



COVID-19 (A Community Development Response)

Presentation Notes

Marie Morse, Executive Director
HomesteadCS
(Lafayette)

1. We are a HUD Housing Counseling Organization, a Community Development Financial Organization (CDFI) and we are the general partners in a Section 42 senior housing project. We are really just handling things as they occur. We were really not prepared for this.
2. Keeping Staff
 - a. Will be busy after the crisis
 - b. 4 staff, 2 at high risk, 2 with school age children
 - c. Volunteers:

Comments:

My number one concern is my staff and volunteers. If I keep them safe and they are valued, then they will in turn keep our clients safe and valued. We are all working remotely and working on ways to stay in touch. We are a very small organization and have found that we miss each other. I also think we will be very busy after people get back to work helping them keep their homes.

3. Work from Home
 - a. Computers
 - i. mic
 - b. Phones



- c. Pick up/drop off

Comments:

We found that we were not technology ready for remote work. We had to work to get remote access to all our staff, which is only 4, so not a huge deal. We had to make sure our phones could call our clients, but have it look like it came from the office phone. We had to make arrangements for clients to pick up or drop off papers. We have decided that one person will check the office each day for mail, documents, etc.

We had to learn how to use video conferencing and found out that most of our computers, home and in the office, do not have mics or cameras.

- 4. Community Loan Center
 - a. Making decisions on how best to use our funds
 - b. Loan losses will probably increase
 - c. Forbearance

Comments:

We do offer a small loan program in partnership with area employers, the CLC program. We are working on how to best help our clients, if we take on more employers, what to do about forbearance. We are anticipating that our losses might increase.

- 5. Trying to keep track of all changes as they happen that might benefit our families

Comments:

This in itself is a bit overwhelming since things are happening so fast.

Future:

Fundraising

- a. Special events
- b. Grants
- c. Donations
- d. Federal money



Comments:

I am concerned about how to keep the organization open and running. We have had to cancel special events, with the drop in the stock market, donations and grants are uncertain. We are trying to keep track of what federal money might be available.

My philosophy is that if I can keep my great staff, we will get through this together.