



Cunningham Township

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Cunningham Township Supervisor's Memo Valentine's Day Edition, 2022

Town Bills Report

- Town fund = \$58,304.61
- General Assistance Fund = \$112,705.67
- TOTAL in expenditures = \$175,967.33

General Assistance

A monthly grant for Urbana residents who are disabled or out of work, alongside support to seek/train for work or apply for federal disability payments (SSI)

- 61 current participants
- 7 are homeless (down 3 from last month)
- 38 males / 22 females / 1 transgender



Art by Ricardo Levins Morales

www.rlmartstudio.com

Education and Employment Track

- We currently have 1 participant on our education track who is enrolled in online classes and 3 searching for educational opportunities.

Disability and Wellness Track

- 7 participants have been awarded SSI/SSDI since July 1, 2021.
- 16 participants were awarded SSI/SSDI last fiscal year.
- 14 residents have been helped to date with intensive SOAR case management since our program started September 1, 2020.
 - 9 applications have been submitted, 3 are in progress. One case can take between 40-100 hours.
 - Our SOAR case manager is continuously assessing participants to see who would be a great fit for the SOAR program.
 - CTSO is supporting participants through the SSI/SSDI appeals process. 2 reconsiderations have been submitted and 1 is in progress.

Transportation Assistance

- MTD began charging bus fares again in July 2021.
- YTD: 38 annual passes at \$60 = \$2,280.
- 44 DASH passes, which are free for those who qualify, saving Township \$2,640.

Vaccination Assistance

- CTSO is offering \$50 to any current CTSO participant who presents a complete vaccination card at CTSO and \$25 for each child.
- Last month we expanded the program to all participants, mailed letters and made follow up calls.
- 41 participants have received this incentive (out of 99 possible).

Rental Assistance

Rental assistance for Urbana households behind on rent or homeless moving into housing.

- 12 households were supported with CTSO Rental Assistance last month, up from 6 the month before. Until further notice CTSO offers up to 3 months of rent as assistance within a 12 month period. Due to pandemic conditions, there is no minimum income requirement for support with back due rent.
- Emergency Rental Assistance through RPC is now closed.
- The [Bridgewater Sullivan Community Live Center](#) continues to accept applications for rental assistance from COVID-impacted residents.

Housing Advocacy

Housing advocacy for participants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access all available subsidized housing opportunities and move in.

Subsidized Housing Advocacy

- 258 participants representing 142 households received help applying to subsidized housing since our advocacy program began July 1, 2020.
- 61 households have successfully moved in or 35% of those helped to apply.

Pinewood Transitional Housing

- Pinewood is a new 24 unit development in Urbana specifically serving residents who are disabled and are awaiting SSI determinations and those on the Statewide Referral Network. This population is one of the most at risk for homelessness as their disability prevents them from working and yet they are in a lengthy process to receive federal disability payments.
- 13 referrals made for Urbana residents on General Assistance.
- 7 of them are housed at Pinewood to date.
- City of Champaign has referred 15 clients and 13 of them are housed at Pinewood (as of 12/10/21).

COVID Housing Vouchers

- The Housing Authority has received 163 vouchers for homeless and high risk residents. 50 of these were distributed in the first round, housing many of participants who had been unhoused. September 6, CTSO started making referrals for the second round of 113 “EHV vouchers.”
- CTSO made 37 referrals for EHV.
- As our referrals receive vouchers, we are helping them locate and move into housing.

Housewarming Gifts

- 25 homeless households have been assisted with the Township Housewarming, since the program began in February, 2021.
- This program is entirely funded by private donations which are used to provide vouchers to formerly homeless households to buy furniture and housewares at Salt and Light and Habitat for Humanity Restore. We have a partnership with HACC to offer Housewarming to their re-entry participants.



Bridge to Home - Homeless Services

A continuum of services for the homeless that includes street outreach, emergency housing, tenant based rental assistance, support accessing market rate and subsidized permanent housing – accompanied by housing stabilization services. \$310,491 of Bridge to Home funding is from an Emergency Solutions Grant from the State of Illinois, through the City of Urbana, which provides fiscal sponsorship. **Through September 30, 2022, services will be provided to Champaign County residents, after which it is expected these services will continue to be funded by Urbana residents for Urbana residents only, unless additional grant funding is received.**

Street Outreach

- CTSO engaged with 36 residents who were unsheltered prior to the opening of CU at Home's Low Barrier shelter December 27, 2021.
- Before the recent winter storm, intensive outreach was conducted with the goal of housing all unsheltered folks. Staff communicated with 12 individuals. 2 of these individuals were put up in a hotel through the week. 9 moved into emergency shelter.

Emergency Housing

- **If no other shelter option exists, short term emergency housing will be considered as long as the resident is meeting with a case manager, pursuing goals, and seeking permanent housing.**
- Last month 7 individuals were sheltered in a hotel. One individual exited to CU at

Home's Emergency Shelter.

- CU at Home's Low Barrier shelter, which is partially funded by CTSO, reached capacity last month and they opened their conference room to house overflow.

Rapid Rehousing

- **CTSO provides housing stabilization and up to 12 months of rent for literally homeless individuals and families in Champaign County, referred by Centralized Intake for the Homeless.**
- 6 active households. 5 households are single males. 1 household is a married couple with no children.
- 4 of those households are in housing and working or actively looking for employment.

Emergency Housing for Urbana families

Emergency Housing for families with children in Urbana schools of Crisis Nursery or residents with disabilities who are referred from CU at Home.

- Total served to date: 40 households including 43 adults and 62 children (since July 2020)
- Last month we served 6 households. 4 new families have moved in. We are currently serving 15 Urbana children with housing.

Utility Support

Utility bill support for Champaign County residents who face shut offs.

- 109 households served since program start Nov. 2020
- 84 households served this fiscal year
- 2 Households helped last month - both for water. (Compared to 8 in December, 11 in November, 18 in October, 10 in September and 15 in August).
- Ameren is not conducting shut offs due to cold temperature but water shut offs are still threatened.
- Dozens were referred to RPC's LIHEAP and the new COVID relief Water/Sewer Assistance.

Eviction Tracking & Prevention

New CTSO initiative to reduce the number of evictions in Urbana through advocacy for residents threatened with illegal or legal evictions.

- Urbana School District agreed to distribute fliers about rental assistance.
- 16 visits to eviction court to help residents facing eviction apply for support.
- Below is a table that shows the data we have collected on the volume of eviction hearings in Champaign County that have occurred since the expiration of the eviction moratorium on 10/3/21. (NOTE: Not every first appearance is a unique case, sometimes due to errors in filing, first appearances have to be rescheduled, etc.)

Champaign County Eviction Court		
Date	1st Appearance*	Total Cases
10/4/21	49	65
10/12/21	6	11
10/18/21	13	31
10/25/21	31	48
11/1/21	34	59
11/8/21	57	64
11/15/21	17	30
11/22/21	36	56
11/29/21	34	44
12/6/21	24	60
1/3/21	40	73
1/10/22	23	49
1/18/22	16	26
1/24/22	23	57
1/31/22	20	50
2/7/22	28	72
TOTAL	458	838

Digital Inclusion Campaign

A campaign to supply low income Urbana residents with smartphones, computers, tablets, and internet access.

- Distributed to date:
 - # Smart Phones and Lifeline service: 123
 - # Internet benefits: 18
 - # Laptops/tablets: 23
- This month's events:
 - We are coordinating with new host sites and monitoring the number of COVID cases to schedule February events towards the end of the month.

Bucket Brigade

Bucket Brigade is a collaboration with Channing Murray Foundation to provide a weekly food pantry delivery service to low income residents who request it.

- We are currently averaging delivery to 15 Urbana households per week.
- Bucket Brigade served over 229 neighbors last month, of them



107 were children.

- Bucket Brigade is recruiting more volunteer delivery drivers and held an event Jan. 26th to celebrate our accomplishments and recruit.

Winter Coat Giveaway

- We were running low on winter gear, put a special call out for support, and this is what happened. What an AMAZING COMMUNITY!



We are now asking for support to pay for diaper deliveries.

Solidarity Gardens

Solidarity Gardens grows and gathers healthy food and nourishes creative community in Urbana-Champaign by coordinating residents and affiliate gardens through land access, education, events, funding, supplies, and volunteer support. We are #NeighborsFeedingNeighbors #CultivatingCommunity

- Solidarity Gardens Collaborative has developed an affiliate program and designed a mini-granting process to support gardens which will launch this winter.
- SG leaders held a retreat this month to create the mission statement (see above) and plan the growing season for 2022.

In Partnership with the Cunningham Township & Channing-Murray Foundation

DIAPER FUNDRAISER

Donate to the Angel Donor Fund to provide diapers and baby necessities to neighbors in need!

DONATE THROUGH PAYPAL using the email:
supervisor@cunninghamtownship.org
or mail a check to **Cunningham Township**

You can also donate
diapers to our bins located
at
Cunningham Township:
205 W. Green St.
or
Channing-Murray:
1209 W. Oregon st.

SCAN TO DONATE