



Community and Economic Development (CED) Committee  
Report to Executive Committee and UAC Board of Directors

Co-chairs: William Smith and Rick Sauer

Staff Lead: Jojoy Varghese, Director, CED Department

Last meeting: September 29th, 2020

- CED Committee: The CED Committee met virtually on September 29<sup>th</sup> to hear from 3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilmember Jamie Gauthier, and to learn more about her *Council Agenda Rooted in Equity* plans. Additionally, the CED Committee held a special session on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Fellow CED member, and Executive Director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, Greg Heller, pitched the City's Home Improvement Loan RFP in an effort to gain further bank support. The next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and will be held virtually. Continue to visit [CEDphilly.org](http://CEDphilly.org)! CED has created a COVID-19 Resource webpage that is updated regularly with relevant information regarding Housing/Mortgage, Personal Finance, Small Business, and General Resources.
- Housing & Foreclosure Prevention: The Housing & Foreclosure Prevention subcommittee is scheduled to meet the week of October 26th. The main topic of discussion will be the starting efforts on updating the 2021 Foreclosure Prevention Resource Guide, as well as working towards establishing a Diversion Court Program in Delaware County, which would mean all five counties in the region would have this helpful process in place to keep families in their homes. The distribution of the 2020 Foreclosure Prevention Resource Guide has been placed on hold during the pandemic. However, the pdf version remains updated and available to download on CED's new website.
- Financial Wellness: All in-person financial workshops and FAN Clubs have been put on hold. However, CED is offering the programs in an online platform. Three FAN Clubs have graduated, Belmont Charter, Saul B. High School, and Project WoW. A second FAN Club with Belmont Charter is currently underway. CED has completed 26 virtual workshops. The workshop partners include the Veterans Administration, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Anti-Hunger Coalition. CED FAN Clubs and workshops have served over 350 individuals since July 1, 2020. CED is working to schedule the next subcommittee meeting for late October/early November.
- Employer Assisted Housing: Philadelphia Home.Buy.Now (HBN) remains available as down payment assistance to any employee working for a participating employer. As of October 15 2020, we have successfully completed 10 grants from various employers throughout the city and have one applicant currently in the pipeline. The BanksGiving Company has been recently added to the HBN Employer Network. Jojoy presented the HBN program virtually to 30-40 small business owners in South Philly on October 15, 2020. Efforts have commenced to start updating and publishing our 2021 PBN Program Packet. Please consider signing your organization or company to offer Philadelphia Home.Buy.Now to your employees. Minimum commitment is \$500 per employee to purchase a home in the City of Philadelphia. We will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$4,000 towards closing costs and down payment assistance.
- Impact Development Roundtable: The Impact Development Roundtable (IDR) met on September 17, 2020 to hear about two great Opportunity Zone-related items. The first was from Anthony Miles, Founder, Shareholder and Fund Manager of TPP Capital Management Group LLC about their Healthy Town Tioga project. The project is the first fully integrated health and wellness focus district in the Eastern United State. The project is a \$300 million transit oriented,

mixed use development project that is located a short distance to two Broad Street Subway stations, Septa Regional Rail and Amtrak's North Philadelphia Station. The second presentation was from the City of Philadelphia's Cathy Califano and Karen Fegely, and Wendy Verna, Founder of Octo Group Design. The project team debuted the City's new Opportunity Zone App, Ozzy, designed to help support impact development. The app works to connect, collaborate, create deals, and locate resources to support deals. A City of Phila Opp Zone website was debuted as well and presented to the group. IDR is looking to meet again in December.