be impressed with the outstanding professional administration of the block grant program. The request is slightly smaller than last year and is completely reliant on CDBG dollars. The subcommittee supports the request for \$5,000 for census outreach. However, the subcommittee is not clear on what would be involved with the "Neighborhood Wellness Tracking". Until a definitive plan for Neighborhood Wellness Tracking is developed, we do not support funding the \$15,000 request. Therefore, the subcommittee recommends funding \$147,000 for the CDBG Administration.

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

Funding request: \$40,700

Recommendation: \$29,000 (Partial)

Fair Housing Activities are a HUD requirement for CDBG funding. There will be an anticipated carry over from Year 45 of about \$5,000. Also some the Racial Equity & Inclusion Institute Training could be done as a half-day training, reserving the larger 2-day training for Year 47 funding. The HCC Diversity Programming will have carry over and can be cut \$1,700. The subcommittee supports the funding request at \$29,000.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Funding request: \$37,100

Recommendation: \$37,100 (Full)

The City of Cleveland Heights seeks to renew the GIS software (license) and support 50% of the salary of a full-time GIS Analyst. The software and staff person is needed to manage volumes of data, which will be used to support various city programs and activities. Effective management of such data encourages synergy between City departments and its partners. The subcommittee recognizes that the technology serves not only the city and the community, but has also created efficiencies and operational cost savings.

The subcommittee supports the City's GIS initiative and recommends fully funding the request.

FutureHeights (FH) Community Capacity Building

Funding request: \$50,000

Recommendation: \$50,000 (full)

FutureHeights has as its goal the increased vitality of cohesive, strong, and actionable neighborhoods. FH is seeking CDBG funds to help sustain its Community Capacity-Building Program. Community Capacity-Building has initiated capacity building through facilitating the development of and strengthening of neighborhood groups, assisting these groups in developing neighborhood plans, prioritizing related issues, and identifying and supporting neighborhood leaders. This is done through organizing workshops, issue related gatherings, and responding to requests for assistance. FH has been very effective in engaging expert volunteers and academic research groups to supplement its small but productive staff. They are continuing to develop and apply tools to evaluate the effectiveness of their activities and measure outcomes. FH has a demonstrated track record of successfully engaging citizens in capacity-building.

The subcommittee supports FH Community Capacity Building in the amount of \$50,000 for CDBG Year 46.

ADA Curb Ramp Construction

Funding request: \$195,000

Recommendation: \$195,000

This CH project is a multi-year endeavor to remove and replace curb ramps throughout the community to transition the existing non-compliant curb ramps to ramps that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are about 776 curb ramps in CH that need to be replaced. The plan is to do about 125 a year. The cost of each ramp is about \$1,600.

The subcommittee supports the ADA Curb Ramp funding request at \$195,000 for FY46.

Severance Tower Local Advisory Council Board – Community Garden

Funding request: \$13,000

Recommendation: \$12,000

In FY 45, CDBG funds supported \$10,800 of the costs of paving paths and raising garden beds so wheelchair bound and other-abled individuals could participate in outdoor activities. The project is unfinished and still needs to build raised planter boxes high enough for residents to wheel under them to work. In addition, paths need to be stable and paved as does the patio. The Advisory Council Board has spent \$500 on drawings for the project.

The subcommittee recommends \$13,000 to cover the expense of the drawing and to finish the planter boxes, paving paths and patio.

Severance Tower Local Advisory Council Board – Community Center

Funding request: \$13,000

Recommendation: \$1,500

The request is to cover the cost of new tables, chairs, computer desks and chairs and computer equipment. This equipment would give residents places to do crafts, which encourages finger and hand mobility, as well as learning how to use computers. The subcommittee is aware of various organizations that can provide low income groups like the Severance Tower Advisory Council Board with rebuilt free or very low cost computers. The restrictions on CDBG funding are that equipment may be purchased only for an on-going project, such as learning computer skills. Also, equipment may not be used for any religious purposes.

The subcommittee recommends \$1,500 for computer desks and chairs, which could also serve a dual purpose for use for crafting activities when not used for computer classes.

Strategic Impact Opportunity

City of Cleveland Heights 2020 Strategic Impact Opportunity

Funding request \$100,000

Recommendation: \$100,000 (full)

The Strategic Impact Opportunity allows the CDBG Director, using the application and award process of Year 46 to make awards to projects that will positively affect neighborhood physical appearance or stability of households. The call for proposals will be advertised. The Director will work with the applicants to support their project proposals to maximize innovation and impact. This process will allow projects that were previously unfunded to have a viable start and impact.

The subcommittee supports this Strategic Impact Opportunity proposal in the amount of \$100,000 for CDBG Year 46.

City of Cleveland Heights Planning Department Compton Road Greenway

Funding request \$30,000

Recommendation \$30,000

The City of Cleveland Heights Planning Department Cain Park Village Trailway Planning Study is building on data from an August-September, 2018 NOACA staff study of South Taylor Road. The request for FY 46 is to support the planning process to provide details of what the neighborhood would prefer, develop working drawings and implement the project. The cost of installing multi-purpose trails is roughly \$12,400 for installing a straight pathway. It is anticipated that the total Greenway implementation will be more than the \$30,000 request. The City will attempt to secure funds to implement the final plan from various funding sources.

The study is just underway. There was a neighborhood walk on Sunday August 18 with 20 neighbors spending 2 hours walking and talking about the project (in 90 degree heat!) Obviously more public engagement is needed before final recommendations will be made. Different ideas result in different implementation strategies and costs – so it is difficult to be specific right now. The planning study is to be completed by the end of 2019. The City anticipates having strategies of implementation that could begin as soon as revenue sources are identified to implement them. Also, the City believes that the strategies could be implemented in stages as the funding is secured.

The subcommittee supports this proposal in the amount requested, \$30,000 for CDBG Year 46.

COMMERCIAL AREAS

Subcommittee Committee Members: Stephen Titchenal, chair; Laura Black, Jonathan Goldman, Jessica Schantz

Applicant/Program or Project YR 46	Request	Recommendation	Vote
FutureHeights – Cedar-Lee Mini-Park	\$21,500	\$21,500	3-0-1
FutureHeights – Noble Road Corridor Early Action Project (SIO)	\$20,000	\$20,000	3-0-1
City of Cleveland Heights – Economic Development Programs	\$314,110	\$314,110	4-0

FutureHeights – Cedar-Lee Mini-Park Placemaking Project

Funding Request: \$21,500 (\$10,000 allocated in 2019)

Subcommittee Recommendation: \$21,500

Subcommittee Vote: 3-0-1 (Jessica Schantz abstained because she has a paid position as ENews Manager of the Observer, published by FutureHeights)

Project Description: FutureHeights is leading the transformation of an under-realized public right-of-way into a welcoming and public gathering space for the Cedar-Lee Business District. The project has two phases: Phase I (completed this past grant year): engagements, visioning, and interim improvements; Phase II: permanent improvements. Cleanups, plantings and a grant to work with Heights High Students on artwork and augmented reality applications have improved the landscape. FutureHeights has agreed to assume responsibility for the site. In addition, in 2017, a group of residents organized Friends of Cedar-Lee Mini-Park. FutureHeights indicated the current steps and ramp leading to the Mini-Park will be replaced as part of the permanent improvements. The subcommittee made suggestions regarding additional Phase II improvements. Additional seating is needed with shade and shelter, including some for people with physical difficulties. Additional tables, such as café-type, would be good for socializing. There also needs to be a bike rack.

Recommendation Rationale: FutureHeights has improved the looks of the mini-park throughout Phase I of the Mini-Park Placemaking Project. A FutureHeights intern led the Phase I effort with assistance from the FutureHeights staff. The organization is now moving forward with Phase II of the project to initiate

permanent improvements. An RFP, funded by the 2019 CDBG Grant, was recently issued and seeks a plan to implement Phase II of the project. The subcommittee believes there is leadership to oversee the continuation of project with volunteers helping. The city of Cleveland Heights and the Cedar-Lee Special Improvements District have given enthusiastic support. The \$21,500 will be used to assist in executing the approved design with a total estimated cost of \$160,000.

FutureHeights – Noble Road Corridor Early Action Project (Strategic Impact Opportunity)

Funding Request: \$20,000 (first year of request)

Subcommittee Recommendation: \$20,000

Subcommittee Vote: 3-0-1 (Jessica Schantz abstained because she has a paid position as ENews Manager of the Observer, published by FutureHeights)

Project Description: FutureHeights is also leading an effort to revitalize Noble Road from Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights to Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland. The SOI funding would help fund a beautification effort designed to visually unify the street by enhancing the current planters and expand the planters along the residential sections of the street.

Recommendation Rationale: The Noble Road Corridor is a densely populated vibrant neighborhood with a lot of potential for enhancement and redevelopment. The committee believes this early action plan will foster continued development in the area and strengthen the Noble Road commercial and residential community while funding is found for long-term improvements.

City of Cleveland Heights Economic Development Programs

Funding Request: \$314,110

\$154,100 Economic Development Administration (\$130,200 allocated in 2019)

\$10,000 Storefront Consultants (\$11,000 allocated in 2019)

\$100,000 Storefront Renovation Loans (\$50,000 allocated in 2019)

\$50,000 Storefront Renovation Rebates (\$50,000 allocated in 2019)

Subcommittee Recommendation: \$ 314,110

Subcommittee Vote: 4-0

Project Description: The funds for Economic Development Administration help support the day-by-day administration of City staff related to economic

development programs on a 50/50 cost share with the City. The Storefront Renovation Loans, Storefront Renovation Rebates, and the Storefront consultants are 100% supported by CDBG funding. The Economic Development Program's mission is to coordinate and implement a comprehensive plan that manages and supports the social, economic, and physical development and re-development of the City. Using CDBG funds the Department is charged with the removal of slum and blight from the City's commercial districts as well as facilitating the creation of jobs for low-to-moderate income people. The Department is requesting funds for consultants who provide free design services for storefronts being renovated. The Department is also requesting additional funding for storefront renovation loans and rebates for possible new projects.

Subcommittee Rationale: The subcommittee sees the value in the Economic Development Department having two full-time economic development staff plus assistance from the Planning Department staff to coordinate storefront renovation projects. Thus, we recommend full funding of \$154,100 for Economic Development Administration and \$10,000 for Storefront Consultants. The subcommittee encourages the Economic Development Department to strategically align projects with other City and CDBG special improvement initiatives, and to focus on currently underinvested areas. It is the Subcommittee's understanding that although grant/loan funding is yet to be dispersed this year, there is one project ready for a contract and three other projects pending. The subcommittee recommends \$100,000 for the Storefront Renovation Loans and \$50,000 for Storefront Renovation Rebates.

Neighborhood Activities Subcommittee

Committee Members: Bradley Eckert (*Chair*), Brittany Rabb (*Vice-Chair*), Patrick Akers, Christine Henry, Donalene Poduska, Amy Smith, and André Witt

Applicant / Program or Project	Request	Recommendation	Vote (yes-no-abstain)
City of Cleveland Heights – Office on Aging	\$25,000	\$25,000	7-0-0
Heights Emergency Food Center	\$27,450	\$27,450	7-0-0
Family Connections – Family School Connection	\$25,000	\$25,000	7-0-0

Open Doors Academy – Academic Programming	\$20,000	\$15,000	7-0-0
Start Right CDC-Start Right Hunger Center	\$10,000	\$10,000	7-0-0
Gesher – The Benefit Center	\$10,000	\$10,000	6-1-0
Lake Erie Ink – Ink Spot After School Program	\$12,000	\$12,000	7-0-0
Family Connections – Parent Cafe [SIO]	\$5,000	\$5,000	7-0-0
Open Doors- Pathways at Cle Hts High [SIO]	\$20,000	\$15,000	7-0-0
TOTAL	\$154,450	\$144,450	

Applicant: City of Cleveland Heights / Office on Aging

Funding Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$25,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging has as its mission to improve the quality of life for Cleveland Heights residents over the age 60 while being responsive to the community's diverse groups and their changing needs. The Office on Aging serves a vulnerable population, elderly and frail elderly, who may be facing multiple challenges, such as mental or physical health concerns, loss of a spouse or partner, difficulty navigating or accessing social programs and services, and the general loss of sociability that can come with aging if supports are not in place. Most seniors wish to remain in their homes, and the social work program helps them to remain comfortable and safe in their homes as long as possible. Social workers document client visits and phone calls. Most clients are monitored every 6 months. The social workers reassess to be sure changing needs are being met.

Recommendation rationale: There remains an increasing need of the services provided by the Office on Aging due to a growing senior population in Cleveland Heights. In 2018, 629 Cleveland Heights residents (up from 592 in 2017) needed the services of the social workers, such as home visits, arranging

transportation services, or helping obtain assistance benefits, or connecting available community resources for residents. The subcommittee recommends the full funding of \$25,000 to support the work of two part-time social workers.

Applicant: Heights Emergency Food Center

Funding Request: \$27,450

Recommendation: \$27,450

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: Founded in 1981, Heights Emergency Food Center is Cleveland Heights' oldest and most accessible food pantry, open four days a week and evenings on the last two Thursdays of the month. The center operates for 14 hours each week of the month, ensuring a variety of hours are available to meet the needs of our community. The center supplies families with a three-day supply of food once a month. Numbers of clients have remained steady from year to year, dependent, however, on external forces such as the economy and changes in state or federal law. The center's staff, including its executive director Debby Shewitz, are all volunteers. Most of its funds come from the federal government, channeled through the Food Bank and the Hunger Network. CBDG funds have always helped pay for rent and utilities at Disciples Christian Church, the center's home since its beginning. Last year, CAC was able to grant the center \$25,510.

Recommendation Rationale: HEFC continues to excel as a well-run all-volunteer operation that provides valuable services to residents of our community. Last year, they served 8,233 Cleveland Heights residents, clearly an important resource in our community. We remain impressed with the organization and support their request for full funding to maintain their services at Disciples Christian Church.

Applicant: Family Connections/ Family School Connection

Funding Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$25,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: For 35 years, Family Connections has provided a broad array of services to Cleveland Heights children and their families. The Family School Connection program, which has been in place for more than nine years, is focused on the transition of children and families to kindergarten, which can be especially difficult for children with no pre-school experience. Family Connections has placed family liaisons in elementary schools throughout the Cleveland Heights-University Heights system, working directly with teachers and administrators to identify children that may need additional support and resources to achieve literacy benchmarks throughout the first year of school. The Family School Connection program seeks to assist those individuals with activities that engage both families and children through five specific outreach components: Home Visiting, Kindergarten Kickoff, Classroom Support, ABC's of Kindergarten, Kindergarten Discovery, and Bridge to First Grade. In addition to working with students after school in the elementary schools, each of the participating children in the program participates in home visits twice per month. These visits are individualized educational opportunities for the family liaison to work with the child and family on literacy enrichment and promoting activities families can complete together to assist the child's education.

Recommendation Rationale: Hoping to continue their work in advancing literacy promotion and building strong family support for children in the CH-UH district, Family Connections requests funding for the family liaisons at four specified Cleveland Heights elementary schools. Due to a complete loss of United Way funding, which was critical to its budget, Family Connections no longer can serve all seven elementary schools, and has instead chosen to focus on the top four schools with the greatest need. Given the importance of literacy and helping our students meet the educational goals of kindergarten, we support continued funding of their Family School Connection Program. Family Connections has a strong and successful history in Cleveland Heights and the subcommittee recognizes their continued effort at being a resource for children and parents in our community. We recommend funding at \$25,000, which is \$5,000 more than Family Connections received in the previous two years, to account for the approximate \$89,000 it lost from United Way this year (and approximately \$160,000 in the past two years).

Applicant: *Open Doors Academy / Academic and Enrichment Programming*

Funding Request: \$20,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: Open Doors Academy (ODA) offers a 7-year continuum of support to middle and high school youth that aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. ODA programs include out-of-school time support to its scholars (the name for ODA student participants) in CH-UH schools as well as other area middle and high schools. ODA requests support for its Middle School Program that is offered during out-of-school time hours at Monticello and Roxboro middle schools in Cleveland Heights. Programming provides scholars with a safe environment to address academic barriers, develop essential soft skills, and build healthy relationships with peers and adults. Most importantly, scholars are provided the necessary academic and social-emotional support that puts them on a path to high school graduation, post-secondary education/career training, and self-sufficient adulthood. School-year programming operates Monday through Friday, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. ODA engages scholars in experiential learning through multi-week projects, team-building exercises, mindfulness practice, service learning, and field trips. It costs approximately \$200,000 (including in-kind support) to operate an ODA on campus. Staff (two full time, one part time) and scholars need access to computers, mobile phones, office supplies, and educational materials. The CH-UH district provides in-kind space for programming during the school year. The Greater Cleveland Foodbank provides a daily meal for scholars year-round. Volunteers assist with family events and other activities, including enrichment programming and homework help. Community partners provide guest instruction for enrichment programming during the school year and summer.

Recommendation Rationale: ODA is a program that continues to fill a need in our neighborhoods for accessible, structured academic and emotional support for the Cleveland Heights middle school students. ODA has a proven plan and deserves our full support. In Cleveland Heights, there is no greater need than supporting our youth. If they are engaged in a program like ODA, they have an opportunity to become independent, employed, and successful in life. We recommend continued funding of ODA's programming for middle school

students given their commitment to Cleveland Heights and their track record of success for students.

Applicant: *Start Right Community Development Corp / Start Right Hunger Center*

Funding Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: Start Right Community Development Corporation is requesting \$10,00 to assist in running its hunger center. They receive free or reduced-cost items from the Food Bank; income guidelines are provided by the Ohio Department of Human Services. They serve over 100 households each month. They are open only on the fourth Saturday of each month. They need to be open only once since families or individuals receive a 3-day supply of food (minimum 9 good meals) once a month. Rather than giving food in a bag as selected by a volunteer, they have an open pantry, that is, the client walks through the pantry selecting items desired.

Recommendation Rationale: Originally the request was to be used for rent and other operating expenses. But they “opened a can of worms” when they started adding outlets for appliances in order to get rid of the extension cords which the fire department recommended two years ago. Before any new outlets can be added, the city said that they had to switch to 400-amp system at a cost of \$8200. In addition, there would be the cost of new outlets so extensions can be removed. They are still waiting to get a quote for new outlets so that freezers and refrigerators can be in the same room. The subcommittee would like to see the electrical work completed, therefore we recommend the full funding of \$10,000.

Applicant: *Agudath Israel of Ohio - Gesher Career Development and Benefits Center*

Funding Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

Vote: 6-1-0

Program Description: Gesher was founded in 2013 to help low income Cleveland families to access much needed support by eliminating cultural barriers to accessing and applying for assistance programs that target financial hardship. Its activities focus on providing all who seek services with trained benefit counselors who can advise about local, state and federal benefits for which they are eligible. These benefits include WIC (Women, Infant and Children), senior citizen health programs, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), utility assistance, Medicaid eligibility, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and weatherization programs. Gesher continues to operate its Warrensville Center Road location, while also continuing to support the local WIC office at the MetroHealth location in Severance Town Center. Gesher has recently added career services, classes, and consultation to their list of available services. Their vision of success is a twofold desire to help clients in a welcoming and friendly environment, while desiring a time when people are no longer in need of the benefits with which they connect people.

Recommendation Rationale: While the subcommittee continues to be concerned with Gesher's lack of diverse clientele, it ultimately feels that Gesher's services play an integral role in the lives of the Cleveland Heights residents it does serve. Gesher has a unique model that connects people with benefits/services in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and promotes relationships between the organization and its clientele. The subcommittee hopes that with the use of these increased funds, Gesher will be able to grow in the number of clients served and the services they are able to offer.

Applicant: Lake Erie Ink / Ink Spot After School Program

Funding Request: \$12,000

Recommendation: \$12,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: Lake Erie Ink seeks continued funding for its after-school writing program for children in grades 4-7. Programs run two days a week

at satellite schools Noble Elementary and Monticello Middle School. They plan to serve approximately 40 children who are selected for the program with input from teachers and administrators. Lake Erie Ink staff have created a structure and a safe place for students to attend to homework, socialize, and engage in the process of writing. Lake Erie Ink provides academic support for students who have barriers to learning. They focus on tailoring solutions that help overcome those barriers. This can mean using dictation for children who have hand-eye coordination problems; drawings, comics, and puppets for kids who have difficulty putting words on paper; and writing prompts for those who need starting ideas. These techniques help the participants engage in various writing genres with adult supervision and engage in all stages of the writing process. Each year the participants produce an anthology.

Recommendation Rationale: Since 2011, Lake Erie Ink continues to provide a safe, creative, and educational opportunity for students after school. Their programs continue to operate at full capacity, highlighting the strong outreach of the organization and the valuable resource they provide for students. Students have been so successful with the program that they requested the extension into higher grades from the original 4-5 grade range. Both parents and students report positive outcomes inside and outside of school. We support Lake Erie Ink's continuation of programming two days per week at Noble and Monticello. We recommend full funding of \$12,000 to support these programs at our schools.

Applicant: Family Connections / Parent Cafe

Funding Request: \$5,000 [SIO]

Recommendation: \$5,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: A Parent Cafe is a gathering of parents, for parents and by parents. It is a parent education experience designed to create opportunities for parents to connect, share, and learn from each other in a space that appreciates that all parents have something to offer and have all that they need. Parent Cafes are driven by the knowledge that parents have

to offer one another, and are guided by trained hosts, who lead small-group discussions and explore questions that really matter to parents. Through these meaningful conversations, Family Connections hopes that parents are able to build protective factors that will have a positive impact on their families and the community. Building on the Parent Cafes it held last year, and together with the guidance of other local entities that have successfully implemented Parent Cafes and research supporting this model, Family Connections is confident that their existing relationships with families in the community, and the families' relationships with each other, will grow as a result of this effort. The requested funding would go to materials (e.g., printing, dinner, bus tickets) and would fund marketing and personnel costs. Family Connections intends to offer two Parent Cafes, and expect to recruit families from other services they offer, including the general low-to-moderate income family population in Cleveland Heights.

Recommendation Rationale: Family Connections has a proven record of success in the Cleveland Heights community. Family Connections implemented Parent Cafes for the first-time last year, and had great feedback from participants (e.g., better relationships between parent and child, lifestyle changes). Providing an open and safe space for idea exploration and networking can be a valuable tool to strengthen families and our community moving forward. We support Family Connection's \$5,000 request for implementation of this opportunity and are excited to see its continued immediate and long-term impact.

Applicant: *Open Doors Academy / Pathways to Independence at Cleveland Heights High School*

Funding Request: \$20,000 [SIO]

Recommendation: \$15,000

Vote: 7-0-0

Program/Project Description: Open Doors Academy (ODA) offers a 7-year continuum of support to middle and high school youth that aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. ODA programs include out-of-school time support to high school scholars (those who are graduates of ODA's middle school programs) who are attending Cleveland Heights High School. This program, titled *Pathways to Independence Program (PIP)*, offers personalized

guidance to 40 scholars to help them identify career paths and develop life skills essential to a self-sufficient adulthood. Components of PIP include activities that focus on career readiness, core competencies of adulthood, global and intercultural learning (including service trips to Honduras), individual and small group coaching, development of individual success plans, college and career readiness workshops, and college tours. Three ODA staff provides programming for three hours per day, Monday – Friday, for 35 weeks of the school year. Parent participation is required in order for a student to be in the PIP program. The cost of providing the PIP program at Heights High is \$200,000, including in-kind support, and covers staffing (two full time and one part time counselors), as well as management and oversight from ODA administration.

Recommendation Rationale: ODA is a large, well run nonprofit that has a proven track record of success. It had its founding in Cleveland Heights, and continues to be committed to students in the CH-UH school system. In 2017, ODA launched its new high school program during the summer and in 2018, expanded to daily programming during the academic year. The subcommittee remains impressed with ODA's commitment to educational programming for Cleveland Heights students and hopes that the high school program will provide more stability, resources, counseling, and enrichment for our students as they focus on graduation, college, vocational education, and/or future employment. We voted to continue to provide partial funding at \$15,000. We hope this program will be just as successful as the middle school programming and look forward to reviewing the high school program outcomes over this next year.

Preservation and Housing Subcommittee

Committee Members: T. Nadas (Chair), David Benson (Vice-Chair), Simcha Geller, Barbara Shelton

Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC)	Request	Recommendation
HRRC: Operations	\$155,204	\$155,204
Housing Counselor (HRRC)	\$30,000	\$30,000
Housing Preservation Office (HPO)		

HPO: Operations	\$340,000	\$340,000
HPO: Paint Program	\$100,000	\$100,000
HPO: Violation Repair Program for Seniors	\$20,000	\$20,000
HPO: Nuisance Abatement	\$20,000	\$20,000
HPO: LMI Code Enforcement	\$50,000	\$50,000
Neighborhood Relations (HPO)	\$50,000	\$50,000
Strategic Home Repair (SIO) (HPO)	\$50,000	\$50,000
Future Heights		
FutureHomes Program	\$57,195	\$57,195

Applicant: Home Repair Resource Center – Operations and Programs

Funding Request: \$ 185,204 Total Request

Recommendation: \$ 185,204

Vote: 4 in Favor of Full Funding

Program/Project Description:

HRRC Operating Expenses. Pays staff salaries and overhead for organization to run the following programs;

--\$10,000 Financial Assistance Program: This is a program for Cleveland Heights owner occupants who need a repair that corrects health or safety issues and meets federal requirements. Clients also must meet federal LMI guidelines to qualify for ASSIST Incentive Grants which provide \$1,000 toward the cost of replacing any one of four major systems (roof, heating, masonry rebuild, or exterior painting).

--\$10,000 Deferred Loan Match: Clients must provide a "match" of personal funds or funds from other programs (HRRC can sometimes provide "gap funding" when programs like the County Lead Grant are not sufficient to cover all required work, which would otherwise mean that nothing could get Accomplished). Counselors work with the clients to assess the best repair financing for their situation.

- \$8,000 Senior Home Stability Program: provides individualized consultations and educational workshops on all aspects of aging in place and home maintenance.
- \$500 for 0% Assist Benefit Program

Home Repair Resource Center's Financial Assistance Program (FAP) makes financing necessary repairs more affordable and accessible for Cleveland Heights homeowner/occupants who meet federal LMI guidelines. CDBG-funded programs provide benefits that reduce payments on bank loans; assist with the extra costs of complying with lead regulations; and ensure sufficient staff expertise to counsel and administer benefit programs, all to assist Cleveland Heights homeowners to repair and maintain their homes. The homeowners HRRC serves with the FAP are, for the most part, in difficult financial situations and have no other home repair options.

For those homeowners who do not qualify for bank loans, HRRC is filling the gap with Incentive Grants and Deferred Loan Matches and funding from the previously funded Challenge program. HRRC is reaching out to the City of Cleveland Heights, other agencies and financial institutions to compile a list of resources that will give more residents a chance to purchase and keep a home. The values of the housing stock will increase and the neighborhoods of Cleveland Heights will continue to benefit greatly from the commitment of the staff at HRRC to our community.

HRRC Housing Counseling. Pays for one staff position for the program. This position provides Counseling to the clients of HRRC. The staffer educates community residents on financing repairs, and provides Home Buyer Education to help prospective buyers make decisions that meet their family and budget needs. Individual Counseling and Group Education are available. This position is an integral part of the programs at HRRC that continue to benefit the clients and the community. Director Allen noted that "our operating expenses are on the rise due to the amount of training that is required for finances". HRRC has increased the number of housing counselors from 1 ½ to 2 positions.

Recommendation Rationale:

The Executive Director and the staff at HRRC are committed to improving the housing stock in Cleveland Heights and placing families in this community of affordable housing. Cleveland Heights has many homes that have been

vacant and neglected. HRRC is working closely with the City, concerned citizens and financial institutions to improve the neighborhoods by aiding new home buyers and helping current homeowners repair their homes to keep them safe and livable.

The committee recommends full funding for this program.

Applicant: Housing Preservation Office

Funding Request: \$ 630,000 Includes All Programs in HPO applications

Recommendation: \$ 630,000

Vote: 4 in Favor of Full Funding

Program/Project Description:

--\$340,000 HPO Operations/Staff: Salaries, benefits and operating expenses for housing office.

--\$100,000 Paint Program: LMI owner-occupants age 62+ or disabled eligible for a grant of up to \$3500 for labor and paint. A licensed Lead Paint contractor must be used.

--\$20,000 Violation Repair: Assists senior or disabled homeowners with violation repair.

--\$20,000 Nuisance Abatement: Pays for demolition or other abatement at nuisance properties.

--\$50,000 LMI Code Enforcement: Comprehensive inspection of 100% LMI housing stock.

--\$50,000 Neighborhood Relations Program: City representative works in LMI areas addressing problems that affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Please Note: This program is funded through Public Service Activities, which is subject to a funding cap.

--\$50,000 Strategic Home Repair: This is a new program to serve LMI residents living in SIO targeted areas of Cleveland Heights to assist them with paint and violation repairs.

The **Housing Preservation Office** staff is responsible for providing Cleveland Heights residents crucial CDBG programs to help LMI families and seniors and disabled to be able to afford to stay in their homes. The services the HPO staff manages to assist these residents are the Paint and Violation Repair Programs. LMI Code Enforcement inspects properties in LMI areas to identify properties that need repairs and make certain the homeowner complies with any citation that may be written. New software and tablets for the field inspectors via a county grant to the First Suburbs Consortium will enhance the efficiency of the department. Nuisance Abatement is applied when the HPO staff determine a home is beyond repair.

A staff member is assigned to **Neighborhood Relations**. This staff member works with the police and City staff and the neighborhoods to identify residents that are creating unsafe and/or unacceptable situations that are impacting the residents who dwell around the location. The objective is to make sure all residents live in safe, functional and healthy areas, especially those designated as LMI. 9610 households were served last year.

HPO is requesting CDBG funds to expand the Paint and Violation Repair programs to **Strategic Impact Opportunity (SIO)** areas to give more income eligible Cleveland Heights residents the benefit of these services. The HPO director plans to reach out to the newly targeted areas to advise residents of this opportunity.

Rationale for committee recommendation:

The work that is done by the HPO continues to enhance the goal of making Cleveland Heights housing stock affordable for new home buyers and livable and safe for current homeowners. HPO staff are working closely with the HRRC, Future Heights, nearby municipalities, the County, the Land Bank and financial institutions to address the neglected properties which are causing property values to decline. New software tools are being implemented to give staff the ability to identify areas of need and areas where improvement has been made. This department is vital to the health and welfare of all Cleveland Heights residents.

The committee recommends full funding for this program.

Applicant: Future Heights

Funding Request: \$ 57,195 Future Homes Program

Recommendation: \$ 57,195

Vote: 4 in Favor of Full Funding

Program/Project Description:

Future Heights is requesting CDBG funds to expand the work they are doing in their model block. Their intent is to use the money as capital to secure a house that is not being rehabilitated and work with local contractors to restore it and sell it to a buyer who will occupy the home. The profits from the restoration/sale will then be rolled into the next house, and so on.

Rationale for committee recommendation:

Future Heights continues to show commitment to the city through their work. The funds requested may seem small, but the hope of the committee and the intention of Future Heights is that these small efforts will eventually add up to big change for the city. The work of Future Heights as the city's community development corporation partner is vital to revitalizing the housing stock and improving health and welfare of all Cleveland Heights residents.

The committee recommends full funding for this program.

The CAC decided that Mr. Iorio present the administration's recommendations at the next meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room. The committee will make their final recommendations at that time.

Chairman Farmer thanked the subcommittees for their reports.

CAC Members discussed the process regarding Council approval and the proposed changes to the presentations at the Council Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iorio agreed to redistribute the letter that the CAC sent to Council earlier in the year.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Cory Farmer, Chair

Bradley Eckert, Secretary