



## **Cunningham Township**

**Danielle Chynoweth, Supervisor**

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September 10th, 2020

## **Town Bills**

**See attached town bills for details.**

- Town fund = \$62,196.52 in expenditures
- General Assistance Fund = \$68,711.27 in expenditures
- TOTAL: \$130,907.79 in expenditures

## **General Assistance**

**Monthly support for Urbana residents who are disabled or out of work.**

- 147 Current Participants (up from 145)
  - This number represents significant turn over as 24 cases were closed and 26 new cases opened.
- 67 are homeless (66 last month)
- 88 males / 59 females / 0 transgender or gender non-conforming
- 43.9 is the average age
- NOTE: Community Work Program remained closed in August 2020

## **Rental Assistance**

**One time assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness.**

- 2 Rental Assistance (up from 0 last month)
- Note: This number is down to do the eviction moratorium and layoffs. We anticipate a great need for rental assistance once the moratorium is lifted.

## **Housing Advocacy**

**Support for township participants to apply for available housing subsidizes.**

- 25 of our most vulnerable participants helped to apply for subsidized housing to 7 housing opportunities.
- 4 have moved into subsidized housing with several more almost complete.

## **Disability Advocacy**

**Support for township participants to apply for SSI/SSDI and access supportive resources.**

- 1 SSI application started in August by our SOAR advocate.

- 1 participant approved for SSI in August.
- 2 reimbursements received.
- NOTE: GA ends when SSI begins. CTSO receives reimbursement from Social Security for GA payments made during the time of their disability.

## Bucket Brigade

**Stay-at-home food and safety provisions during COVID-19 for very low-income residents.**

- Buckets: 561 (Since March 25)
- People served: 1323 (Since March 25) Including 470 children

## Solidarity Gardens CU

**A collaboration to support #NeighborsFeedingNeighbors fresh vegetables.**

- The produce donation locations, Sola Gratia Farm and Channing Murray, have received many pounds of produce.
- Currently tending to fall crops and planning for next season. Collaborators met to discuss 2021 plans.



## Stimulus Check Assistance

Receiving stimulus checks have been particularly challenging for those who are homeless and/or low income, most of whom do not have a bank account. **As a result, in mid-July, CTSO applied and received a \$10,000 grant from Heartland Alliance aimed at helping homeless and very low income local residents receive their Stimulus Payments.** In April, when stimulus payments were announced, CTSO researched and produced a fact sheet, sent out a written letter, and distributed fliers to participants about how to access this entitlement. Case managers have been tracking participant success in their normal update appointments and found an alarmingly low level of success in participants accessing this entitlement. The township has conducted 34 hours of tabling at Salt & Light Urbana and CU@Home during the month of August 2020. In addition we conducted **21, one-on-one, appointments** assisting individuals with filing their 2019 tax filing, in addition to setting up email accounts, bank and prepaid debit cards, and mailing addresses. Although the tabling outreach event has ended, township advocates have continued to identify and assist township participants who qualify for the EIP grant.

## Fall 2020 Internships

Our summer internship program has officially ended with our Fall 2020 Internship Program in full swing. We have hired 8 new talented interns bringing their passion and skills from the fields of Medicine, Urban Planning, Geography, and Music. Our interns for Fall 2020 are Noah Middaugh, Jessica Black, Amanda Martinez, Shubhika Agarwal, Anna An, Enaaya Sayani,

Anthony Scarborough, and Kai Oliver. Our Fall 2020 interns will be supporting various ongoing projects within the township, related to housing advocacy, food justice & accessibility, policy research, disability advocacy, and administration. Managed by our Program Coordinator, Tomas Delgado, each semester our internship program has become increasingly more robust, organized, and sought after by high school students, university students, and community members alike. For the fall internships, we had to close the application process early because we received too many applications -- which is a great problem to have.