



COMMUNITY BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Monday, March 6, 2023

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Overview

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) will meet to advance its purpose to act on the Guiding Principles for Community Benefits Funding set forth in the Community Needs Assessment.

I. Welcome and Introduction

II. Minutes and Updates

CBAC members present approved minutes from previous meetings:

- February 06, 2023

III. CBAC: Where we are & year 3 updates

[slide 4]

November 2022: CBAC commits to funding each Partnership for Year 4, provided that, for Year 3, each Partnership demonstrates:

- *Reasonable progress toward meeting the goals the Partnership set in its modified plan submitted for Year 3.*
- *Continued work with Health Resources in Action (HRIA) on all evaluation activities and qualitative and quantitative data collection for Year 3, including follow-up with Partnership- and Systems-level data (PARTNER tool, Organizational Capacity Survey, Partnership Qualitative interviews and focus groups) and Family-level Survey collection with families that have participated to date).*

December 2022: CBAC sends to Partnerships updates and Year 3 questions to respond to

January 2023: Partnerships submit Year 3 updates, CBAC reviews and sends follow-up questions to three of the Partnerships

CBAC and Partnerships participate in Year 4 Collaborative Planning Session and follow-up

February 13, 2023: CBAC sends to Partnerships guidance and questions for Year 4 proposals (due March 2)

March 6, 2023 (today's meeting): CBAC meeting to review and discuss Partnerships' Year 4 plans and affirm Year 4 recommendations for funding

March 16, 2023: Year 4 begins

~ May 2023: Family-level data collection ends

IV. Guidance to Partnerships for year 4 renewal

OVERVIEW

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) is excited about Year 4, and the opportunities it can provide each Partnership to enhance collaboration among your partner organizations, deepen your efforts with and for families, advance learning within and across Partnerships, with CBAC, and HRIA, and explore ways to sustain your work beyond Year 4.

As this is also the final year that Partnerships will be receiving Community Benefits Funds for this round of funding, CBAC is committed to doing what it can to help Partnerships during Year 4 to prepare for transition. At the January Collaborative Planning Session and the subsequent ad hoc committee meeting, we asked about and discussed “technical assistance”, and CBAC clarified what this means at our February meeting: This “technical assistance” might look different for different Partnerships and entails using already allocated Community Benefits Funds to contract with service providers (including and beyond HRIA) that can help Partnerships - both individually and collectively - sustain the work from this round of funding. CBAC will work with Partnerships to determine areas of focus for such services (e.g., strategic planning, marketing/communications), and to identify providers.

Here are some additional considerations as you complete your Year 4 proposals:

- Budget: CBAC is requesting a proposed Year 4 budget now. It may be amended as mutually agreed by the City and Partnership later in Year 4 should the need arise
- Evaluation timeline - CBAC is in ongoing communication with HRIA and anticipates that:
 - Family-level data collection will be completed at the end of May 2023
 - Partnership- and systems-level data collection will likely include administration of the partner tools in the latter part of Year 4
- Year 4 calendar - CBAC anticipates hosting more cross-Partnership convenings to advance collaboration, share learning, and the capturing of ideas for Partnerships and CBAC to use and share more broadly. CBAC anticipates these convenings happening quarterly:
 - March 16, 2023: Year 4 begins
 - June 2023: Cross-Partnership convening
 - September/ October 2023: Cross-Partnership convening (to coincide with HRIA evaluation report release)
 - December 2023/ January 2024: Cross-Partnership convening
 - March 2024: Cross-Partnership convening and celebration
 - March 15, 2024: Year 4 ends

YEAR 4 PROPOSALS - DIRECTIONS & RELATED INFORMATION

- Please respond to all questions as a Partnership, and please indicate if there are features unique to an individual partner
- CBAC intends to share responses across Partnerships and with HRIA
- Your submission will become a public document
- Please respond to each sub-question in up to 300 words, and bulleted responses are fine

1. Your Partnership’s approach to Year 4

- 1.1. Please describe the focus of your Partnership’s work in Year 4 and your Partnership’s goals for Year 4; please highlight what will be different from previous year(s).
- 1.2. Please provide a brief overview of how the Partnership anticipates using CBAC resources in Year 4 (up to \$250,000).
- 1.3. Please attach your Year 4 budget; there is no word limit for your budget attachment.

2. Your Partnership’s approach beyond Year 4

- 2.1. What are your Partnership’s intentions beyond Year 4? What part(s) of your project do you expect to sustain? What might be different?
- 2.2. In addition to what your Partnership has already identified about technical assistance, what other kinds of services and supports might be useful to position your Partnership and organizations to obtain funding to do this work and continue to respond to emergent needs of families beyond Year 4?

Our time & process in reviewing each proposal:

→ Review each Partnership’s proposal and responses to follow-up Year 3 questions

→ Discussion:

- What do you notice – what stands out to you?
- Based on the proposal and our discussion, does CBAC affirm its recommendation to fund for Year 4? Is there anything that changes CBAC’s recommendation to fund?
- What else?

CBAC discussion about each Partnership
Families Moving Forward

Just-A-Start Corporation (JAS - Lead Organization), Bridges Homeward (formerly Cambridge Family & Children's Service), Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge Housing Authority, Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR)

CBAC discussion:

- Not noticing any major shifts in Year 4
- I loved piece about staff going through training about habit formation
- To continue mutual support, they applied for and received planning grant through a different organization
- I appreciated the last thought, about how the City might support ARPA funding, build a stronger network
- They have an off-boarding plan and timeline – including helping participants transition to other forms of assistance
- I love that they are incentivizing participants – and how might they continue that?
- Moving forward, it might be useful for CBAC learn more about ARPA funding

CBAC recommendation:

- CBAC affirms its recommendation to fund Families Moving Forward for Year 4

Family Stability Project

De Novo, Inc. (Lead Organization), Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc. (CEOC), Transition House, Inc.

CBAC discussion:

- Impressed by:
 - The comprehensive list of services
 - The way the organizations are working together and specific projects they are working on together – there are discreet activities and synergies that may be able to sustain over time
 - Their no-wrong-door, coordination of services
- One place of pause is with Year 3 data collection; we want to make sure that qualitative data is collected from families, and our understanding as of today is that hasn't been happening
- Several of the projects they are identifying – due to ARPA funding and/or connecting with other orgs that are receiving ARPA funding – provide an interesting opportunity
- The way they talk about this, it makes it seem as though it has changed the way they operate together, even beyond the funding
- There is an integration of work with participants across organizations, but I do not have a sense of how they will be supporting work beyond Year 4; it is important to keep in mind that there are costs associated with it

CBAC recommendation:

- CBAC affirms its recommendation to fund Family Stability Project for Year 4 subject to confirmation from Family Stability Project that they will collect remaining Year 3 family-level data, including qualitative data

Port Arise Institute

Community Art Center (Lead Organization), Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Tutoring Plus

CBAC discussion:

- One thing that is interesting is the transition from the early days of the model, with the transition in leadership and Covid, the change in design – some of the things that were more community-based were not able to play out, and the work seems to be more individualized both with their cohorts and with individual families that are seeking support; they seem to be pivoting in the ways to do that
- I appreciate the new partnerships they have formed – which also seem to be about individual services
- They are up front about things they have learned and challenges – helpful for CBAC to know
- Interesting to read more about work of the Advocate – deeply individualized, and how the Advocate is looking at resources available within each of the three organizations and what they can provide outside of that
- Questions to ask of the Partnership as we move into Year 4:
 - Will they be working on a new cohort beyond Year 4, or is the third cohort, due to timing, moving into Year 4? And there wasn't reference to seeking funding for cohorts beyond Year 4
 - Their budget includes incentives for community advisory committee – and given that they are not functioning as planned, what are those incentives going to be used for

CBAC recommendation:

- CBAC affirms its recommendation to fund Port Arise Institute for Year 4

Strengthening Families Together Project

Cambridge Community Center (Lead Organization), organization formerly known as Agassiz Baldwin Community, East End House

CBAC discussion:

- Funding is for caseworkers, and when they talk about going beyond Year 4 a lot of the work involves caseworkers
- It is exciting that they are now able to do what they set out to – their model was to have all 3 caseworkers in place, and their goal to actually be able to provide intensive mental health support
- And great that the caseworkers are meeting together – opportunity for cross-learning across the organizations; it is exciting to see what comes in Year 4, including shared learning
- I like their answer to Question 2.2 – because they are spot on: it is not a surprise that is what families need, and really wanting to work with us to discuss systemic problems; the reality is that families can do everything right, nonprofits can do everything right – and we are still faced with needing to be able to sustain the supports. So, what can CBAC do to tend to these problems, and come up with solutions... could be job training/ other means to reach financial sustainability
- I notice that they are wanting to continue to collect family data beyond Year 4, when family-level evaluation is not present – how will they use that information/ data leaves a question to be answered
 - Yes, and I am not sure what data collection is referring to: what they are collecting, what instruments are they using (PEAR?), what are they using it for?
- It seems that what they really want is Y5 funding; we have money for Year 4, we don't have money for Y5 – at least not through Community Benefits Funds

CBAC recommendation:

- CBAC affirms its recommendation to fund Strengthening Families Together Project for Year 4

CBAC discussion about what it might learn with Partnerships in Year 4:

Learning about use of incentives – what has worked and what hasn't for different types of participation?

- Partnerships working on financial coaching – interesting for them to share models they are using with each other, and see what might come out of that
- All of the Partnerships have framed in one way or the other – how their connection to each other has supported things that otherwise couldn't have happened for families and their organizations, and there are lot of other forms of funding – ARPA, etc. – and I think conversations about how nonprofits work together could be helpful; maybe a potential to partner with the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition around how to advance partnerships across nonprofits
- We did not get a lot of information or direction about technical assistance
 - Clarification about resources for technical assistance: When we figured out we have enough money to fund Implementation in Year 4, we had also included consideration of a full year of evaluation and we have the money set aside to do it, yet we will are not doing the same full evaluation work as in previous years, so we have some additional resources available that we were looking to getting some ideas about

V. Next Steps & Next Meeting Dates

Next CABC meetings:

- Monday, April 3
- Monday, May 1
- Monday, June 5

VI. Public Comment

- I so appreciate how thoroughly and carefully you discussed each project
- I appreciate the discussion about evaluation; evaluation is so important, both so you know if funding is meeting goals and for replicability
- It is an honor to be able to observe this conversation; in our organization, we hear about common problems and challenges, and it feels hopeful that this is a piece of the future for the nonprofit – and for-profit – community, and we can do so much more of it
- I echo what the other members of the public else have said, and I appreciate the learning and details

VII. Attendance

Committee Members Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amal Mohamed • Elizabeth Aguilo • Ellen Semonoff • Michelle Lower • Rowan Murphy • Sandra Clarke • Taha Jennings 	Committee Members Absent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caleb Hurst-Hiller • Geeta Pradhan • Maria LaPage • Paul Parravano
	Community Development Department: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lev McCarthy
	Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Michaud Weinstock, dmw360 consulting
	Health Resources in Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Robertson