

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PY 40 FUNDING–CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA  
NON-PROFIT and OTHER APPLICATIONS #1 - #42 and #45  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014  
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Martinez; Co-chair Banta; Council members: Lyons DeJesus, Martinez-Walker  
\*Council President McCarthy

*\*= sat in for a portion of the public hearings*

CITY STAFF: Tyler Fairbairn; Acting Deputy Director  
Alana Kabel; Assistant CAO

Co-chair Martinez called the public hearings to order at 6:20 pm.

She announced that all the speakers present would have 3-minutes to present their program.

The committee members introduced themselves and their respective district.

*The programs were presented in order by Application ID# and Program Name:*

- 1) Hall Neighborhood House – Ella Jackson Senior Center  
**Funding Request \$26,282.00**  
**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$22,340.00**

Reggie Walker stated that they are the only African-American center in Bridgeport, noting that they have been in existence since 1989. The center is open five days per week; four of those days are used for the Ella Jackson Senior Center and one day is shared with the Aging Grace Hispanic Program. The services they offer are health and wellness screening, nutrition, food program, recreation and transportation services. They service fifty-five (55) seniors at the Ella Jackson Center and thirty (30) seniors for the Aging Grace Program. The funds will leverage the money they receive from another funding source.

2) Hall Neighborhood House – Replacement Exterior Security Gates

**Funding Request \$25,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$25,000.00**

Reggie Walker stated that they are in dire need of security gates that are broken, bent and don’t close properly. He noted that people dump trash on the property because the gates aren’t secure, noting there is a drive through from John Street and State Street. Question: Co-chair Lyons asked which program for funding had priority? **Response:** the Ella Jackson Center. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if there were cameras at the location? **Response:** no. There are 1,000 people that visit the building and they want to be able to screen everyone that comes in like they do for other centers. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they received estimates for the security gates? **Response:** they received three bids; the lowest bid was outlined in the packet they submitted.

3) Hall Neighborhood House – Security Door Replacement

**Funding Request \$25,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$25,000.00**

Reggie Walker, Director gave some background about the organization, noting that they have been in existence since 1996 and they are the oldest social agency in the United States. He relayed that HNH is considered a school and they have over (300) children and seniors. They conduct youth programs, recreation and performing arts. The funds are needed for new doors that are twenty-five years old and in disrepair, so they are looking to replace the entrance doors to secure the youth, seniors and staff. The doors will be a state-of-the art electrical system. He stated that they received the lowest estimate from Lindquist Supply.

4) Greater Bridgeport Area Pregnancy Prevention (GBAP) – Mi Casa/My Home

**Funding Request \$16,793.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$8,500.00**

Cara, Program Coordinator stated that she was a former city employee and the program coordinator for GBAP. The funds are needed to expand the hours for the clinical social worker. Currently they work ten hours per week and she said they hoped to double the hours to twenty hours per week. She explained that the program is a long term maternity home for girls that are referred by the Department of Children and Families. The needs of the girls have changed, noting that many have been exposed to abuse and violence in the home. She relayed a story of Maria who grew up in an abusive home that caused some trauma. She was eventually kicked out of the home and subsequently became pregnant. She added that many of

the girls have complex emotional problems to overcome in order for them to raise their children.

Question: Council member Martinez-Walker asked what population they served. **Response:** they serve eight (8) parenting and non-parenting girls that are housed at the Housing for Success facility and they attend school while they are in the program.

5) Frank Habansky – Black Rock Food Pantry

**Funding Request \$10,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$0**

Mel Orendorf stated that they provide food that is bought and given away. They have been operating for 5 ½ years. He noted that there has been an increase in food costs and every penny is used to purchase food. Volunteers help purchase the food and set up the food for distribution on Saturday. He relayed that one in six people aren’t receiving the right nutrition and help is needed. He stated that they also have a second distribution point at Bridgeport Towers near Captains Cove. They provide food and last year they served 1,000 meals for people in need at or below poverty level. The program is run by volunteers and 85% of expenditures go towards food.

6) Child & Family Guidance – SIHRY

**Funding Request \$40,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$0**

The representative for this program wasn’t present to address the program.

7) Town House Commons – Condo Improvements

**Funding Request \$184,200.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$63,000.00**

Lynn Evans stated that the funds are needed for a thirty year old condominium complex that has 18-units. Their annual budget is \$21,600.00. The complex has its original windows and roofs, so they need energy efficient windows and roofs and gutters. They are required by insurance not to repair them and have them replaced because they are in bad shape. They received estimates for \$165k and \$80k. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of people living there? **Response:** there are 18-units. Question: Council member Lyons asked if they could provide estimates for the repairs? **Response:** the estimates were submitted and given to Tyler Fairbairn. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they have commercial insurance? **Response:** they have insurance, but it doesn’t cover replacement of the roofs, gutters or windows. They have a monthly budget of \$1,800 but it’s not enough to cover the repairs. Question: Co-chair Banta asked who manages the complex? **Response:** CMG Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the common charges were up to date? **Response:** not all the of the members are up to date. Question: Co-chair

Banta asked if there are any units in foreclosure? **Response:** there is one unit that is in foreclosure that they are aware of.

8) Inspirica – Inspirica

**Funding Request \$196,860.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$148,075.00**

Jason Chaplain, CEO stated the program is for people living with HIV/AIDS. They are one of the largest providers of homelessness in Connecticut and their mission is to break the cycle. The need is great, noting that one-hundred million people live in or near poverty, which equates to one out of three persons that cascade into homelessness. They provide transitional housing for ten (10) individuals; supportive housing for five (5) people and additional housing for two (2) families. They offer services for health, psychiatric, dental, substance abuse and more. All residents participate in the Jumpstart Program to develop the necessary skills to maintain permanent housing. He mentioned McKinney House located in Stamford where they have doctors and nurses on staff. The program serves the largest contingency in Bridgeport and they have a successful record serving the population. It was stated that a total of eight (8) persons have achieved and maintained employment and housing. He relayed the success story of Eric who served in the military and developed an addiction, but he took steps to self-sufficiency and was able to obtain stable permanent housing, employment, has been promoted twice and is currently a supervisor. Question: Council member Martinez-Walker asked how they advertise for the program? **Response:** they work in conjunction with several agencies that work with HIV/AIDS clients and they receive referrals from hospitals, recovery programs etc. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if the houses are located in Bridgeport? **Response:** there is one (1) house in Fairfield and two (2) houses in Stamford. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the funding would cover staff salaries? **Response:** the funds will cover food, staff and other aspects of the program.

9) Refocus Outreach Ministries – **Promise House**

**Funding Request \$90,385.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$70,460.00**

The representative wasn’t present to address this program.

10) Catholic Charities – Catholic Charities

**Funding Request \$250,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$145,790.00**

The representative wasn’t present to address this program.

11) Alpha Community Services – Families in Transition

**Funding Request \$60,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$30,000.00**

The program director stated that they are the largest shelter for families in the state. and last year they helped (300) homeless families. The funds are to renovate the side of the building located on Clinton Avenue. They have 12-units and they can house up to twelve (12) families in the emergency shelter. They provide training, worship and they work with the children. They are building housing for larger families, noting that there is no other program in the state that can accommodate as many people. The building is deteriorating and it's not properly insulated and they had a frozen and broken pipes problem. The block has been revitalized and it was noted that they built a playground with the help of the community. The funding is extremely important so that they can extend the other shelter located on Brook Street on the east end for twelve (12) families that eventually transition to 1054 Boston Avenue. The program has grown due to the issue of homelessness in the state, so support is needed.

12) Alpha Community Services – Families in Transition: Utilities

**Funding Request \$50,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$31,000.00**

The funds are needed to make the building more energy efficient. Carmen Colon spoke on behalf of the program and stated that the program has grown not just as a shelter, but as a home for families. They have a family enrichment program and they make sure that they serve the needs of the participants. They served over two-hundred kids and adults last year.

13) Community Capital – Small Business Loan Fund

**Funding Request \$150,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$50,000.00**

Ann Robinson stated that they are a certified institution that provides financing for small businesses and affordable housing of over one-thousand units have been rehabilitated. They make loans to people when the bank won't and they provided \$1.1 million in loans last year for various business needs; \$150,000 will enable them to make three loans to businesses in Bridgeport. In the past they utilized CDBG funds for a daycare. The funds are needed to continue to fund the small business loan program and three loans will be made to eligible businesses in the designated neighborhoods to promote small business expansion in Bridgeport. Question: is the request of \$150,000 for grants? **Response:** no, the funds will be used to make loans. Question: Council member Lyons asked if the funds are used only for NRZ neighborhoods? **Response:** no, the funds are used for other areas, but they try to focus on the areas that are most in need. The loans are financed between 4% and 5% and there is a 20% default rate.

14) Upper East Side Block Watch – Sidewalks/ADA Curb Cuts

**Funding Request \$200,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

Helen Losak stated that they have been in existence for over twenty years. They have long time residents as well as new neighbors. They reach out to everyone and they hold meetings where everyone is welcome. They need the funds for new sidewalks and new curbs on York St. and Kent St., noting that it's a dangerous situation and not safe for the disabled, elderly and children due to the condition of the sidewalks and curbs. When it rains, the situation creates soil erosion, so they are looking to improve safety and create a more positive streetscape. Question: Council member Lyons asked if an NRZ has been created for this area? **Response:** its' in process and they are working with Council members Paoletto and Marella. Question: Council member Lyons asked why they don't go through the NRZ to have the improvements done? **Response:** they were told that the NRZ process is lengthy and she was there because of the immediate situation, noting that the residents have limited income and can't do the improvements themselves; so they need the assistance. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of people that live in the area where the sidewalks need improvement? **Response:** sidewalks are most needed on York Street and Asylum Street, noted there are approximately one-hundred people in the area.

15) Recovery Network of Programs – Prospect House

**Funding Request \$100,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$93,710.00**

Cheryl Bell, Director stated that the funds are for the scattered site HOPWA Program housing for six (6) individuals with HIV/AIDS. They offer case management to maintain housing, medical, help clients establish goals for employment and education. They are able to house four (4) individuals with HIV/AIDS and they are given priority. They are audited yearly, they achieved the quality standard for operating the facility and they are highly recognized across the state. They have other wraparound programs to address substance abuse and mental health issues. They generally pass the annual audit 100%.

*It was noted that application #25 would follow as another Recovery Network of Programs program:*

25) Recovery Network of Programs – Electrical Upgrade

**Funding Request \$19,763.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$14,000.00**

Tom, Director of Operations stated that this is an outpatient program for 18 to 21 year olds. They have an interdisciplinary team that provides services to client for alcohol and drug screening, employment assistance, recovery wellness and detoxification and long

term recover for HIT/AIDS. They need the funds to upgrade the external generator that will be brought up to building code and located away from the handicap ramp, noted that additional code compliance will also be updated. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked the number of clients that are housed? **Response:** they house nine (9) clients and they have twenty-five (25) staff members.

16) South End Community Center – Window Replacement

**Funding Request - \$26,500.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$26,500.00**

The funds are needed to replace the outdated windows that aren’t energy efficient. They will replace them with thermal double pane windows that are in line with the B-Green Initiative. Comment: Council member Lyons commented that many children from the area regularly come to the YMCA? **Response:** correct. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked about safety for the children during construction? **Response:** the center will be open during construction and the workers will try to keep it quiet during the day.

17) Bridgeport YMCA – South End Community Center - Program

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$5,000.00**

Tim Bartlett, Director stated that the center was built in 1988 and they have been in existence since 1884. During 2002, the doors were shut and then they were approached by the city to run the program that they operate now for pre-kindergarten, daycare and after school program. They also hold community and senior events. They need the funds to continue running the programs and for staff.

18) Family Services of Woodfield (FSW) – Work Skills Training

**Funding Request \$ 15,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$6,375.00**

Milton, CEO stated that they will celebrate 165 years in the community serving 15,000 individuals and families. The program provides behavioral health and job training for young adults to help them improve their skills. They offer three certificate programs in customer service and computer training. They received funds in the past for eight (8) people and six of them have gone on to gain employment and become productive in the community. He said he hoped to train ten (10) people this year in different certification programs; such as customer service and computer skills. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the work skills training are done on the premises? **Response:** yes. Question: Council member Lyons asked the number of people that received jobs during the last two years? **Response:** eight people went through training and all of them obtained jobs. They recruit through other multi-service programs.

19) Family Services of Woodfield (FSW) – Parking Lot Renovation

**Funding Request - \$100,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

The funds are in dire need of renovating the parking lot to realign it, repair the drains and lighting. They will also make modifications to the landscaping. There is heavy traffic of approximately 15,000 people each year who drive and walk-in to the facility. The funds are hard to raise and he asked to consider the funding as an investment that will last 26 years.

20) Council of Churches – Computer & Financial Education

**Funding Request \$10,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

Dan Broadshell stated that they were founded in 1945. They provide five different services for: children, youth, adult, hunger outreach and bridge building. They started the program during May 2013 for adults in the community and parents of school age children, the unemployed and under-employed and are hopeful that they can continue at the Boston Avenue facility to increase computer skills by an excellent instructor. The funds are for the adult services that help former offenders transition back into the community and the funds will provide computer training by a computer instructor. They will also hire a financial literacy coach to assist individuals and families how to budget. Overall, the purpose is for the participants to obtain the skills to get a job and then keep it. The training classes are located on the east side of Bridgeport. They are also seeking funding from other grants to implement a computer lab for IT training.

21) Chemical Abuse Services Agency – (CASA) Noble House

**Funding Request \$117,070.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$101,215.00**

Asher Delaney spoke on behalf of Noble House. He stated that they need renewal funding for HOPWA for persons with substance abuse and HIV/AIDS issues. Some of these persons are more challenging, because they are homeless and their mental health is compromised. They provide transitional housing for HIV/AIDS persons who also happen to be homeless and some have psychological issues. They offer case management and the goal is to assist them with living and more importantly; to provide the individual with self-respect and dignity. Although housing and food are basic needs, love is also a basic need. Question: co-chair Martinez asked the number of people they house? **Response:** they have ten (10) beds, noting that they have seen between 30 and 32 people that come throughout the year.

22) RYASAP - MYO

**Funding Request \$30,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$8,500.00**

Charlotte Collins, Youth Director stated that they serve the Bridgeport and Greater Fairfield Region. The program has been in operation for forty years and all are volunteers between the ages of 17 and 22 and 80% are Bridgeport youth who completed over 80,000 hours of community service. The volunteers receive scholarships for college and to date they have received over \$300k for college assistance. The volunteers work with grade 5 through high school.

- Justin, a volunteer stated that he has worked with the program for three years and although he isn't from Bridgeport, he has seen the results of the program for those he mentored. He expressed that he feels right at home in the program.

Charlotte commented that it's a model program that has been recognized. The funding is to continue training the volunteers. She noted that they see over 2,000 students per week in Bridgeport and they want to ensure that they provide the best training possible to continue. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked where they work from? **Response:** they work at the schools in the north end and east end. They average ten volunteers that cover the elementary schools and after school programs. Question: Co-chair Banta asked what happens to a youth who may have been in trouble with the law and is then released back into the community? **Response:** the youth is always welcomed back into the program to get back on the right path. They also assist with helping youth achieve their GED and many go on to further their education. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if they were affiliated with any churches? **Response:** they are basically non-denominational and open to everyone.

#### 23) RYASAP – Block by Block

**Funding Request \$25,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

This program is based on the idea that small groups have creative ideas, but there is no funding or resources to carry out those ideas. The program provides small amounts of money and allows youth and adults to come together to take charge of the community. When they allocate the funding, the participants have the summer to take care of the project. They have supported (675) projects and they provide a platform to lead and help kids stay out of trouble and focus on a project of their own. The more money they receive, the more they can give out.

#### 24) Liberation – Drug Treatment Advocates

**Funding Request \$20,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,000.00**

Jonnie Malloy stated that the funds will support the creation of a drug treatment advocate. The clinic is located on Mill Hill Avenue in Bridgeport and they serve (500) people per day. They serviced (780) people for substance abuse and there are twice as many more in the community with health problems and have problems with the criminal

justice system. The advocate's role will be to interface with the community to encourage people to come into the program and get the treatment that they need.

- Henry stated he was a Bridgeport resident. He expressed that sometimes, they need to bring the message to the people in the community, noting that as a person who used to be in the same situation; he's aware of the importance of getting help. He said he believed that hands-on will help those in the community who don't have a voice. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they have an Hispanic speaking staff person? **Response:** they will work with someone that is bilingual and also partner with an agency(s) that can provide a Hispanic speaking person. The position will be full time. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of hours the position will conduct outreach? **Response:** at least 40-hours. It was noted that it's not a typical 9 to 5 job and the person will need to make themselves available as the need arises to take someone to a clinic etc. Question: Council member Martinez-Walker asked if Liberation will match the salary for the advocate? **Response:** yes, but the funding isn't enough to cover everything. Question: Council member Martinez-Walker asked what the qualifications of the candidate should be? **Response:** they should have a good understanding of the Bridgeport community and they will accept someone that has been in recovery for a long time.

*Note: Application #25 was previously presented after application #15 above.*

26) Downtown Cabaret – Cabaret Children's Company

**Funding Request \$26,100.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,950.00**

Hugh Halloran stated that they provide free tickets for 2,900 children to see live theatre for those that wouldn't normally have the opportunity and they open up a cultural world to kids. He read some letters from teachers and students that expressed their gratitude and excitement for having the opportunity to see the shows and some expressed that they have been inspired to become a theatre performer in the future. Overall, it's a good cause and he has seen the results that the children enjoy. He noted that during April 29 through May 2 they will have twelve(12) school shows, noting that the Cabaret matches dollar-for-dollar.

27) Bridgeport Area Youth Ministry (BAYM) – Youth Program

**Funding Request \$15,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$6,800.00**

George Stoll, Director stated that they have a state-of-the-art facility where young people receive training and technical support on computers. The Computer Genesis Program selects (300) kids that have the aptitude and desire to go for further training. They are specifically trained for technical training and they gain hard and soft skills.

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28) Bridgeport Area Youth Ministry (BAYM) – Floor Upgrade

**Funding Request \$15,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$15,000.00**

They are in their 21<sup>st</sup> year and they serve (300) youth and (2,500) adults. They provide technology and support services, but the facility has soiled carpet and they want to tear it up and put down vinyl composite tile. They want to see the facility continue for youth on the east end of Bridgeport.

29) United Way of Coastal Fairfield County – Bridgeport HESG Collaborative

**Funding Request \$54,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$19,715.00**

Kathy Hunter stated that the funds are for the Continuing Program under the ESG program and the United Way acts as the fiduciary. They will provide financial assistance to fund homeless households in Bridgeport. The state was expected to provide the ESG portion that other municipalities receive, but Bridgeport didn’t receive the funding. In order for the program to work, they need rapid re-housing funding. They need the funding to provide direct financial assistance for twenty-five (25) homeless households. It was stated that they assist individuals obtain permanent housing, rent arrears and case management. They receive referrals from shelters and homeless programs and the funding will help Bridgeport residents with utilities, rent etc. They provide the check to United Illuminating or Southern CT Gas to help maintain household sustainability Overall, they have a good success rate. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked how long the funds last? **Response:** they didn’t receive funding last year, noted that they only received \$17,000. The sustainability staff works with the clients and they conduct home visits. They also provide back to school counseling and employment assistance to ensure that the family can maintain housing. They cover the area of Region-I between Greenwich and Milford.

30) Mid Fairfield Aids Project - Independent Living

**Funding Request - \$152,928.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$122,785.00**

Stuart Lang, Director stated that the program is located in Norwalk and they have been in business for twenty years. The program was created due to the reaction to the health care crisis. They have twenty-three (23) scattered site apartments and twenty (20) of them are funded by HOPWA. Funds have been received for the last thirteen years and last year they received a cut, noting that this is an issue for people that lose their housing. The tenant pays a percentage of the rent and they subsidize the rest. The hope is that clients will be able to move to a more independent living situation and a means to sustain a life in society. They provide medical care, medications, counseling, dental, food vouchers and other services. They are located in a building that is equipped with a complete HIV clinic, which has changed the way they offer services and much better. They were previously funded to provide (8-units) and they were able to stretch it

to (13-units). There are six(6) apartments in Bridgeport; three (3) apartments in Fairfield; two(2) apartments in Norwalk and one(1) apartment in Westport. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of staff they have in Bridgeport? **Response:** they only have one full time housing coordinator who visits the apartments. The clients meet once per month with their case manager and inspections are done twice yearly, as well as evaluations. The staff person lives in Bridgeport and they work in the office and sometimes in the field. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked what the funding source was? **Response:** it's only funded through HOPWA.

31) Helping Hands – Street Outreach

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$10,000.00**

April Bowen, Founder/Owner stated that they feed (150) people under the John Street overpass. The purpose of the funding is to continue to provide hot meals and clothing. The funds will target a population of one-hundred (100) people and the program supplements SNAP benefits that run out. They also work with Prospect House. The population included very young children and the elderly. It was noted that the dates and times for the meals given out on John Street are made available to the public. They provide other services, such as; emotional, bereavement and the staff is fully volunteer. The program began during 2010 and since it was originally formed, they have served more than (400) people per month. They also received funds from Subaru.

32) Helping Hands – Rental & Utility Assistance

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

They give private donations for utilities at a cap of \$150.00 and rental assistance at a cap of \$200.00. It was stated that they would love to be able to hire two part-time persons to answer phones, noting that they receive many referrals from ABCD and other agencies. There is a one-time fee sent to the service vendor for gas, oil and electricity. If the participant is served with an eviction notice, they provide shelter. The majority of clients come from ABCD and they assist when a person doesn't qualify for funds from them. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked where they were located? **Response:** at 1067 Park Avenue in St. John's Church.

33) Bethel Memorial – Bethel Square After School

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

Lorna Burke stated that the building has been around since the 1930's and occupied for the last twenty-nine years. They are a 501-C organization and they need the funds for new roofing and flooring. They received and estimate for \$65k to renovate the roof and \$20k to renovate the floor that was damaged by the leak. They are in dire need of a roof

on the building. They serve (100) families on a weekly basis and their goals are to reduce illiteracy and help sustain families. They teach self-discipline and assist with other financial needs, such as; filling out forms etc. They serve low to moderate income families of all ethnic backgrounds. The funds will help tremendously.

A participant of the program Salina Whittaker, stated that she has been part of the program for ten years. She initially came to the food pantry with her kids and then she received help for rehabilitation and did what she had to do to clean up her life, which enabled her to attend her third year in college. She expressed that she's glad she can now give back and lend her help to others in many areas. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if the program is located in the church? **Response:** yes and they also run other programs; this is the first time requesting funds. It was stated that rent isn't paid at the church, but they do pay utilities. It is their long term goal to have two part-time pastors. Question: Co-chair Banta asked if the funds are strictly for the building repairs? **Response:** yes and for the food pantry where they serve on Wednesday and Saturday. It was clarified that the primary funding request is for the roof repairs.

34) Bethel Memorial – Roof /Windows  
**Funding Request - \$65,000.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

Details for this funding were presented with application #33 above.

35) Bridgeport PAL – Youth Development  
**Funding Request - \$25,000.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$8,500.00**

The representative for this program gave a brief history of the program. He stated that they offer basketball, boxing, police cadets, drum & bugle corp, dance troupe, tennis and computer training and they sponsor the Christmas Village and Easter Village. They had quite a few youth on the Central High School team that won the state championship. The programs are supervised by police officers and volunteers. All the revenue raised is received through donations and some grants. They are requesting the funds to continue support of the various programs.

36) Children In Placement – Court Appt Special Advocates  
**Funding Request - \$25,000.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$10,200.00**

Denise Milanese stated that she has been a volunteer for four years as a court coordinator. She noted that Bridgeport is an active court district and the funds will pay the salary for the court coordinators. It was noted that last year, they only received a portion of the funding requested and they are being asked to service more children in Bridgeport; so that's the reason for the increase in funding. The court guardians that are appointed by the judge provide the eyes and ears for the children in the court system.

A child advocate of the program that was present stated that she has been doing this work for ten years. She commented that she has seen a huge need in the Hispanic community due to the large percentage of children that are brought in, as well as other children. She said that she donates her time and when she sees a child that has been abused and neglected; she needs to know that the child has a safe place to go. She shared a horrific case that she came across, noting that it's crucial to get these children into a safe environment.

37) Cardinal Sheehan Center – Building Facilities Upgrade

**Funding Request - \$62,150.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$17,000.00**

Terry O'Connor, Executive Director stated that they occupy a 133 year old building and have been in the community for fifty-two years. The facility is used for after school and summer day camp. The funds are needed to upgrade the facility and replace the center doors in the back of the building and some of the interior doors. They are also looking to put in a new exhaust system. They operate seven days per week and they work in conjunction with the Lighthouse Program and Curiale School. There is a summer program for (300) kids. Question:

38) Sickle Cell – Sickle Cell Outreach

**Funding Request - \$5,000.00**

**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$5,000.00**

Dolores Edwards thanked the committee for the past funding they received. They have been in existence since 1985 and located at 752 East Main Street. The program covers Fairfield County and New Haven, noting that although they sound like a big organization, they only have a two person staff. The purpose of the funding will allow a staff member to outreach and communicate with the community about sickle cell and trait status. It's important for the community to know about testing for the trait; especially for child bearing ages. She explained that if one parent has the trait, then they are at risk of having a child with the disease, so they are looking to continue and extend the outreach services. The funding will be used to hire a person in Bridgeport to do outreach and education of sickle cell disease, noting that it's a demanding job.

Gabriella stated that she was hired to conduct outreach, prevention and education for high school students and educators. She will talk about the disease and the sickle cell trait, noting that there isn't a cure yet for the disease and it's crucial to explain education and outreach to people so they can better protect themselves. Question: Co-chair Banta asked the number of people they see yearly? **Response:** they served sixty(60) people last year. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked if they work in conjunction with the health department? **Response:** yes.

39) Bridgeport Tabernacle – Street Outreach

City of Bridgeport

ECDE Committee Public Hearings

PY 40 Applications #1-#42 - CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA

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**Funding Request - \$25,400.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$7,375.50**

Shirley Williams, Vice President presented the program and stated that they have been around for eleven years as a service organization. They have helped over 7,500 low to moderate income individuals on the west side through programs that address the homeless or those on the verge of becoming homeless. The goal is to help individuals restore their lives. They sponsor an annual Thanksgiving Day dinner and they served 49,000 meals this past year. They have eighty-nine youth in the volunteer program and they hold a carnival every year where families have an opportunity to get together. They service the entire City of Bridgeport and no one is turned away and they conduct extensive outreach. It was mentioned that the program was acknowledged by Governor Malloy and Jim Hines. It was stated that although the west end of Bridgeport is their focus, they partner with other organizations in the city to serve the entire Bridgeport area. They also have a new entity for emergency relief services for persons that have no place to go. And they help families on the verge of homelessness. They provide a service to help work out back rent and help those transitioning into permanent housing and assist with paying the security fund. They want to remain stable in the community to ensure that the plan works for families and the objective is to assure that they don't fall back, but go forward. Question: Co-chair Martinez asked where the dinners are served? **Response:** at 1717 Clinton Avenue and they also visit shelters if the people aren't able to come to them.

40) Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust – Resident Service Program

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$0**

Tammy the representative for the program stated she was there for a new program that began nine months ago. They provide property management and they have a home counseling program. The focus is on the south end to rehabilitate units and they are looking to expand to get the residents more involved in the community. They will also provide job assistance, education and transportation. Question: Co-chair Banta asked where they were located? **Response:** they are mainly focused in the south end of Bridgeport and the east end. It was noted that they will operate units on State Street, but the funds won't go towards construction of those units. They expect to have 100-units done in approximately 60-days that will serve three-hundred (300) families.

41) North End Community Council (NECC) – NECC Youth & Senior

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**  
**Citizen's Union Recommendation \$17,000.00**

Richard Barr, President stated that the funds are for a recreation and educational program that is run out of Trumbull Gardens where they serve 200 to 300 kids. They have a sports program and senior program and they hold a Christmas party every year for the kids. They also have a beautification day. They took low to moderate income

kids to Six-Flags Park last summer and for the youth to be chosen, they have to participate in some type of community service and then they are chosen on a first come, first serve basis. The educational portion of the program is to provide tutoring and reading skills to help the youth improve their scores. The program is run strictly by volunteers without any paid employees.

Reverend Carlswell expressed that the program strives to be a balanced non-profit organization. He said he felt that they have been most productive, noting that they received acknowledgment from Mayor Finch for the work they do with the young and old. They provide balanced services to accomplish their objectives in serving the community. He urged them to continue funding the program.

It was further stated that they serve the Trumbull Garden area. It was shared that the kids had to plant a tree and help the community to be eligible for the trips. They run the program at the multi-purpose center with strictly volunteers and no paid staff.

42) APGD – Residential Program

**Funding Request - \$141,361.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$**

The representative for this program wasn’t present.

45) Healing Tree – Kings Pantry

**Funding Request - \$20,000.00**

**Citizen’s Union Recommendation \$10,000.00**

Jeanette Baptiste stated that the program has been in existence for twenty-nine years as a feeding program. It started as part of a ministry and it was the first program that began distributing meals on John Street. She relayed the circumstances of people with children not eating. The uniqueness of the program is the outreach on John Street where they offer sandwiches and they keep the meals simple of sandwiches on wheat bread and mayonnaise; to remain aware of persons with nutritional issues. They have another food pantry location where they give out meat, vegetables and non-perishables. It was stated that they have served the community for twenty years.

**ADJOURNED**

**\*\* CO-CHAIR BANTA MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DeJESUS SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services