

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Meeting
February 1, 2023 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting - [Meeting Recording](#)

Members: Lara Malakoff, Jennifer Bodie, Nicolas Cicero, Bryan Coleman, Lincoln Cummings, Tim Denning, Steven Gallagher, Carlton Newton Margaret McGilvaray

Staff: Caitlin Jones, Rolda Nedd, Courtney Lord-Martinez, Jorge Laura, Tara Palacios

Lara Malakoff (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:35.

1. Approval of January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

The minutes were approved unanimously

2. FY 2023 Non-Competitive Community Development Fund Program Interviews

Each year, the Community Development Fund provides funding for specific County programs that do not submit a competitive application. In lieu of an application, these programs provide an overview of current and future activities.

Employment & Training Programs, Arlington Employment Center (AEC)

Courtney Lord-Martinez, Workforce Development & Curriculum Manager at AEC, described the various programs that are offered through the Arlington Employment Center (AEC), funded through CDBG and CSBG. This includes the Early Childhood Education program where participants receive a childhood development associate (CDA) credential and the Job Seeker workshops.

The CDA is professional credential for individuals who want to work in early childhood development. To date, the AEC CDA program has supported 58 clients, where 15 individuals have obtained their credential and it is expected that another 13 will earn credential before end of FY 2023. Of those that have obtained their credential, there is a 100% employment and promotion rates and for credentialed participants, they are earning \$18.62/hr and enrolled participants are earning \$16.79/hr. 73% of those who are enrolled in the course work in Arlington.

AEC staff has also recently spent more time cultivating partnerships with local childcare facilities to support individuals enrolled in their courses. Staff has also begun to establish opportunities for students who want to earn credits towards an Associate degree at NOVA. In addition, AEC staff has focused on outreach activities, creating an online application and increase

For the Job Seeker workshops, AEC offers virtual job search workshops 2-3 times per week that cover a variety of topics to help job seekers get jobs. These interactive workshops teach people how to write and revise resumes and cover letters, prepare for common interview questions and behavioral interview questions, and use social media liked LinkedIn and other job search websites to apply for jobs. AEC also offers special workshops about different virtual learning applications the AEC offers, such as LinkedIn Learning and SkillUp. So far in FY 2023, 186 people have attended with a 97% satisfaction rate. Of the 186 people, 13% gained better employment as a result of the workshop.

Housing Outreach Program, Arlington Housing Division

Jorge Laura, the Housing Outreach Coordinator for Arlington, is responsible for the neighborhood outreach and tenant outreach / education programming in the Housing Division. Mr. Laura conducts

outreach programs about fair housing issues, as well as educates residents along Columbia Pike about condominiums and other homeownership opportunities. Jorge focuses his work more on outreach and education, so that tenants and property owners understand the types of issues that could be considered code violations, etc.

In FY 2022, Housing Outreach staff conducted neighborhood clean ups in Arlington Mill and Green Valley, the events were very well received by the neighborhoods this year. Staff collected 24 tons of trash and metal during the cleanups. Staff also referred over 350 clients to various County agencies and nonprofit programs as well as conducted outreach to community centers and in coordination with AFAC food assistance. Housing Outreach staff hosted a virtual Live-In Arlington Information Fair (LAIF) in partnership with BUGATA. Staff also provided technical assistance to over 100 people by visiting 2 apartment complexes per month and discussing issues such as pest control and other issues facing the community with residents. Staff conducted the Live-In Arlington Information Fair (LAIF) event in October 2022, hosting 10 different workshops on a variety of topics and also hosted a number of outreach days in coordination with community events.

Tenant Outreach Program, BUGATA

Saul Reyes, Executive Director of BUGATA, provided an overview of BUGATA's Promotora program, which encourages civic engagement of low-income residents in the Buckingham community. The goals of the program are to build social networks, use neighborhood leaders to reach isolated residents, identify barriers faced by Latinos to accessing services, and work with low-income Latinos and other renters to participate actively in ensuring implementation of Arlington's Affordable Housing Master Plan.

In FY 2022, BUGATA conducted outreach with 300+ households, a majority of whom were low-income residents of different races and ethnicities, the majority Latinos, seconded by African Americans, Asians, Whites, and other multi-racial. BUGATA also helped 314 people gain access to services/programs that impacted their life, including assisting with eviction prevention, access to subsidies, securing food assistance and accessing healthcare services. BUGATA also secured access to heating subsidies and AFAC services for their clients, secured changes to Relocation Plans and/or changes in program implementation to keep tenants from being displaced, and assisted with accessing County services as a result of the "promotora" outreach program. In addition, BUGATA planned and supervised five workshops for community residents on issues impacting their community.

Looking into the future, BUGATA plans on continuing to expand outreach efforts to empower under-engaged residents. In addition, the organization hopes to identify barriers faced by Latinos and other immigrants to accessing County and partner services and develop and implement strategies for reducing them as well as establishing a partnership with County nonprofits to provide education workshops and assistance to residents.

3. *Post-COVID Small Business and Microenterprise Landscape in Arlington– Tara Palacios, BizLaunch, Arlington Economic Development*

Tara Palacios, Director of the Arlington Economic Development BizLaunch program, provided an update about the post-COVID landscape for businesses in Arlington. Tara specifically focused on ReLaunch program and Market Research segments, which have provided targeted assistance to small businesses in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

One area that Tara focused on for the presentation was how the local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) that are funded through the Community Development Fund complement services offered by BizLaunch and complement each other. Typically, traditional CDFIs are willing to take risks that traditional banks are not willing to take. CDFIs are not only able to provide cash to small businesses but they also help them build best practices as part of the business lifecycle.

In Arlington, the following CDFIs are supported by the Community Development Fund:

- Ethiopian Community Development Council and Enterprise Development Group (ECDC/EDG) specializes in the Ethiopian community but more recently has begun to engage the Spanish speaking community. ECDC typically focuses on providing resources for items that they can collateralize (taxis, food truck, etc.).
- Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) Escala program: Throughout their history, NVFS has worked more on a cohort level with entrepreneurs vs one-on-one training. The NVFS program is based on a specific curriculum. NVFS was one of the first organizations in Northern Virginia that did a cohort training where people graduated with an entrepreneurship credential
- Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC): LEDC has created programming to address issues and outreach that focuses on supporting communities of color that are unable to access services or assistance. They have created weekly meetings with clients and small businesses. LEDC has creative programming to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the non-English speaking community.
- Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif): Wacif focuses on BIPOC community, and obtains Federal grants to build financial literacy for women entrepreneurs. The organization has grown exponentially over the years and they are able to do larger scale loans and have more experienced staff.

4. Chair Report:

A recent conversation with the County Manager focused on the FY 2024 budget. It centered around key priorities such as Housing, County Infrastructure, Veterans, and Energy. Lara Malakoff noted that it seems as though the priorities that were laid out in the budget were issues or areas that CDCAC sees for applications and there appears to be overlap with the work that CDCAC does.

5. Staff Report:

Staff reported that planning is currently underway for the FY 2023 Community Development Bus Tour. Suggestions for stops to occur on the bus tour can be sent to Caitlin Jones at cjones1@arlingtonva.us.

There will be a presentation on Arlington's Fair Housing Plan at the March 8 Tenant-Landlord meeting. There will be an overview of the plan, including data, fair housing issues identified, community participation and the draft regional and local fair housing goals.

There will be a New Commission Orientation on Monday, February 6 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

6. Member Report:

Margaret McGilvaray reported that the Housing Commission will host two meetings in February, one will be dedicated exclusively to missing middle. The regular Housing Commission meeting will meet on Thursday, February 09 and the Missing Middle meeting will occur on Thursday, February 16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.