

# Bergen County Funders Briefing: Bergen County Government Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis & the Need for Coordination

Friday, April 24, 2020

9:30 am – 11:00 am

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Speaker
  - Tracy Zur, Freeholder, Bergen County
  - Julia Orlando, Director, Bergen County Housing, Health, and Human Services Center
  - Robert Esposito, Director, Bergen County Division of Community Development
- Questions & Discussion

# Current Bergen County Needs in the Midst of COVID-19

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# Medical Support

- PPE
- Ventilators
- Refit of New Bridge Medical Center
  - 30 bed unit in the gymnasium
  - 100 bed field hospital on the campus
- Testing supplies for drive-thru testing site
- iPads for long term care
- Group Residential PPE and support

# Financial and Food Insecurity

|  | Date | # Cases | Date | # Cases | % increase |
|--|------|---------|------|---------|------------|
| Unemployment                                   | 3/21 | 8,942   | 4/11 | 20,425  | 128%       |
| SNAP (food stamps)                             | 3/1  | 995     | 4/23 | 3,990   | 301%       |
| General Assistance                             | 3/1  | 141     | 4/23 | 648     | 360%       |
| TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) | 3/1  | 100     | 4/23 | 553     | 453%       |
| Meals on Wheels                                |      | 1140    |      | 1980    | 73%        |

- **Food pantries**

- 15- 40% increase
- Decrease of in-kind donations
- Postponement of fundraisers
- Volunteer challenges

- **Senior needs**

- Meals on Wheels
- Providing hygiene and household products

- **Housing Insecurity**

# Domestic Violence

- Isolation + stress = dangerous outcomes
- February-March slight increase in Domestic Violence Complaints (105 to 114)
- Data from China, France, and Australia have shown significant spikes
- Studies from other periods of economic downturn (2008 recession, 9/11, Hurricane Sandy and Katrina) indicate exponential needs in their wake
- Fundraisers cancelled
- Increase costs of basic supplies due to scarcity

# Mental Health

Expenses have included:

- Transitioning to telehealth
- Hazard pay for group home employees
- Anticipating that economic stress, overall virus-related anxiety, and isolation will yield a tsunami of need as this pandemic continues and in its wake
- Similar to 9/11, they are also anticipating PTSD and other ramifications for healthcare professionals and first responders.
- As schools reopen, they also expect increased referrals for kids going under the radar

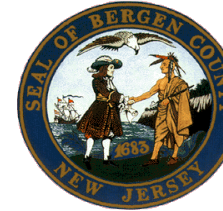
# Support for Small Businesses

- Small businesses will require significant assistance to reopen their doors
- PPP program from the Federal government is not trickling down to true small business owners effectively at this juncture
- Access to capital, mentoring, and in-kind donation of services will be integral in revitalizing this sector
- Similar to Jersey City and Atlantic City, philanthropic foundation support can be harnessed to assist and stimulate this regrowth





# Our Mission



**Effective Housing First Model & Robust Collaboration**

**One-Stop Location and Single Point of Entry**

**Prevent Homelessness / Rapidly Re-House Individuals**

**Permanent Housing with Supportive Services**

**Completed the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness  
August 2016 (First County in New Jersey)**

**Reached Functional Zero for Chronic Homelessness February 2017  
(First Community in the Nation to End)**

**Reached Functional Zero for Veterans Homelessness April 2016  
(First County in NJ, 28<sup>th</sup> in the Nation)**

**Sustaining Zero for Veteran & Chronic Homelessness for over 2 years**



# COVID-19 Impact and Response

## IMPACT

Congregate shelter is not effective during a pandemic:

- Impossible to properly isolate individuals
- Impossible to protect them from outside influences
- They do not do well under “Lock Down”
- Staff does not have proper PPE or Training

## RESPONSE

Transfer to hotels, then providing services:

- Meal and essential supply delivery, case management, vocational services, tele-med services, access to permanent housing right from hotel

Remotely working, providing outreach and contact services

## WHAT WE NEED

Coordination

Adapting/Re-Adapting: Finding new ways to work

Address food insecurity/Housing insecurity

Special Needs Housing



## COUNTY OF BERGEN COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING

- **FEMA**

Material Resources: PPE, Ventilators, Disinfectant Supplies, Testing Site Operations, et al.

3:1 Match

**\$3,000,000\***

- **CARES ACT | LOCAL RELIEF**

Non-Budgeted County, Municipal Expenses for COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, Response

March 1 – December 31, 2020

**TBD**

- **CARES ACT | HUD**

COVID-19 Supplemental | Community Development Block Grant | Emergency Solutions Grant

CDBG \$5,562,321 ESG \$2,748,124

**\$8,310,445**

- **PRIVATE FUNDRAISING AND IN-KIND DONATIONS**

“BERGEN TOGETHER | One County, One Future” Campaign

Possible, Early May

**TBD**

- **TOTAL as of F 4/24/20**

**\$11,310,445 +**

**\*Estimate**



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**  
**COVID-19 RESPONSE COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

- **IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS**

SEEK to Comprehensively Identify Health, Community, and Economic COVID-19 Response Activities in Progress and Needs Yet to Be Addressed at all Levels from all Sources

- **CREATE MASTER INVENTORY**

SEEK to Comprehensively List all Activities and Needs Identified from all Sources by Major Category with Key Information (e.g., Funding Source)

- **IDENTIFY GAPS, FUNDING SOURCES, AND FUNDRAISE (INCLUDING IN-KIND) AS NECESSARY**

SEEK to Identify and Address Activity, Funding, and Implementation Gaps in Master Inventory

- **PROVIDE KEY SUPPORT SERVICES**

SEEK to Provide Countywide Distribution Network for Delivery of Material Resources; COVID-19 Screened Volunteers as Needed for Response Activities; Potential Bulk Purchasing of Key Materials; Other TBD

Q & A

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## Discussion

Opportunity to collaborate with the county on the response to COVID-19?

Is there a specific need that can be addressed with more coordination?

Other questions for speakers or the group about collaboration in Bergen County?

