

Notes from LGBTQ2SIAP+ Community Briefing

Welcome

- Thank you CVP Jenkins, CM Ellison, Mayor and Council staff, and community members for being here!

City update of COVID-19 response

- Health
 - Commissioner Gretchen Musicant: New for the City – have created a community engagement approach in emergency response structure. Have a whole branch focused on community engagement. Have a group of community members who are putting together recommendations; are also participating in these briefings in order to incorporate community voice and experience into response.
 - Heather Gillich: a few ways to access City – Heather Gillich, direct questions - heather.gillich@minneapolismn.gov; for COVID19 related questions and concerns - covid19@minneapolismn.gov; for requesting resources - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a6ec5734947240a48d8782ceb5fdb908>
- Gap Funding small business
 - Erik Hansen, Director of Economic Policy and Development in Community Planning and Economic Development division (erik.hansen@minneapolismn.gov) – close to done distributing \$1.5 million of forgivable no-interest loans for small businesses in target areas (predominantly-BIPOC communities, Cultural Districts, Green Zone, Promise Zone)
 - Have alerted 120 applicants of awards and are working through final 40-80 applicants this week
 - If businesses stay in good standing over next year loans will be forgiven
 - Working to provide guidance to businesses about reopening (as retail non-critical businesses can now open under Stay Safe order, others are targeted June 1st) - waiting for State guidance, which will come out Wed, and then will review and provide guidance
 - Can provide feedback on Business opening ideas - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a65c5de53a4a44f6b1975b15465163e6>
- Gap Funding rent assistance
 - Andrea Inouye: in Mayor Frey's Office, working with Housing Director of Community Planning and Economic Development on housing gap fund (opened apps at end of April)
 - 8000 apps, 6500 of which met eligibility requirements and are not duplicates – are working with community partners, have randomized and are going through first 1500 applicants right now
 - Hoping to start cutting checks this week, will cut checks weekly after that
- CVP Jenkins:
 - Thank you for being here, sharing what's going on in your communities (struggles people are facing, ways people are addressing those concerns), and following Governor's and Mayor's orders. We must still be diligently cautious even as things reopen. Please wear masks and physically distance; capitalism is a dangerous and tricky

reality but we can't allow it to have negative impacts on our health and we must take care of ourselves

- Vow that City's response (limited resources, but where possible, and also advocacy to try to get more resources) will be targeted and appropriate to marginalized communities – BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, gig economy workers, artists, etc.
- Hennepin County has just announced \$15 million each to housing gap funding and business gap funding – we'll be getting that information out to folks
- Working on fund with Black Visions Collective to support BIPOC queer and trans folks and other marginalized communities – folks in sex work and other gig economy that aren't eligible for other funding, etc. App isn't live yet, but we'll advertise it as soon as possible
- CM Ellison:
 - Thank you for having me – we want you to know that we're working really hard, and also please push us when you feel like we're not getting it all the way right
 - Shoutout to housing and small business folks – we know those are areas of people's lives that are being hit the hardest

Community partners update of COVID-19 response

- Shor (they/them), MN Dept of Health, shor.salkas@state.mn.us: MN Dept of Health is releasing two new funding opportunities on May 25th - one is specifically for community based orgs/agencies, the other is a Diverse Media Call for individuals, orgs, or groups of artists (for folks to create materials to go directly into community – by community artists, media producers – if you make videos, want to translate things into other languages, etc.). Had a previous RFP for Diverse Media and got a lot of apps, so asked for more money and this is the second round. Other opportunity is for any community-based org doing COVID response work.
 - **Community-based Organizations for COVID-19 Outreach and Engagement** This Request for Services will ask vendors to propose a plan for culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate and timely community engagement activities to aid the state in learning about community needs related to COVID-19, connecting communities to existing resources and services, and developing or adapting resources and services as needed. Activities may include outreach and engagement related to testing, case investigation and contact tracing, and mental health and well-being, among other areas. The primary audience(s) for community engagement must include people of color, American Indians and/or LGBTQ Minnesotans.
 - **Funding:** \$1,500,000 available for multiple contracts.
 - **Target Audience of Request for Services:** Community-based nonprofit organizations, other community-led organizations, and Tribes; priority will be given to entities that are led/operated/owned by people of color, American Indians, and/or LGBTQ individuals.
 - MDH will make final selections of contractors based on a competitive review of proposals, while also ensuring that the final cohort of selected contractors covers a range of racial, ethnic and cultural communities and geographic areas in Minnesota.

- **The proposal submission deadline for both funding opportunities will be June 3, 2020.** MDH will make more information available on May 25, 2020 with the release of the full Requests for Services. Current contractors of MDH will be eligible to apply.
- Skye (they/them), OutFront MN – launched COVID relief funding on Friday. It’s a one-time award, needs-based, \$250-\$2500. App deadline is May 31st, people will be notified by June 15th, and should expect checks by June 30: <https://www.outfront.org/lgbtq-covid-19-relief-fund>
- Karen Moe, Neighborhood and Community Relations, City of Mpls: One Minneapolis fund grants (normally for orgs doing civic engagement, now focused on engaging communities around COVID response) - closes 25th but trying to extend to 26th because of holiday. Recognize that messaging needs to reach more community members, and so want to support orgs doing messaging and engagement around COVID:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/nccec/WCMS1P-121027>
- Phil Duran, he/him, JustUs Health: want to make sure folks know JustUs still offers MNSure navigation help; 612-373-2466. If you’re having trouble with coverage for transition-related care, the MNSure folks can connect you to Phil to help with that - <https://www.justushealth.org/get-support/assistance/health-insurance/mnsure>
- Heather Gillich, Mpls Health Dept, RFA open for Safe Routes to Healthy Food – focused on increasing access to healthy food and increasing transportation safety for families/individuals when accessing food. Due noon on Fri June 5th, will fund at \$2000, \$5000, or \$8000, call to take questions on Thurs May 21st at 1 PM: (*Dial in at: 1-877-685-5350 and enter passcode: 6126733557*).
 - *The RFA is due at 12pm Friday, June 5th via the City’s [eSupplier portal](#). RFA information and the links to apply can be found [here](#).*
- Mattie Jensen, MN Dept of Health, found out about funding stream – COVID-19 Collective Fund for Trans Communities (offered through Borealis Philanthropy) - asking for people to provide services, priority is given to trans-led orgs with racial justice folks, encouraging requests by BIPOC folks, can use for mutual aid and care support networks, healing and virtual wellness spaces, online programming needs, living stipends for members or staff, survival needs, organizing, advocacy, etc.: <https://borealisphilanthropy.org/grantmaking/fund-for-trans-generations/covid-19-collective-fund-for-trans-communities/>
- Rox: If anyone is interested in partnering with BIPOC Trans lead orgs hit us up 4 Art roxanne@rareproductionsmpls.com for health mntransdirector@gmail.com or If folks need remote bodywork @raamit612@gmail.com

Community Response:

- Gabriella Spencer: in Black and Brown trans community, there is still a gap – gig workers and sex workers are being totally left out, haven’t even received the \$600 payment and a lot of people’s medical insurance that was paid for through state has been disconnected and it’s really hard to reinstate that. I know that City is working and grateful for you all, but there needs to be something done in a more timely fashion because it’s been months and some of us have not gotten any money and also can’t go to work. Also, how is City ensuring that businesses are reinforcing social distancing, commercial cleaning (especially adult entertainment businesses,

nightclubs, bars, restaurants), etc. Hard to access all the info – we need to market and promote funding and other opportunities in a way that can make sure they reach people

- Erik Hansen: based on CARES Act, pandemic employment assistance program should allow for those who are self-employed to get unemployment insurance. It's taking unfortunately way too long, the system has been inundated and they're working as quickly as possible but it's retroactive once you do get paid. City's loan and County's loan program address sole proprietorships and gig workers, the challenge is just that there's not enough resources available. Applicants to City program reported losses over \$110 million and City had \$1.5 million to fill that gap. Re: reopening, the governor's order has some restrictions (not like WI), businesses can only open to 50% occupancy, and all businesses have to have a COVID-19 preparedness plan and post them, all workers need to be trained on those plans. Working on figuring out potential additional City measures because we have a high at-risk percentage compared to the entire state, working on how to support businesses and workers as they re-open, working with labor unions etc. Trying to make sure everyone's voices are at the table in planning this

Wrap up/next steps

- Track: Community briefings will be 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 9:30 AM, will send out invites. 2nd Thursdays MN in general (Track, Mariah, Shor, and Mattie co-host), 4th Thursdays more Mpls-specific like this one
- Sending out these notes and compiling them on COVID-19 community engagement section of City website
- Housing resources: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/housing-coronavirus>
- Shor is compiling resources for lots of different resources for LGBTQ+ communities in getting through COVID-19 – will be a website soon, still in progress! Will send link to the Google Doc for now, and then website once it's update