

Lake County Illinois



Minutes Report - Final

Friday, January 28, 2022

3:00 PM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89336073885?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89336073885?pwd=OCswNEY4WmZnYThTY1I0bFhQTXBVUT09)

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Meeting ID: 893 3607 3885

Passcode: 926737

HCDC Advisory and Recommendation Committee –
Public Improvements

1. Roll Call

Guests:

Tony DiVittorio, Clearbrook; Hollis Gorrie, Clearbrook; Don Frick, Clearbrook; Amanda Levinson, Arden Shore; Jon Lothan, GWDC; Katie Baldasser, GWDC; Bev Saiz, Clearbrook; Eddie Soto, Lake County Tech Hub; Ken Barber, Adelante

Staff:

Brenda O'Connell, Eric Waggoner, Dominic Strezo, Michele Slav, Eric Tellez, Yazmin Albino, and Joy Rice

Present 2 - Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Williams

Absent 2 - Commissioner McKinney and Henley

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 [22-0147](#)

Approval of the October 8, 2021 minutes.

Attachments: [DRAFT Public Improvements ARC 2021-10-08 Minutes](#)

There was no vote taken as there was no quorum.

3. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

4. Old Business

There was no old business.

5. New Business

5.1 [22-0149](#)

Program Year 2022 (PY22) Public Improvements Application Round Presentation, Deliberations and Allocations - Discussion and Recommendations.

- The Public Improvements Advisory and Recommendation Committee (ARC) is responsible for making public improvements and economic development-related funding allocation recommendations for the PY22 funding round.
- Recommendations are forwarded for consideration and approval to the Housing & Community Development Commission (HCDC).

Presented by Brenda O'Connell, Community Development Administrator, Dominic Strezo, Environmental Project Coordinator, and Eric Tellez, Community Development Planner.

Brenda informed the committee that grant funding allocation policy states that funding must balance two priorities; address major community development and affordable housing needs, and maintain consistent spending rates. She also advised that funding would be implemented in two stages; the action plan occurring in this meeting, and Tier 2 funding recommendations that would require future HCDC discussion as well as future HCDC and Lake County Board votes. The funding process begins with ARC recommendation approval, moves to forward for HCDC approval, and ultimately to the County Board for final approval. All funding is subject to changes in funding amounts based on the final grant amounts from HUD.

Dominic presented the 2022 Community Development Block Grant CDBG funding recommendations as follows:

*Round Lake Beach - Sidewalk construction - \$100,000
Zion - Sidewalk repair - \$80,000
Allendale - Roof repair - \$60,162
Arden Shore Child and Family Services - Roof repair - \$50,400
Nicasa - Roof repair - \$29,500
Clearbrook - Mental health center - \$104,938
Community Youth Network - Wellness Campus - \$75,000*

Eric presented the following Tier 2 funding recommendations:

*PADS Lake County - Acquisition of a fixed site shelter - \$16,121,831
Clearbrook - Mental health center - \$95,062
Community Youth Network - Wellness campus - \$711,500*

*Public comments were received in writing prior to the meeting from Lake County Tech Hub and Clearbrook
Community Mental Health Center.*

Clearbrook:

Since 1955, Clearbrook has been a staple in the Chicagoland area for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. What started as a group of parents, meeting in a church basement, grew to be the innovative and successful nonprofit that is known today across 16 Illinois counties. Considered experts in our field, Clearbrook's services have grown to include: Vocational training and employment placement, home-based support, respite care, health and wellness, recreation and therapeutic activities, residential services, and community education. Each program focuses on the specific needs of the individual, their interests, and ability to function independently. Our programs and services are the keys to our success and are designed to equip our residents and program participants with skills that will enable them to lead safe, productive, and dignified lives. It is because of Clearbrook's multiple successes that a Community Mental Health Center was the logical next step in providing services to individuals with I/DD. Clearbrook's first Community Mental Health Center opened in 2019 in McHenry County and another opened in Rolling Meadows in 2021. Since 2019, Clearbrook has assisted 80 individuals at our two Community Mental Health Centers. With more than 200 home-based Clearbrook individuals in Lake County, it was deemed the ideal location for the opening of the third center.

It is not unusual for individuals with I/DD to have a comorbid diagnosis (e.g. DD/SMI). It is estimated that 30-35% of those with a diagnosis of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), also have a psychiatric disorder. In persons with I/DD, limited coping skills associated with language difficulty, inadequate social supports and a high frequency of central nervous system impairment all contribute to the vulnerability of developing mental health problems. In short, the presence of behavioral and emotional problems can greatly reduce the quality of life of persons with I/DD. The continuation and expansion of services provided through the Community Mental Health Centers operated by Clearbrook encourages increased support for this population while serving a larger geographic area. This fulfills a long-held goal of ensuring that those with a comorbid diagnosis do not "fall through the cracks" due to the fact that many community mental health providers are not trained to serve this population. Because of Clearbrook's extensive experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we are the ideal choice in staffing for this type of new facility in Lake County.

The requested funding would allow for Clearbrook to be the first organization in Lake County to implement a Community Mental Health Center that serves individuals with I/DD and a mental illness in Lake County. The past successes of Clearbrook, as evidenced by nearly 70 years of service to the Chicagoland area, makes us the clear choice in the execution of this project. Already established centers in McHenry County and Cook County prove not only the need for such facilities in Chicagoland, but also how adept Clearbrook staff are to take on this endeavor. To be entrusted with the mental health wellness of the I/DD community in Lake County would be a great honor, one that Clearbrook does not take lightly, and one that will help countless individuals and their

families now and for many years to come.

Clearbrook thanks you for your time today and looks forward to continuing to serve residents of Lake County who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lake County Tech Hub:

2021 Overview of GWDC and Lake County Tech Hub and Business Incubator (LCTH) as a resource during Covid-19 Pandemic.

GWDC's mission is to foster economic development in economically challenged communities. Since its inception in 2012 as "Greater Waukegan Development Coalition," we have grown from supporting development within the seven municipalities in and around Waukegan, to working with over 50 municipalities and hundreds of businesses.

As an independent 501(c)3 not for profit economic development corporation, our core activities include the Lake County Tech Hub operation services as a base of information and assisting the community with direction and introductions to health and wellness services and business development resources.

In order to support and incubate core businesses, in 2014 we launched the Lake County Tech Hub and Business Incubator (LCTH). In 2016 we worked with the City of Waukegan to acquire our 8,000 square foot co-working and training facility at 13n Genesee Street in Waukegan. In 2018 we received the first in a series of CDBG grants to help aid local LMI underserved and unbanked companies apply for micro lending.

In August, 2019 we hired Eddie Soto, a former SBDC Lake County Certified Advisor with 12 years of experience, to become the Director of the LCTH. Since joining us, Eddie, who is fluent in Spanish, has worked with over one-hundred fifty (150) companies providing consulting on numerous business initiatives. Furthermore, he leads GWDC INVESTS, a working group of 10 loan officers from both traditional and non-traditional financial institutions. This group connects regularly to discuss how we can aid local MBWEV businesses and the unbanked to gain access to capital.

People served by this program are able to identify and fully develop their business documentation to be better positioned to apply for various credit and funding options that have been hard to understand and to access. Thereby expanding business and/or retaining and adding jobs. In 2021, the Lake County Tech Hub helped with business plans and launches or expansions of 17 new businesses, helped create or retain 84 new jobs, and supported access to \$160,000 in capital funding. We actively canvassed over 80 local businesses to identify economic needs, resulting in over 30 businesses applying for grants and loans.

Now with millions out of work and a protracted return to normal, we believe that business support and remote video conferencing services will continue to be in high demand. In addition to our access to capital programs, LCTH has an active roster of mentor business owners who have been through tough times before and are ready to help.

In 2021, LCTH/Eddie Soto presented as an invited speaker to Waukegan Chamber of Commerce's "Wake Up With Waukegan" where he was able to share the LCTH experience in being a services resource to our community. He also accepted an invitation from Wintrust to present a webinar on "Virtual Networking For Business". We also helped launched and host, both on-site and virtual, a local chapter of "Girls Who Code". With Lake County's support, we greatly appreciate the responsibility to continue to help build and develop businesses and support our community, especially during these trying times. We stand ready to aid the County should they ask more of us. We are here to serve.

*Warmest regards,
Eddie Soto, Director
LCTH/GWDC
eddie@thehublc.org*

Voting on Program Year 2022 (PY22) Public Improvements Application Round was postponed as there was no quorum.

6. Staff Reports

There was no staff report.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.