

## Economic: Session 1

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Two attendees in breakout room
- Job training and youth corps advance equity more than some of the others
- Debt forgiveness creates inequity with those who did pay their bills → maybe a stipend to everyone?
- Lowest paid employees are not the same as front line workers. No bonuses for city workers. Private sector workers were hurting financially too and they also need help
- GRU and rent assistance have been provided before and it's a good idea generally
- Ones that speak to equity: job training and youth corps, Bidwell Center, GRU assistance
- Many proposals are vague

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Partnerships for job training help stretch the \$\$ to provide services for more people in need
- Need small business support to help reopen storefronts
- Ask what small businesses need to get back on their feet
- Could people get a free city bus pass and show they are travelling for job training or job interviews?
- Afterschool programming that isn't tied directly to schools or ACPS
- Seek out partnerships

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- I wish these proposals were more specific. Many of them create questions.
- How many potential people will be served? Which has the greatest impact.
- Impact on the economy directly relates to jobs and businesses. Focusing on that will help get things back to normal

- Re: rental assistance: having it go directly to the rent/landlord, not to the person requesting the money
- Participatory budgeting - would need to know what projects would be first
- If there is a secondary meeting on these proposals, they should be required to define the requests better
- Transition of kids leaving the home environment - keep kids active and learning and help parents transition as well

## Economic: Session 2

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- June 29 10am-12 pm meeting
  - 10 people attended

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Anything else you'd like us to know about the process
  - Not enough time, should have 3-4 weeks
  - Would love to see much better use on the facebook feed/ utilizing social media- not everyone reads the newspaper or watches local news. Find other ways to get the word out.
  - Communication was so difficult in this time period when there are so many different channels, the timing was the hardest part.
  - Trying to find google drive of proposals. Struggle to read things quickly and respond in real time. If there are ways to circulate the documentation in advance of the meeting, would support the idea.
  -

## Economic: Session 3

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 5 people attended- 4 participated
- \$1000 direct credit on GRU bills---support for this, GRU bill is high, personal experience with dealing with customer service and shutoffs.
- General observation/suggestion-positive that commissioners are on the same page in terms of money spent for GRU bills.
- Shortage of maintenance and trade jobs in Gainesville- some of the initiatives in job training are important/ support for the proposal. Provides more opportunity for people to have impactful jobs.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- GRU bills- Unclear as to who the money would help. Experience with residents not being able to access payment plans. What outstanding bills are they planning on giving \$1-3M to if there are no payment plans as of 2 months ago?
- GRU bills- More clarity on the amounts submitted in terms of GRU bills and if that amount would cover the actual debt. How do we prioritize if it doesn't cover the whole amount of debt?
- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Could be helpful to figure out where the different proposals intersect. The amounts are very all over the place and some of the proposals are so general and not specific while others are very specific.
- In terms of the process, could have done a better job in communicating about submitting proposals with community organizations AND in terms of community engagement
- Should look at hardest hit and most immediate help in terms of this money.
- What is the plan for oversight once the money is used? It's necessary to have a structure in place possibly through OEI that there is accountability through the city.

How do we check in to see who is getting these vouchers/services. *Ongoing* accountability to make sure the money is doing what it is proposed to do.

- There are a lot of complementary and not competing proposals. Suggestion to steer away from broad ideas (example non-profit support)
- More transparency on the proposals and community engagement is necessary. The community engagement is a drop in the bucket in terms of the entire Gainesville community.
  - Found out from city listserv, Gainesville Black Professionals, GINI.
- Participatory budgeting- Unclear on if the money would be spent for future processes or for this COVID funding process.
- Encourage commissioners to not only look at lens of equity but also look at the hardest hit. Example parks and green spaces, this money isn't for that. Keep the word emergency in mind along with equity.

## Economic: Session 4

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 2 attendees in breakout room
- Concerned more money is going to GRU and other things that are already funded
- The relief funds need to go citizens
- Needs to go to people who are hurting and have needs or their homes need improvements (needing windows was mentioned)
- Looks like they're trying to pay GRU first
- Need more specifics with money needed; \$\$ ranges are too big
- Like job training and apprenticeships
  - Community has always been low paying and talent is lost because people move to places where pay is better
  - Plumbing, electricians, HVAC, trade programs, etc.
- Should focus on maintaining skill sets of people living here: improving them here so they'll stay here and grow and thrive and help the community grow and thrive
- Support programs to get kids off the streets and get them involved, especially during the summer
- Don't pay city employees bonuses because it's not equitable → city should just pay the lowest paid employees better and not use this as a way to temporarily fix a problem

- Proposals seem disingenuous since commissioners are submitting projects they already support

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- 

## Housing: Session 1

- Wednesday, June 30, 6PM Housing Breakout group had 2 Neighbors join.

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- All proposals address equity in some way, which proposals give you “the most bang for your buck.”
- Affordable housing crisis is much bigger than just rehab
- Most of the issues people bring to the table are represented in this proposal
- Highly in favor of keeping people in homes and homeless prevention.
- Broad assortment is better than choosing one type of program.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Rehab is effective and works.
- Sees value in each of the programs represented, didn't see any programs that they thought might be wasteful.
- Landlord assistance program is not as “ready made’ as some of the other programs. Many of the other programs are able to get started immediately, but this program would be beneficial if we set up the infrastructure now.

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Loves that we are sending this through the office of equity of inclusion.
- Impressed with the way the city and elected officials are thinking about this program.

## Housing: Session 2

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Community land trust is an excellent way to address equity because it allows protection in underserved neighborhoods. Protection against gentrification.
- Low/ very low housing-deals with housing, it's the main community condition that would be trying to improve.
- Housing proposals generally a good idea, would like to see how they are tied to other things.
- Landlord mitigation grants- would be good, city is about to put in new standards and concerned how it will impact landlords. Good strategy to keep affordable rentals. Think it would improve housing again.
  - Likes that there is a commitment from the landlords to keep their rents at an affordable level. This funding is a real opportunity not to focus so much on infrastructure, but an opportunity to make some practical investment in the community. There is a huge rental market and rental problem.
- Likes proposals on debt relief
- Family Promise- great asset to the community, has been getting more efficient and numbers of people have been increasing.
  - Very well run organization

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Low/ very low housing- 8 million dollars is a lot of money

- Are there partnerships that could help support-love to see non-profits help (Habitat, Family promise, Catholic charities) that could help leverage those dollars
- Lots of non-profits working on housing but think it's a huge need
- Family Promise- how can it be more impactful, they could use a lot more money and they would use it wisely

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Low/very low income- great that it is targeting low income but it does need to have a holistic approach on how to tackle the housing market. Holistic approach means paying attention to low/very low, but the top and middle still need housing as well. Bigger inventory fight for those in the "top" and "middle." Each thing impacts the other.
- Match the money from the action plan to the proposal for low/very low income housing--would like to see funding tied to the data for this proposal
- Think about the value of being able to invest in capital improvements/ long term things.
- This money is best targeted to low and very low income folks. The need is most acute at lower income levels. The more we can target towards low and very low, the better off we will be.
- Include water efficiency to everything that has something to do with low income housing
- Have the commission think about some sort of limit when addressing landlord mitigation grants. In order to make the program as incentive and willing for the landlord, they have to be able to know they'll be able to meet their needs. Keep an open mind for the rent level because there are adjustments for other levels.
- Make sure there is provision to keep landlords from profiting off of landlord mitigation grants
- Family promise has already started to expand their housing units and this would help them make a bigger impact in the community faster.
- General feedback-not a lot of time from when this was read in the paper to this feedback process. More of a review of the current proposals, timing of it all is very fast and difficult to bring input forward. Hopes the commission stays open to new proposals as they come forward.
- What would a successful timeline have looked like?
  - 3-4 weeks would've been a little easier

## Housing: Session 3

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Didn't see much about homeowners and had to put homes in forbearance. There needs to be help for people who have mortgages in forbearance. Need to think about that before giving vouchers for new homes.
- Low/ very low housing fund- support for this but the proposal mentions other things in other proposals. Wanting clarity and collaboration with other proposals.
- Landlord mitigation grants for efficiency and stabilization- something to keep in mind to address the extreme need, not only keep rent level but a certain percentage would have to address or offer low rent.

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- People have so many things to worry about, they shouldn't have to know someone in City hall to find out about the meeting.
- Once the proposals have been prioritized, to have a moment where we look back on the data on who was hardest hit. Before finalizing the proposals, look at what everyone is agreeing on and check for gaps. Are we missing any of the hardest hit populations?

## Housing: Session 4

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

-

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- 

## Social Services: Session 1

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Providing access and opps for diff groups of disparities and marginalized areas, looked at access and inclusion for marginalized communities.
- Non-profits do a lot of hard work in community, they have lower salary & with increased funding can hire more people. Did not see anything regarding mental health services. Glad there is some funding made available.
- Some was not quite sure what need is being met like “undocumented immigrant neighbors” and saw no dollar amount but all appeared to be worthy causes.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Consolidating. A couple that say the same thing. Bring in more funding under consolidated requests. Work on partnerships would probably be more impactful.
- Need more details in description where available

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Would like to make sure ARP funds are used to meet needs in community that otherwise were not already being addressed by funds City was going to be used for.

## Social Services: Session 2

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Bold and Heroes- how do you verify who people are. Proposal not fleshed out enough to make an opinion

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- 

## Social Services: Session 3

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

-

## Social Services: Session 4

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

### **Social Services**

#### 7 Neighbors

Funneling money through established nonprofit organizations in the community that are already working in these spaces of need is the ideal way to disburse funds and reach people. They are rooted in community, a trusted resource and have name recognition for services offered.

Collaborating with NPOs is key to advancing equity. These organizations exist as a tool for local resource delivery.

Some NPOs are overlooked. Some organizations are funded time-and-time again (Catholic Charities/GRACE/ United WAY). Some small/mid-size nonprofits that do great work and great ideas need capacity building. Can money be used for contracts and staff support not just capital?

- Book keeping
- Fundraising/Grant writing
- Strategic planning

There needs to be clarity around how different NPOs can get consideration for access to funds that are dedicated to NPOs.

- Clear criteria for selection – what do you need to see from us? How will you determine which NPOs get funds.
- Submission access and ease
- New programs or only capacity building for established services?
- City support and navigation if there is lots of paperwork and reporting (capacity building)
- When do funds have to be expended?

Areas to focus on NPO:

- Food access (Working Food, Bread of the Mighty)
- Need Prevention (Partnership for Strong Families)
- Language proficiency – apparent during COVID- language access limits ability of non-english speakers to access deeper level services
- Disabled adults should be explicitly named as a group for assistance (dedicated skills training)
- Mental health services

Verde Point Proposal

Complex proposal involving real estate and physical infrastructure. No clear connection to advancing equity or COVID recovery specifically.

Food access and supporting local agriculture

Should consider investment in capital that supports food access and local farmers

- Refrigeration
- Refrigerated transport
- Place for food aggregation
- Commercial kitchen space

## Health/Broadband/Transportation/Grocery/Capital Improvement: Session 1- 6/28/2021

**4 Participants, 2.25 speakers**

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Payments for Vaccinations:
  - Lower priority, had more questions and hesitancy when individuals were targeted.
- Mental Health Vouchers:
  - Are vouchers particularly valuable, how do we energize partners to get the most bang for the buck?
  - How are they going to determine who will be eligible for the vouchers?
- CRP: (4 proposals)
  - Phenomenal, impactful, powerful. positive program, to be able to reach people around health topics.
  - Identifying and revealing challenging issues are found through this type of program.

- Eastside Medical Center/Campus/UF Health Site: (3 proposals)
  - What type of facility will this be: a clinic, urgent care, full service medical services center?
- Eastside mobility hub:
  - It will be fantastic if it gets linked with the other ideas, like the grocery store, and medical center. Cannot think in silos, and get to systemic thinking.
- Vision Zero Capital Implementation:
  - Are there other opportunities to link this to other proposals?
- Broadband: (3 proposals)
  - Internet connectivity has been a topic for our community for years. The FCC has said that money has to be used in areas lacking lines. Which is mostly Eastside and SWAG, low income areas. This would be a great investment, that would provide multiple generations of folks access.
  - If we want community changing infrastructure in the \$13-15mm range would be adequate. The lower amounts, not as much.
  - Local control of our energy and broadband is fundamental to equity and access in our day and age.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Payments for Vaccinations:
  - Are there other ways to incentivize that engage community leadership?
- Mental Health Vouchers:
  - What about serving Veterans? This could be impactful for this type of program.
  - Mental health services would be valuable for Re-entry programs.
- CRP: (4 proposals)
  - Equipment piece: continue to develop partnerships like with food systems, or the mental health and re-entry programs.
- Eastside Medical Center/Campus/UF Health Site:
  - Get all the partners in the room to have this conversation
  - Having functional medicine, and urgent care walk in. Focus on prevention as well, including maternal medicine, and food as medicine. A grocery store and medical center closely linked you could get a food prescription. Healthy food from black farmers to service the grocery stores.
- Broadband:

- Partnership with the county would be a valuable thing. It needs to be done all over the county.
- If the County could own GRUcom and GRU was the servicer, and it would be in the public realm where the revenues would be circling back to the City, County and the smaller municipalities.

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Overall:
  - Strengthen programs that help people out and to better provide services.
  - All of the projects are things people would be talking about for years. All great.
- CRP: it is a top priority

## **Health/Broadband/Transportation/Grocery/Capital Improvement: Session 2- 6/29/2021**

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Broadband- very valuable project and it lends itself to being framed through an equity lens because access is disparate by race and income. Super valuable place for this.
- Anecdotal evidence about importance for this money. Would improve service for those in need and everyone.
- Climate action plan- if there is money to be looking at climate impacts, this would be a good place to put some of the ARP money.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- Broadband- do not subsidize this or use partners. Mistake with GREC.
- Broadband-might include money for tablets or technology for kids education

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- Broadband- Broadband is a stand alone entity viable for funding. Thought that it will help everyone across the board. Internet is on the verge of becoming a utility and the City needs to get into the fiber
- business for the rest of the area. The city is in a position to give competition across the board. Please use this money for this.
- Broadband-could be served better to be written in a different lens. Not including diversity-should not be the main reason because there are merits beyond that.

## **Health/Broadband/Transportation/Grocery/Capital Improvement: Session 3**

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- 

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- 

## **Health/Broadband/Transportation/Grocery/Capital Improvement: Session 4**

**3 Participants, 2 speakers**

How does this proposal align with the goal of advancing equity? Or, what community conditions will improve (ex. Housing, health, education, employment)

- Payment for vaccination- not opposed to it but would want to know more about how this would be played out
- Mental health- not sure how it would address equity, not sure how large the problem is
- Health clinic seems like it would deal with equity better, maybe they should include mental health with this one. A medical center would be a broader viewpoint
- Mental health in African American community is a large issue, more funds should be allocated there, more resources are needed.
- Transportation- still a huge issue, would the terminal address issues of transportation?
- East side- after hour medical access, no clinic or medical facility and then the bus stops after a certain time.
- Vision Zero- didn't see this as an issue that addressed inequality, maybe down the road but not now
- Broadband- If people are back in school (not virtual learning), there are more issues that are more important that need to be addressed. It's highly important, but not sure about using half of the budget on it.
- Food facility- yes we need it, but we need to make sure security is good.
- Citizen's Field Upgrade- it appears it hasn't been updated in over 30 years, it's long overdue for an upgrade
- Climate- Not sure if these are the funds that would be able to world towards climate justice
- Fire Station 1 refurbishment- if UF wants it, they can find the funds to refurbish it, there are more things that need to be done. Would rather see the city use the space to support the people of the city. Let UF pay for it.
- Glen Springs Purchase- Don't see it as a big equity issue
- Infinity Loop Project- where would the location be? How north and how south would it go?
- Recreation Park in SW GNV- Not alot of parks, so this could be good
- Improving the city's built environment (downtown area)- We shouldn't spend this money on that, there's no equity in this. That's only for those who can afford to hang out there. We do not go down there, party and spend money.
- Bias-free cultural training for staff- This money shouldn't be spent on city employee training, this is needed though, just not with this money.

How could this proposal be more impactful in advancing equity? (Is the funding adequate? Are there partnerships that could help support? Is this proposal duplicative of any work that is already happening in the community?)

201087\_ARP\_20210825

- 

What else should commissioners know about this proposal?

- 

Other Notes/Feedback:

- Would also hope that we are gathering information from a variety of methods
  - It was difficult to access the meeting
- CRP Program- Did individuals consult with each other?
- More time needs to be spent on gathering information and not rushing through and gathering information
-