

Citizen Comments for the
April 14, 2020 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Non-Agendaed Items

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Demetria Pope
	Address: 3100 Dian Rd.
	Date Submitted: 4/9/2020 2:52:52 PM

I would like to request the use of County owned property and support to establish infill property. While doing so conduct a trial to determine the effectiveness of intergenerational housing options.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Manuel F Munoz
	Address: 4180 Covenant Lane Apt. 308
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 5:27:26 PM

My heart goes out to every single one of the members of our county workforce at all levels and on every sector: health law enforcement waste & recycling every sector. We the residents are in perpetual debt of gratitude with them all and their beautiful families. My the Lord bestow upon them all abundant blessings.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Steve Urse
	Address: 1118 Waverly Road
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 7:12:41 PM

Your efforts to protect Leon Citizens and particularly the homeless and vulnerable are much appreciated. I believe more can be done. Please consider adopting an ordinance like Alachua County that requires retail establishments (including grocery stores) to limit customers to one per 1000 square feet. Currently there are far too many customers in the Publix stores not observing social distance guidelines. Also encourage stores to have one way aisles and protection for workers at check out.

Also consider making it mandatory for customers in all retail establishments to wear masks .

If the peak cover 19 admissions will not be coming until mid-June we need to do a better job of "social justifying.

Thank you for your consideration
Steve Urse

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #11:
Status Report on Leon County's Response
Efforts Related to COVID-19

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Yuh-Mei Hutt
	Address: 4089 Faulkner Ln Tallahassee FL 32311
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 10:24:31 AM

When a date is decided that we will be released from safer-at-home it would be nice proactive step if the county issues guidance on what the requirements will be for businesses to operate safely once released.

This guidance should be published at least 2 weeks in advance of the release so businesses can get clarity ask questions and plan for an orderly transition back.

Some examples of requirements to clarify: 1) would it be advised that we take employee's temperatures daily? 2) will workers required to wear masks to work? and what type? 3) will health certifications be recommended? 4) any guidances on cleaning requirements? 4) how long will these new guidances be in effect?

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Curtis Bradley Chapman (Toby)
	Address: 12086 WATERFRONT DR
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 10:55:12 AM

I wish to offer profound gratitude for the tireless efforts by our County Commissioners during this once in a Century pandemic. The Leon County Board of County Commissioners has earned my respect with the proactive approach taken to mitigate the effect of COVID19 on our citizens. Decisions our Commission made literally meant life or death for some of us. Our entire group of commissioners represented the citizens and Leon County in exemplary fashion. I off any and all financial support that the commission might have as well as volunteering for any needs of fellow citizens. We are indebted to the incredible leadership of Leon County. I forget whom to provide attribution but there is a saying. " Weighed and found Not Wanting." The commissions decisions and actions have been weighed and we are second to no one when it comes to leadership. Special Thanks to Commissioner Dozier and Commissioner Desloge for keeping us informed as we "sheltered in place." Godspeed in your current and future leadership! !

Toby Chapman
12086 Waterfront Dr.
Tallahassee FI 32312

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Kimberly Van Zant
	Address: 3209 Mahan Drive Lot 1 Tallahassee FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 1:39:50 PM

I read:

County commissioners could join their city colleagues in approving \$300 000 in funding to provide emergency housing for the area's homeless population to try and limit the spread of coronavirus.

I believe these proposed funds would be better off given to small and local business of Leon County. While I feel bad for the area's homeless population; it is the small business man or woman who will help stabilize our local community's economy when it is opens back up. Besides I hear that open air and sun shine was one way the country successfully treated pandemics of the past; why not give it a try here?

Some money should go the homeless population with requirements put in place; those that are family units that have young children under the age of 18 yrs old. Pregnant women. Physically and intellectual disabilities persons.

This is a hard decision; may God help you with this decision.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Beth Sisson
	Address: 487 Frank Shaw Rd. Tallahassee FL 32312
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 6:29:22 PM

If this is the agenda item to approve additional funding for housing the homeless I want to register my support and commend the commissioners for working with their city counterparts.
This is an important issue and can save lives. Thank you.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #12:
Community Human Services Partnership
(CHSP) and COVID-19 Response

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Amber R. Tynan
	Address: 2477 Tim Gamble Place Suite 200 Tallahassee FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 4/10/2020 9:57:22 AM

UPHS has greatly appreciated the opportunity to work in tandem with both the County and City since the beginning of the COVID-19 planning and mitigation in our community. We would be grateful for your consideration of Option(s) 2 3 & 4 as part of this item as Shington did a great job in putting these various options together.

As revenues decline and fundraisers are canceled our agencies are having and will have to make tough decisions if funding flexibility measures are not widely supported at a local state and federal level.

While each human service agency we represent has different and unique needs these options will provide that much needed flexibility to weather this uncertain and unprecedented time. As you know our human services ecosystem is on the front lines providing safety net services to our neighbors in need. From shelter and housing to healthcare to food security mental health and more - our human service agencies are working diligently to ensure their services are not interrupted despite the pivot in the way we can safely deliver services. We are also grateful for your unanimous support to look at additional options through IA/Blueprint to support the nonprofits in our community. They are the very backbone of our community that will be the very reason so many come out safely on the other side of this pandemic. Thank you for your incredible service to our community and thank you for your consideration of these options.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Rob Renzi
	Address: 6410 Williams Rd
	Date Submitted: 4/11/2020 6:52:30 AM

I feel it is important that Commissioners know the full story of the process this year. I will not go into all the back story of the issues with staff as it pertains to the CHSP needs assessment but suffice it to say the Human Services sector and staff were already at a spot of distrust and increased frustration. Nonetheless the application came out as scheduled and training was provided. A due date of 3/20/20 was set. As COVID-19 hit and as stay at home orders and finally state of emergencies were declared the agencies were in frequent contact with City and County CHSP staff. We made our concerns VERY clear - we made numerous suggestions and appeals to just suspend the applications and fund everyone at existing levels for 12 more months and redo the 2-year process next year. We made suggestions to run a reduced application process for just the money you generously added to the expanded promise zone we did everything we could to explain the multiple issues that could arise such as:

what if an agency was on furloughs and not working - what if an agency like second harvest simply didn't have the time - ALL OUR IDEAS were refused by Shington. Instead we got an 11 day extension. It is important to point out that agencies that are on the front lines - Healthcare CESC Hope Second Harvest ALL MET THE DEADLINE.

What is being portrayed as "technical difficulties" by staff includes 1/2 completed applications Board signatures after the deadline - Commissioners - respectfully these are NOT technical errors. There were 2 issues with CCYS and another agency - they were unable to get the system to submit - they contacted staff and it was in fact a systems error on THEIR applications - not system wide - it was corrected and they were given TWO MINUTES to simply submit - not a week to rewrite - 2 minutes - and they were able to do so.

After the deadline passed we again made suggestions - that those applicants who did not get it in on time - be allowed to submit - BUT ONLY WHAT WAS THERE - as IS - this would address issues like the Board Chair not available or having no access due to COVID-19. AGAIN we were ignored by Shington and he did it his way. Instead of sending a notice thru the portal as communication is regularly done - he made phone calls to HIS CHOICES of who would be allowed to finish their applications no public record just a phone call. By utilizing this method he is choosing winners and losers and it dishonors the design of the system to depoliticize these grants. These agencies were not given an hour or even a day but almost an additional WEEK to do whatever they want and then submit - as long as you are on the staff's "special list". Those of us that met the deadline and maybe were unable to submit our best work due to COVID-19 issues - too bad - we are locked out.

We ask for your review of this situation and how it was handled and we ask that these questionable decisions be overturned. We are not interested in punishing anyone in the sector - that is why I and many others still think the best solution is to simply postpone the entire process a year and hold everyone harmless and do a small version for just your generous addition to the promise zone. We will have wasted a lot of time and effort but it would hold everyone harmless.

thank you

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Jackie Malone
	Address: 6010 Rich Farm Rd
	Date Submitted: 4/11/2020 1:29:31 PM

It has come to my attention that the CHSP Portal has been reopened for the six agencies that missed the March 31st deadline (and any other agency that hadn't yet started an application) until Tuesday April 14th at 5PM. As you can imagine this decision made by staff has significant consequences. This decision is inequitable and if the portal is open for one it needs to be opened for all. at Brehon Family Services we worked tirelessly to get our CHSP application in and focused on not missing the deadline despite multiple attempts and requests to extend or postpone this year's process altogether. This decision diminishes the integrity of the CHSP process altogether.

I believe that this is a policy decision and should not have been made at the staff level. Here is the response that our Advocacy Committee Chair (Rob Renzi) received when inquiring in the decision of the portal being re-opened: "In regards to the application window being re-opened we have been actively engaged with many of our CHSP partners that are addressing the growing needs of our community including those working closely with us to feed and house the homeless and we thought it was extremely important to support them when they requested the opportunity to submit their applications after experiencing technical difficulty with the CHSP Portal. "

Specific to these referenced "technical difficulties " none of the six agencies that missed the deadline called staff to report said issues in order to get the software firm to rectify the glitches. We know of two agencies that did and were given a 2 minute window to submit following the deadline due to the technicalities they experienced.

I urge you to intervene and uphold the integrity of the CHSP process by NOT allowing CHSP applications to be accepted beyond the March 31 2020 deadline

Jackie Malone
Executive Director
Brehon Family Services

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Pam Irwin
	Address: 8530 Charrington Forest Blvd
	Date Submitted: 4/11/2020 2:06:43 PM

Yesterday afternoon I learned that the CHSP Portal has been reopened for the six agencies that missed the March 31st deadline (and any other agency that hadn't yet started an application) until Tuesday April 14th at 5PM. This decision made by staff has significant consequences to applicants who submitted their applications on time and to the integrity of the process.

As Executive Director of Capital Medical Society Foundation and Capital Medical Society I am personally outraged by this decision and ask that this decision be reversed. Diana Bixler We Care Network Program Coordinator and I had an uphill battle trying to get the application in on time but made the deadline. The week prior to the due date we had to set up our entire CMSF and CMS staff on VPN in two days following the FMLA expansion law enactment so all staff could telework and keep our We Care Network program open. Our contracted accountant was stretched completing loan applications for other clients. Five of our six We Care Network staff were dealing with the loss of childcare or school closures and all that entails.

As Executive Director of the Capital Medical Society I have concurrent responsibilities. I am closely connected to LCHD and EOC in providing communication updates almost non-stop to local healthcare providers regarding COVID-19. In addition I have a full-time initiative to secure Personal Protective Equipment for physicians and their staff who are caring for patients on the frontlines. I share this because every nonprofit agency and organization in this community is stretched beyond imagine. There were two weeks in a row that I know I had no more than four hours of sleep a night trying to keep up with all of my new responsibilities. But I prioritized the CHSP grant application. The funding is critical to the We Care Network program. Therefore we did not wait and try to submit the application at the eleventh hour or after the deadline and beg for forgiveness and more time. We stewarded our time in the same way we steward the grant funding we receive -it IS the priority.

The availability to reach out to the CHSP staff in advance of the deadline was not hindered. We reached out to Anita Morrell and Pat Holliday several times for clarification on the changes in this year's application to verify we were entering data correctly. They were always immediately responsive. There are deadlines for a reason in a grant application process. The finality of the deadline was emphasized during training. The extension was a gift due to the extenuating circumstances due to COVID-19. An organization's leadership not allowing a margin of time for "technical difficulties" is simply irresponsible and evidence of poor planning and ineffective leadership oversight.

This decision erodes the high standards and integrity of the CHSP process and the City and County oversight of the grant funding. Quite simply it penalizes those who submitted applications by the deadline. I respectfully request that the City and County Commissioners do the right thing and maintain the first extended deadline issued to all applicants with no exception granted including the two-minute opening of the portal to handle "technical difficulties."

Sincerely

Pam Irwin

Executive Director

Capital Medical Society Foundation Inc.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Debbie Moroney
	Address: 7787 McClure Drive Tallahassee FL 32312
	Date Submitted: 4/11/2020 4:28:11 PM

The integrity of the CHSP process was undermined this week when the CHSP portal was reopened for Agencies who failed to submit their application in on time. All our social service agencies have been impacted by COVID19. We have scrambled to ensure we are providing services to our clients while changing the way we meet their needs in these unprecedented times. The deadline for submission of this year's grant was extended once to give us more time to complete the application. The Friday before the grant was to be submitted on the following Tuesday by 5pm the staff of the city and county were unwilling to change the deadline and the agencies were expected to meet the deadline. UPHS came to the table with several suggestions about the process and to even hold funded agencies harmless by renewing their application for another year and allow those who wanted to apply for the expanded funding do so through a reduced application process.

I phoned for assistance several times throughout the application process and staff immediately answered my questions and were available to help. The application is a major undertaking and if you wait until the last minute to complete or do not review in it's entirety before starting you can easily be tripped up. The responsibility is upon the agency to ensure they take the necessary steps to submit it in it's entirety and on time. To circumvent the system when we all struggled to meet the deadline and the vast majority did and to then change the process for some outliers giving them 5 more days to complete an application puts the rest of us on unequal footing. Would I have liked 5 more days you bet but I didn't have them so I honored the process and completed the application on time. I don't believe I turned in my best work but I did the best I could with the timeline that was outlined.

It is important to review these questionable last minute decisions and to ensure the integrity of the process is maintained.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Pam Irwim
	Address: 8530 Charrington Forest Blvd
	Date Submitted: 4/11/2020 5:44:36 PM

I received this moments ago. It indicates to me that Staff is arbitrarily making changes to the CHSP process almost 2 weeks after the application deadline passed to unfairly allow favoritism in the grant process. Someone didn't get their application on on time and the deadline is moved out to accommodate them. The original extension was appropriately announced in advance to all applicants. This is unethical and destroys the integrity of the application process and those who govern it.

Please reverse this poor decision. Poor planning is not an excuse. All of those who turned in their applications on time were also experiencing COVID-19 related issues. Due to the COVID-19 crisis many of our agencies experienced hardships and challenges that prevented them from meeting the March 31st deadline; therefore we are extending the application deadline to Tuesday April 14 2020 at 5:00pm.

Issued by CHSP today:

If you have not completed and/or submitted your agency application you now have an opportunity to do so before the new application deadline on Tuesday April 14 2020 at 5:00pm.

Please sign into the CHSP portal at www.chsportal.org and complete your application now!

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Dana Farmer
	Address: 1990 Mallory Square
	Date Submitted: 4/12/2020 9:33:39 PM

I'd like to request money Abe invested in increasing investment in Rapid Rehousing. This is a well known and successful practice for moving people from homelessness and temporary shelter into long term supportive housing. This research on this is solid great investment of public funds. Thanks so much for your cosidreation.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Daniel Moore
	Address: 2912 Abbotsford Way Tallahassee FL 32312
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 11:01:41 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I am not going to debate the wisdom of reopening the CHSP portal to allow those agencies who were not able to complete their applications by the first extended deadline of March 31 2020. For whatever reasons that I may not be aware of this was the best thinking of individuals that I have come to respect and trust. What is of more concern to me is how we measure the capacity of those agencies who did meet the deadline in contrast to those who did not.

We hear about the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 crisis and the impact this had on some agencies' ability to complete and submit their applications on time. We also understand that the human services and government sectors have been under incredible stress for the past 6 weeks. (Has it really only been six weeks?)

This stress can bring out the best or worst in individuals and organizations. The sacrifices made by leaders and direct service staff who stepped up to provide essential services during this epidemic have been heroic.

What may be the best measure of the capacity of an organization is how well they also managed to complete and submit a quality funding application while at the same time managing the many financial and operational challenges that impacted each organization currently delivering CHSP funded programs and services.

I remember when The Oasis Center for Women and Girls missed their CHSP Application deadline and were subsequently ineligible for funding for that cycle. A deadline is a deadline it would be unfair to make an exception for one. So maybe these are different times.

However If you are going to allow staff to make the decision to give the agencies who did not have the capacity to complete their CHSP application under the same stressful conditions as those who did then you also need to inform the review committees and decision makers of this fact in clear factual terms.

This could be an email from each Commission to the review committee members to include the language:

ATTENTION: "Name of Agency" lacked the organizational capacity to meet the CHSP Application Deadline and under normal circumstances would receive \$0 funding for this cycle. However the application deadline was extended____days for this agency. Whatever future program or services this agency promises to deliver any assessment of actual capacity of this organization should be measured against this failure to meet the scheduled deadline.

No human process can exist without some bias inequity or partisanship. However including language such as I have proposed honors the capacity of the organizations who actually summoned the reserves to overcome the challenges in front of them. It would have been much easier to say "this is too hard I will not complete my application and then hope somebody rescues me."

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Dan Moore Executive Director

Ability1st

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Terri Sue Aldridge Lawson
	Address: 2595 Farragut Way
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 2:06:59 PM

Dear Commissioners

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the recent developments in the CHSP Grant process. On Friday April 11th I learned that the CHSP Portal was reopened for six agencies (and subsequently anyone else that had not already applied) that failed to submit their application by the March 31st deadline.

During the grant application workshop the deadline was stated multiple times and its firmness was reiterated throughout the day. The deadline extension to March 31st due to COVID-19 was a surprise and a much-needed gift. If I and my fellow colleagues who are working on the front lines to serve our community can complete and submit the grant by the deadline then others can too. If we're going to allow certain organizations to not abide by the deadline then why have a deadline at all?

As Executive Director of Widening Adult Vital Experiences (WAVE) I am personally outraged and heartbroken that a fellow Executive Director(s)/organization would have requested the opportunity to submit their application past the deadline when their colleagues facing the same challenges of overseeing the daily operations of a nonprofit while also dealing with the rapidly changing impact of COVID-19 managed to submit their CHSP grant application timely. Like so many during this time I found myself finding new and accessible ways to serve our community. Long nights of reconfiguring curriculum from person to person delivery to an online format for our adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities worrying about their health as so many have underlying health issues making them at-risk if they contracted COVID-19 and developing contingency plans for something that simply wasn't on our radar. And yet I submitted our CHSP application by the deadline with no issues.

The feeling of anger and heartbreak also extends to the staff that made this decision. Angry because it is a gross inequity; it is a slap in the face and sucker punch rolled into one to all of us that prioritized the grant changed our schedules around and stayed up late to ensure that we were able to submit by the deadline. I am heartbroken because trust has been broken. Trust with staff that manage the CHSP grant and its process and the six agencies that are now receiving preferential treatment. I am simply bewildered by the staff's decision. How did they think that this would be acceptable considering the guidelines given to all applicants? Furthermore what does this say about the staff's integrity as a leader and project manager?

Despite how I or others feel about what has transpired the real question and test is how this will be handled. From my perspective there are two options for consideration:

(1) Do nothing and allow the most recent decision to stand as is virtually guaranteeing a growing divide of mistrust and animosity and setting a poor precedent. Or

(2) Remove the six agencies that have now been allowed to submit (and any others that may not have previously applied during the original process) from being considered for funding in the 2020-2022 grant cycle.

This decision if allowed to stand penalizes those that submitted applications by the deadline erodes trust and diminishes the integrity of the process. I respectfully request that you and your colleagues at the City and County Commissions respectfully consider those of us that abide by the grant deadline and not allow the six agencies hand picked by staff to be considered for funding effectively making their submission past the deadline null and void.

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Respectfully

Terri Sue Aldridge Lawson

Executive Director

Widening Adult Vital Experiences Inc. (WAVE)

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Kimberly Galban-Countryman
	Address: 3248 Storrington Drive Tallahassee FL 32309
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 3:55:23 PM

This is in response to an email I received from the CHSP Support system that stated the following:

"Due to the COVID-19 crisis many of our agencies experienced hardships and challenges that prevented them from meeting the March 31st deadline; therefore we are extending the application deadline to Tuesday April 14 2020 at 5:00pm. "

I have worked in the human services arena for over 20 years and have never seen anything like this. The CHSP-funded organizations asked for an extension to the March 31st deadline and were given a very definitive no! We were told that we had been given a deadline that deadline was extended and no other deadline would be considered regardless of the current situation we find ourselves in with the pandemic. Most organizations including mine busted our humps to get that application finished while also addressing the increased and dire needs of those we serve.

Now the six organizations who couldn't get their act together to submit their applications on time had a member of the County staff call them and extend the deadline for them? He called them personally and opened the portal for them? I understand that now that all the CHSP-funded organizations know about this the portal is open for all of us but that wasn't the case at first. These organizations were give extra time that the rest of us were not afforded.

This process has been completely corrupted and the Commission has no choice but to take action. The only fair solution is to continue funding current CHSP-funded organizations for another year at the 2019/20 levels and have a new process for any new funding available.

Thank you

Kim Galban-Countryman

CEO

LBB

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Amber R. Tynan
	Address: 2477 Tim Gamble Place Ste. 200 Tallahassee FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 4:07:54 PM

As you know the CHSP portal was re-opened after the 3/31 deadline for a select few agencies (six agencies) that missed the deadline. As a membership organization we empathize with those agencies some of which we represent and understand the critical services their agencies bring to our community.

Many of our members requested an additional extension for this year's process and recommended postponing it altogether given the intense environment their agencies are now operating in due to COVID-19 mitigation. UPHS weighed these options with staff and while there was an 11-day extension provided from the original 3/20 deadline date (THANK YOU) there was no appetite for postponing the process altogether and as such March 31st was the final deadline. We accepted that and worked with our agencies closely to make sure they had what they needed to complete on time while encouraging them to reach out to staff with any issues they experienced. Some agencies did reach out to staff when issues arose others didn't.

Despite these attempts most agencies still got their applications completed in concert with determining how to shift to a remote working environment and supporting staff in doing so while also pivoting their clients' access to services in a virtual manner all while demands for services increased. Some agencies even made the tough decision not to apply for new funding categories because they didn't have the necessary information in their remote setting making it nearly impossible to make a rational case given the circumstances of COVID forgoing their ability to expand necessary services.

Historically when agencies have missed the deadline there were no special options available to them; ultimately adversely affecting their ability to offer services until the next funding cycle. A missed deadline was a missed deadline. Deciding to reopening this year's process after the fact sets a dangerous precedent for the future. That said we feel the following options make the most sense and/or are most equitable at this juncture and are as follows:

Option 1: Do not accept applications received since the portal was reopened on Friday April 10th and only honor applications received during the original deadline period of March 31st.

Option 2: With the portal reopened since Friday April 10th - open it to all agencies (even those who successfully submitted prior to the deadline) to make necessary amendments edits etc. beginning April 15th for at least a week.

Option 3: Fund CHSP agencies in FY 20-21 at the same level of FY 19-20; ultimately nullifying this year's process for veteran agencies. Run an abbreviated version of the process this year specific to new agencies as well as agencies that applied for the new promise zone funding added by the County and met the 3/31 deadline.

As the organization that provides capacity building support and opportunities to our human service organizations and represents their collective voice in the community we see first-hand the importance of their work to ensuring the quality of life of our neighbors in Tallahassee-Leon County. We hope you too see the value in their work given your continued commitment to CHSP the last two decades and do what's right in rectifying this decision.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of doing what's fair and equitable for the entire human services ecosystem and thank you for your service.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Lt. Ryan Meo
	Address: 7100 Summit Ridge Dr.
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 4:49:16 PM

On behalf of our team at The Salvation Army of Tallahassee as well as our volunteer advisory board donors and the neighbors we serve every day we thank you for the opportunities we have to partner with you in service to the residents of Leon County. We are very appreciative of your decision to extend the deadline for CHSP in light of the rapidly evolving social and economic response to Covid19. This extension gave us time to work through some technical difficulties and get the support we needed to submit the application successfully. As the situation evolves and the economic and social landscape continues to fundamentally shift we know that many of our neighbors will be disproportionately effected by these changes and our social safety net will become more critical than ever. We anticipate that there will be individuals and families who come to us for financial emotional and spiritual support that may have never needed to seek this kind of assistance before.

It is for these reasons that we look forward to partnering with Leon County City of Tallahassee Big Bend COC to convert our Family Store and create a temporary Community Relief Center at our facility to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and to provide meals to other temporary shelter operations.

We would also like to thank the wonderful staff from Leon County and City of Tallahassee especially Shington Lamy Abena Otejayo Pat Holiday and Anita Morrell who have been incredibly supportive to our team.

The Salvation Army has been serving this community since 1951 and now more than ever we remain committed to meeting the evolving needs of this community and carrying out our mission to "preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

With gratitude

Lt. Ryan Meo

Corps Officer serving Leon Gadsden and Wakulla Counties

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Carrie Litherland
	Address: 1336 Jackson St Tallahassee Florida 32303
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 5:11:21 PM

Good evening Commissioners

I hope each of you got the chance to enjoy the holiday weekend with your loved ones and are doing as well as you can be during this very difficult time.

I am reaching out to you today in regards to the CHSP process and information our organization just received.

On Friday April 10th we were made aware by UPHS that City and County staff had decided to re-open the CHSP application portal exclusively to six agencies who had not finished or submitted an application on the due date (March 31st). On Saturday we received an email through the application portal website saying the portal would be open for anyone to make changes until 5pm Tuesday April 14th. While this is better than only opening the portal to six agencies it is still not an equitable solution as organizations who submitted on March 31st were told this would never be an option. Specifically we were told on a call with City and County staff on March 24th there would not be any additional time considered. I sent an email to both City and County staff outlining my concerns with this decision right after the March 24th phone call to which I did not receive any response. Therefore these six agencies have had an additional 10 days outside the portal to prepare their changes.

We ask that you correct this inequity and preserve the integrity of the CHSP process through one of three options.

Option 1

We recommend funding agencies in FY 20-21 at the same level of FY 19-20; ultimately nullifying this year's process for veteran agencies and run an abbreviated version of the process for the new promise zone monies and new agencies that MET the 3/31 deadline.

Option 2

Since the portal is now re-open open it for all agencies (even those of us who have previously submitted) to make amendments and edits to your applications for an additional one week (7 business days) beginning Wednesday April 15th.

Option 3

Only accept the applications submitted by the original March 31st deadline.

Thank you all for your consideration of this matter and please feel free to call me with any questions.

Best

Carrie Litherland

Executive Director

The Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Randall Nicklaus
	Address: 4482 Argyle Lane
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 6:23:26 PM

Dear Commissioners

I appreciate your efforts to support CHSP funded services. However I have concerns about how the CHSP application portal was reopened after the initial/extended deadline of 3/31/20. I saw a CHSP portal email announcement yesterday informing everyone that the portal was reopened for agencies that hadn't completed their applications by the extended deadline. Typically agencies that have missed deadlines in the past were not considered for funding. My team worked extra long hours prior to COVID-19 and the extended deadline to get our application submitted on time.

There are a lot of stresses on all of us and now there are additional concerns as to how the newly extended CHSP deadline may affect next years funding to agencies that were funded this year. There have been several disruptions changes and confusions to this year's CHSP processes. We are all providing important if not essential services to our community. Please consider this option: Fund CHSP agencies in FY 20-21 at the same level of FY 19-20. Even though it would nullify the work we put into this year's applications I would assume that most of the funded agencies asked for the same level of funding for next year because we were aware that new funding was not available. Thank you for considering my comments. Randy Nicklaus President 2-1-1 Big Bend

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Mickey S. Moore
	Address: 3243 Stanhope Dr
	Date Submitted: 4/14/2020 10:24:13 AM

As a consultant serving many nonprofit organizations in our county I encourage you all to consider Options 2 3 and 4 for Item 12 (CHSP and COVID19 update). Personally I have witnessed many nonprofit organizations continue to progress and to advance their programs and services in the very face of COVID19 - knowing their clients will need them even more.

Despite having to cancel revenue generating events and having to restructure their fundraising strategies retreating is still not an option for most of them on the front lines.

We are fortunate to have a strong collaborative effort in the City & County partnership via CHSP to support our human service organizations. Thank you all for your commitment and work on behalf of our community and for identifying ways to further impact the lives of our residents during these difficult times.

Mickey S. Moore

Moore Business Strategies

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Nicholas Swaine
	Address: 1632 Eagles Landing Blvd Apt 96 Tallahassee FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 4/14/2020 11:38:01 AM

I am writing to express concern that the CHSP application process has become corrupted. As Board President for LBB (Lighthouse of the Big Bend) I worked closely with our CEO to push through the application ensuring that we were able to at least reapply for programs previously (and generously) funded.

I am somewhat dismayed that several organizations were given priority access to revamp and submit their applications after the deadline which had been published as firm. This puts nonprofits on uneven ground when competing for resources under the grant and potentially exposes the county to risk. Even the later opening of the deadline for all agencies after the fact is insufficient as we were not given the same courtesy as the select few agencies who were perhaps persuasive enough or connected enough to be considered for additional accommodation.

I strongly suggest the commission look into suspending the application process and extend the grants currently in play for one calendar year such that the commission may investigate and provide guidance in ensuring future funding cycles are free from potential political issues.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Tim Center
	Address: 1218 Camellia Drive
	Date Submitted: 4/14/2020 12:20:04 PM

As the CEO of a CHSP-funded agency I am thankful for the dedication of the commitment of the County and City to help fund jointly social services to help us serve our community. We were grateful for the decision of the County and City to continue the joint funding after the United Way withdrawal. We were grateful for the modifications made to the online application through the CHSP portal. We were grateful for the initial extension of the deadline to accommodate our ability to submit a grant in the new operating environment given the needed response to the pandemic. And we were grateful for the conference call that invited all potential agencies to share their concerns ask questions and re-affirm our intent to submit applications by the March 31 2020 deadline.

In what has traditionally been a transparent process with rules that apply to all applicants I am gravely concerned that the County and City have abandoned a fair process in order to accommodate a handful of organizations that did not meet the application deadline.

It is reported that staff contacted some agencies that missed the deadline and did not submit their application according the rules that apply to everyone. These agencies were informed that they would be permitted to apply after the deadline.

Once this information was made widely known the CHSP process was amended without policy direction from the Commissions to re-open the CHSP process. Agencies that did not submit their applications have used this opportunity to more than double their initial requests. This is an insult to the 90 agencies that were able to make the deadline and follow the rules.

The attempt to re-open the process has created more problems that it was intended to help solve.

My agency has missed the deadline before. We did not complain lobby or seek relief for failing to meet basic requirements. There is a natural - yet unfortunate - consequence when you do not make the deadline. All organizations must be held to the same standard.

I urge the Commission to close the CHSP application process and follow its publicly posted deadlines and process. To do anything else is unfair to those who follow the rules. And re-opening the process more than a week after the deadline undermines the trust in the process used to distribute public funds.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #14:

Actions Taken in Response to the Financial
Impact of COVID-19 and Tourist
Development Tax Collections

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 14	Name: John Outland
	Address: 1562 Tung Hill Drive
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 10:43:29 AM

Commissioners

Thanks for the update and it is good to know that there are several revenue sources to meet some of the needs of our business community. Unfortunately there are other community needs that may not be covered by these resources and we do not know how long the pandemic conditions will last. My comments (below) addressed other needs and that BP funds should be considered for use as they will likely not qualify for the federal or state dollars. Let's not forget the non-profits affordable housing and maintenance of existing infrastructure. These too have positive community wide economic benefits.

Regards

John

Small businesses and organizations that can demonstrate need and that support the community wide needs during this crisis particularly those that represent low income/poverty families.

Affordable housing construction projects supported by Habitat for Humanity.

Those non-profit social services that depend upon donations such as Elder Care Services Second Harvest Children Services St. Francis Wildlife etc.

Maintenance of existing infrastructure needs that support the community at large including road resurfacing sanitary sewer and storm water facility maintenance backlog.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 14	Name: Kathleen Spehar
	Address: 1410 Chocksacka Nene
	Date Submitted: 4/13/2020 7:52:58 PM

In her just-released LP All In This Together soul legend Mavis Staples sings these poignant lyrics:

"We're all in it together
Every boy and every girl
We've all got to get it together
Everybody in the world."

Mavis must have sensed what is happening in Leon County. As COVID-19 has raced through our community everybody has been impacted. The Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) has stepped into a multitudes of roles pivoting services 100% online initiating new online events programming calendars; social media campaigns; new initiatives in education tourism communication; working with several organizations individuals and grantees on how to partner or with grantees on ways to service community needs in a new way. Also through COCA 86% of its TDT (Tourism Development Tax) funding is re-granted to support the important work of arts & culture organizations who serve residents and visitors year around. With the projected reduction in TDT support for the remainder of the fiscal year keeping the current 1-penny TDT revenue allocation with COCA is crucial. Our community and county depend on these organizations to continue their year-around programming now adapted to the changing COVID-19 landscape.

COCA also confirms its commitment to supporting grantees partners community and the county through a combination of expense reduction and revenue-generating initiatives. This includes initiating a spending freeze reducing its operating budget and seeking stimulus from new resources.

Through these changes we'll discover new ways to work together for our greater good. I encourage the county to continue its support of arts and culture and COCA stands with our community to do its part. The melody may change or harmony differ but we're all in this together singing this song to the end.

Sincerely Kathleen Spehar Executive Director Council on Culture & Arts

The following Citizen Comments
are duplicate records
and/or appear to be spam.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Demetria Pope
	Address: 3100 Dian Rd.
	Date Submitted: 4/9/2020 2:53:30 PM

I would like to request the use of County owned property and support to establish infill property. While doing so conduct a trial to determine the effectiveness of intergenerational housing options.

Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Stanisfawa Pafotka
	Address: Ul. Henryka Sienkiewicza 114A/1 50-347 Wrocfaw dolnoslqskie Sr6dmiescie Poland
	Date Submitted: 4/9/2020 12:30:30 PM

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Board of County Commissioners, April 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Stanisfawa Pafotka
	Address: Ul. Henryka Sienkiewicza 114A/1 50-347 Wrocfaw dolnoslqskie Sr6dmiescie Poland
	Date Submitted: 4/9/2020 12:35:19 PM

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