

Executive Director's Monthly Report – January 2022

- **RLF CARES Program** – We currently have disbursed nine microloans totaling \$345,000, or 69% of the \$500,000 fund. I have enclosed a spreadsheet of microloans for your review.
- **Annual Work Program and Grant Writing/Administration** – Please review the updated FY22 Work Program & Activities in your packet. Several State Fiscal Recovery grant applications were submitted at the end of October. We expect awards to be announced soon for these grants. Dougherty County CDBG-CV (Feeding the Valley Food Bank) was awarded this month and we will be administering this grant for Dougherty County.
- **Staffing** – We are currently interviewing for a Grants Administrator/Writer, a Planner and a Planning Administrative Assistant.
- **Redistricting-** We have assisted six local governments with redistricting maps/plans.
- **Mental Health Crisis** – After our discussion about the mental health crisis at December's Council meeting, Mr. Michael Bryant, with Congressman Bishop's office, followed up with one of his colleagues about this situation in SW GA. Upon review, they did see that GA is ranked near the bottom of the country in terms of access to mental health care. They will look for ways to increase funding for our state. If they can find a way to define states that have the lowest access to mental health care, they may be able to include language that would set aside funds for those states with the lowest access. Also looking at student loan forgiveness to increase supply of mental health providers in poor, rural areas. I will keep you informed as I receive more information. **Much thanks to Michael for his assistance and his continued involvement in our meetings!**
- **FY21 Audit** – has been submitted timely to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, the GA Dept of Audits and Accounts and other Grantors that we are required to directly submit the audit to.
- **Indirect Cost Proposal** – the annual indirect cost proposal, for final FY21 and provisional FY23, has been timely submitted to the Department of the Interior, Indirect Cost Division.
- **DHS Transportation** – I am currently working on the FY23 DHS Transportation grant application. It is due January 28.
- **GDOT Regional Transit Development Plan Assistance Program** – We had our kick-off meeting with the GDOT consulting team and are looking forward to working with them on this plan.
- **COVID** – We have had several staff members out with COVID. We are complying with CDC guidelines – five days quarantine, after 5 days, return to work if you have no symptoms or negative test. Mask for five additional days – but we are also requiring masking for all staff if they not in their individual offices.

Meetings Attended:

- December 16 – Mental Health Crisis Meeting, Southwind Plantation, Bainbridge
- December 21 – RLF Board Meeting, Camilla
- January 5 – Meeting with Mitchell County Administrator

- January 6 – Meeting with SOWEGA Council on Aging (Transportation)
- January 7 – Meeting with Georgia Tech/EDA Proposal, Build Back Better Challenge Grant
- January 13 – GARC Executive Director Meeting
- January 20 – GDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Reporting Requirements Webinar

Upcoming Meetings to note:

- January 24 – DCA Regional Round Table
- January 26 – GARC Economic Development Meeting, Macon & virtual
- January 27 – DHS Monitoring visit
- February 21 – GARC Transportation Group Meeting
- March 3-4 – SERDI New Executive Director's Training, Atlanta, GA (if COVID situation has improved)
- March 9 – GDOT TAG (Technical Advisory Group) Meeting (I am GARC's representative on this advisory group)
- March 13-16 – NADO 2022 Washington Conference, Arlington, VA (considering, if COVID situation has improved)

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at your convenience! Thank you for your support!!

Suzanne