



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026— 1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 29, 2026 MEETING

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0238: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Journey Center for Safety and Healing for operational support from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund, effective 7/1/2026; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
- b) R2026-0239: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$5,000, to the Sante Foundation for the Bishop Pilla Family Center Food-as-Medicine Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

** Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Download the Metropolis smartphone app and create an account to have parking validated at meetings. Please scan the QR code posted in Council Chambers to input your license plate information for parking to be validated by Metropolis, a non-County entity. You will be responsible for the cost of parking if you are unable to utilize this online parking service.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026— 1:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair | Dist. 7
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair | Dist. 3
Mark Casselberry | Dist. 4
Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

Revised July 24

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Conwell asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Conwell, Casselberry and Houser were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Sweeney and Schleper was absent. Council President Miller was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Casselberry, seconded by Mr. Houser and approved by unanimous vote to excuse Committee members Sweeney and Schleper from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 17, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Conwell, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2026 meeting.

Chair Conwell advised the agencies to plan accordingly going forward, as the new Policy Analyst will be on board, and there will be more Committee open discussions under miscellaneous business regarding ongoing issues in Health, Human Services & Aging.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0222: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to Contract No. 3438 (fka Contract No. 2841) with The Centers for Families and Children for the Ohio Works First Program for the period 1/1/2023 - 6/30/2026 to extend the time period to 9/30/2026, to amend budget terms, and for additional funds in the amount not to exceed \$1,209,735.49, effective 7/1/2026; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of Cuyahoga Job and Family

Services; and Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0222. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes and Mr. Bounds pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0222 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- b) R2026-0223: A Resolution authorizing a contract with Catholic Charities Corporation in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,340,000.00 for success coaching services for eligible Ohio Works First applicants and management of the incentive payment system in connection with the Benefit Bridge Program for the period 7/1/2026 - 6/30/2027; authorizing the County Executive to execute Contract No. 6079 and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Marcos Cortes Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services, on behalf of Cuyahoga Job and Family Services; Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services; and Jessica Balmert, a Director with Catholic Charities, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0223. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Mr. Bounds and Ms. Balmert pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0223 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- c) R2026-0224: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a Master Contract with various providers for emergency assistance services for the period 9/1/2024 - 8/31/2026 to extend the time period to 8/31/2027, to change terms, and for additional funds in the total amount not-to-exceed \$1,575,000.00, effective 9/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the Master Contract and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Contract No. 4620 with A-Z Furniture Co., Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$315,000.00.
 - ii) Contract No. 4617 with Burlington Stores in the anticipated amount of \$500,000.00.

- iii) Contract No. 4622 with Dave's Supermarket, Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$125,000.00.
- iv) Contract No. 4621 with Penney OpCo LLC dba JCPenney in the anticipated amount of \$250,000.00.
- v) Contract No. 4619 with West 25th Furnishings and Appliances, Inc. in the anticipated amount of \$385,000.00.

Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance for the Department of Health and Human Services; and Kara Davis, Deputy Director of Short Term Services, Division of Children & Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0224. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Ms. Davis pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0224 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- d) R2026-0225: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a Master Contract with various providers for operating support of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved permanent housing services for the period 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026 to extend the time period to 10/31/2027, to amend various terms, to change a vendors name, and for additional funds in the total amount not-to-exceed \$2,812,354.00, effective 7/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the amendment and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Contract No. 4700 with Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,419,132.00.
 - ii) Contract No. 4701 with Famicos Foundation, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$200,129.00.
 - iii) Contract No. 6291 (fka Contract No. 4702) with Front Steps Housing & Services, Inc., to change the name of the vendor to Front Steps Housing & Services dba Rising Well Services, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$371,240.00.
 - iv) Contract No. 4703 with Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed \$147,728.00.

- v) Contract No. 4704 with Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc. dba Frontline Service in the amount not-to-exceed \$238,257.00.
- vi) Contract No. 4705 with The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland, Ohio - YWCA Cogswell Hall in the amount not-to-exceed \$247,100.00.
- vii) Contract No. 4706 with The Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Cleveland, Ohio - YWCA Independence Place in the amount not-to-exceed \$188,768.00.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services; and Sherrie Branden, Chief Executive Officer of Rising Well Services, Inc. fka Front Steps Housing & Services, Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0225. Discussion ensued.

Committee members and Councilmember asked questions of Ms. Ross and Ms. Branden pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0225 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- e) R2026-0226: A Resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant award from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,121,305.00 for the Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System in connection with FY2025 Continuum of Care Homeless Program Competition grant for the period 8/1/2026 – 7/31/2027; and authorizing awards to various subrecipients utilizing the proceeds of the grant award; authorizing the County Executive to execute the grant award and all other documents consistent with said award and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:
 - i) Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc dba FrontLine Service will operate Coordinated Intake for the Cleveland/Cuyahoga Continuum of Care, including identifying viable alternatives to entering the shelter, assessing needs for other emergency services, and linking people with the most appropriate housing/shelter resources and also being responsible for comprehensive client assessment, prioritization, and tracking/slotting of available Continuum of Care housing resources in the anticipated amount of \$847,910.00.
 - ii) United Way of Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$215,380.00.

- iii) Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$241,000.00.
- iv) YWCA Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$241,000.00.
- v) Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$65,000.00.
- vi) Family Promise of Greater Cleveland will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$68,250.00.
- vii) West Side Catholic Center will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$121,510.00.
- viii) The Salvation Army will use funding to support Housing Navigators who will identify appropriate housing opportunities, assist with housing applications, coordinate with shelter case managers, Coordinated Intake, and community partners to support successful housing placement in the anticipated amount of \$157,500.00.

LeVine Ross, Director of the Office of Homeless Services; and Jennifer Kons, Vice President of Community Impact for United Way, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0226. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Mr. Casselberry with a second by Mr. Houser, Resolution No. R2026-0226 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Conwell adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0238

Sponsored by: Councilmember Sweeney	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Journey Center for Safety and Healing for operational support from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to the Journey Center for Safety and Healing for operational support; and

WHEREAS, the Journey Center for Safety and Healing estimates approximately 150 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Journey Center for Safety and Healing estimates approximately 16.76 permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 to the Journey Center for Safety and Healing to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that

critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 to the Journey Center for Safety and Healing from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for operational support.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that

resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 8, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Journey Center for Safety and Healing	
Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 5466 Cleveland, OH 44101	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: Journey serves all of Cuyahoga County.	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Same as requesting entity.	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Journey's Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter is located in District 7, but serves individuals from all districts in Cuyahoga County.	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Avery Volpe	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: Same as requesting entity.	
Email: avolpe@journeyneo.org	Phone: 216-229-2420 x234
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 34-1278377	Date: 08/12/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Journey's Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter (Shelter) is the only shelter in Cuyahoga County where domestic violence victims have access to comprehensive services tailored to their specific needs. Shelter is confidentially located, and up to 45 beds are available. Most clients are referred from Journey's 24-Hour Helpline (Helpline), emergency rooms, police departments, or other social service organizations. Upon arrival, clients are provided with immediate safety and basic needs, including nutritious meals and snacks, clean bedding, hygiene products, basic clothing, diapers, and other infant and childcare supplies. Each client completes a Danger Assessment (DA), an evidence-based tool used to identify their risk of lethality as a result of intimate partner violence (on a scale of 20). Clients' primary service delivery needs, ongoing support, and safety planning are facilitated by Family Advocates. Each client develops an individualized case plan that addresses a variety of life areas, including income, housing, education, transportation, mental health, substance use, and physical and emotional needs. Feedback and direction, advocacy, and referrals are also provided. Shelter clients have access to all programming provided by Journey, including assistance with securing permanent housing; trauma therapy; supervised visitation and exchange; and bilingual advocacy services. A full-continuum of services – including safety planning, support groups, housing/employment/educational assistance, a Youth Program, the Justice System Advocacy Program, and community connections to other services – are provided at Shelter. Clients take part in group programming including education on trauma and domestic violence, tenancy skills, financial wellness, peer support, coping skills, art expression, housing and employment workshops, life skills, trauma-sensitive yoga, wellness, parenting, and community living concerns. Youth programming, including individualized safety plans, support, assistance with problem solving, one-on-one advocacy, homework help, academic enrichment, and tutoring are provided. Housing and employment assistance and access to education opportunities are offered. Clients explore available housing options, access community job and education resources, and build skills. Guided by staff, clients apply for mainstream benefits, including SSA, EBT, SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and/or Medicare. Journey works closely with community partners, including the Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care, to ensure eligible clients can access and receive information about applicable housing assistance and financial support. To locate housing, clients in Shelter utilize Journey's Domestic Violence Housing Initiative (DVHI), which provides 1 year of rental assistance, and case management to victims fleeing domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault.

Domestic violence is an ongoing crisis and is among the leading causes of homelessness for women. In 2025, police across Cuyahoga County reported at least 5,847 incidents of domestic violence (Ohio BCII). 38% of all domestic violence victims become homeless at some point in their life (The SAFE Alliance). Victims continuously report experiencing heightened levels of violence. In 2025, the average DA score for Journey's clients was 20.5, indicating extreme danger. The ability to access safe shelter could be a matter of life or death for many. However, funding cuts in 2025 and 2026 have impacted the resources available for those seeking safety at Journey's Shelter. In FY26, Journey's Helpline received 6,670 calls, demonstrating the community's need for services. At the same time, 296 requests for shelter were unmet.

Between 07/01/2026 and 06/30/2027, 150 individuals will receive basic needs, safety, and support at Journey's Shelter. On average, clients stay in Shelter for 88 days. A phone intake is conducted upon a help-seeker's initial contact with the Helpline; immediate safety and basic needs are provided upon intake; a DA is administered within 24 hours and a safety plan is developed; a comprehensive needs assessment is completed within 48 hours; and ongoing support, safety planning, and group programming is provided throughout each clients' stay.

Project Start Date:

07/01/2026

Project End Date:

06/30/2027

IMPACT OF PROJECT:
Who will be served: Victims of domestic violence and their children in Cuyahoga County.
How many people will be served annually: 150
Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: While abuse happens in all communities and at all socio-economic levels, the vast majority (97%) of the domestic violence victims that Journey serves have incomes below the federal poverty level.
How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: Journey is the only shelter in Cuyahoga County where domestic violence victims have access to comprehensive services tailored to their specific needs.
If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: With the funds from this grant, Shelter will retain its staff of 16.76 FTE.
If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: N/A
If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: Shelter empowers clients to advance their long-term financial and housing stability, develop autonomy, and live a safe and stable life away from their abusers. Through immediate crisis intervention, ongoing safety planning, case management, advocacy, employment and housing assistance, and referrals to community resources, clients address challenges and work towards goals focused on long-term welfare and self-sufficiency. With this funding, victims in Cuyahoga County will have increased access to services that enhance their safety and well-being.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**Total Budget of Project:**

\$1,203,753

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Government (\$1,075,824): City of Cleveland ESG (\$115,500); Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board (\$12,000); Cuyahoga County Marriage License (\$206,030); FVPSA (\$19,394); FVP Baseline (\$18,182); HUD RRH (\$203,130); ODSA (\$55,100); OH Attorney General Domestic Violence Baseline Funds (\$150,000); VOCA (\$196,488)

Foundation (\$99,000): Cleveland Automobile Orphans' Outing Club (\$4,000); George Garretson Wade Charitable Trust #2 (\$75,000); Lozick Family Foundation (\$10,000); Thatcher Family Fund (\$15,000)

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$10,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

The Board of Directors has approved a new strategic plan, prioritizing ways to diversify and strengthen financial support for the agency's operations, and increase private fundraising efforts and revenue, ensuring the agency can continue providing its essential services to victims of domestic violence in Cuyahoga County. The Board, with input from outside organizations, funders, the community, agency leadership, and staff, has prioritized sustainability as a principal goal for the agency. Journey's definition of financial sustainability is to be operating consistently with an annual surplus of at least 1%, have 4–6 months of operating reserve, and increase the percentage of revenue coming from private sources so the agency is less vulnerable to decreases in public funding.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

ANNE FACE

Signature:



Date:

08/12/2026

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0239

Sponsored by: Councilmember Sweeney	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$5,000, to the Sante Foundation for the Bishop Pilla Family Center Food-as-Medicine Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to the Sante Foundation for the Bishop Pilla Family Center Food-as-Medicine Project; and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation estimates approximately 100 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation estimates approximately 2 permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation estimates the total cost of the project is \$74,040; and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$5,000 from a PNC Grant;

- B. \$19,294 from individual donations;
- C. \$25,000 from McGregor, Cleveland West (pending); and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation is estimating the start date of the project will be March 2026 and the project will be continuing; and

WHEREAS, the Sante Foundation requested \$5,000 from the District 10 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$5,000 to the Sante Foundation to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000 to the Sante Foundation from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Bishop Pilla Family Center Food-as-Medicine Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the

preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 8, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): The Sante Foundation for the Bishop Pilla Family Center in East Cleveland. Food. Hope. Education. Non-profit.	
Address of Requesting Entity: 2044 Random Road, Suite 502, Cleveland, OH 44106	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: District 7, Yvonne M. Conwell	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 13824 Euclid Ave, East Cleveland, OH 44112	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: District 10, Michael Houser	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Ken Counihan	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: 	
Email: Ken@thesantefoundation.org	Phone: 216-496-8701
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 39-2550022	Date: 10Aug2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

The Santé Foundation operates the Bishop Pilla Family Center on the campus of St Philomena, bringing healthy Food, Education and Hope to East Cleveland.

St. Philomena Church was founded in 1902 by Pastor John F. Smith, a close friend of John D Rockefeller. At this time, East Cleveland was one of the wealthiest suburbs in America, home to millionaire's row and the John D. Rockefeller Estate. Today, after decades of disinvestment, population loss and corruption, East Cleveland is one of America's poorest suburbs. It currently has the lowest median family income in the U.S. among places with a population over 5,000, at \$37,500, and the lowest median household income, at \$22,883. The community has been left with no grocery stores, no banks, dilapidated housing stock, and a high incident of chronic disease. These factors contribute to East Cleveland residents having a lifespan 23 years shorter than residents of surrounding suburbs. Food insecurity is a primary concern in the community, with both a lack of affordability and access to fresh, healthy food. A May2025 Harvard study found that poor diet, with food insecurity, is the leading cause of disease and death in the US.

The Santé Foundation was founded in 2025 by Ken & Kim Counihan to become part of the solution. They were inspired by Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, a Cleveland native and Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for 25 years. His signature initiative in 1993 was "Church in the City" which explicitly worked to bond wealthier suburban parishes with poorer urban areas.

The Sante Foundation endeavors to bring Food, Education and Hope to East Cleveland through Food-as-Medicine, with educational programming and community meals at the Bishop Pilla Family Center. Current programming includes:

- Saturday Community Lunches: Residents receive a local, chef prepared, registered dietician approved healthy meal. When leaving, they take home a box with the lunch's fresh food ingredients and recipe to remake the meal for a family of four. While eating, the adults receive educational programming on topics including healthy eating, chronic disease prevention, financial wellness, and legal assistance.
- Saturday Youth Education: After lunch, Youth receive Literacy Enrichment and the ethical use of AI in the Center's Computer Lab and Reading Room. Sessions are led by Ursuline Sisters and other qualified educational partners.

Key partners to the Sante Foundation include Re:Source Cleveland, Food Strong, Case Western Reserve University, the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, PNC Bank, Legal Aid, the Ursuline Sisters, with City and County stakeholders. Weekly healthy meals are cooked and served by local chefs from Edwins, Cordelia, Sophie's, Juneberry Table and two local caterers.

With a new well-respected Mayor and a robust consortium of community partners and stakeholders, East Cleveland is beginning to move in a positive direction. The Sante Foundation strives to build on this momentum, with programming designed to enrich residents' lives. Using Food-as-Medicine and community-based education as a medium, programming at the Bishop Pilla Family Center helps residents improve their health, financial, and spiritual wellbeing. With continued partnership and growing support, the Sante Foundation will help bring new hope to East Cleveland while building a replicable model for meaningful change.

Project Start Date:
March 21, 2026

Project End Date:
With continued funding, no end date

IMPACT OF PROJECT:
Who will be served: Residents of East Cleveland and those close to East Cleveland: Cleveland, Cleveland Hts
How many people will be served annually: About 100 people through meals are served weekly, either in-person (20-30) or through Food Boxes (20) where each Food Box feeds a family of four.
Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: All from above - about 100 people through meals are served weekly.
How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: Working with Chris Ronayne and Mayor Sandra Morgan of East Cleveland to serve healthy meals with Adult and Children's Education and Hope to this neighborhood in East Cleveland. Mayor Morgan is working to improve the livability and improve the lives of residents in this very poor suburb.
If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: In 2026, two part-time (20hrs/wk)
If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:
If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: Right now the Bishop Pilla Family Center can serve 40 people onsite (Saturday meal) and 80 people off-site (Food Box for a Family of 4). Plans, drawings, fundraising are underway to build an addition which can serve 200 people onsite per meal.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:
Total Budget of Project: Current Total Annual Budget is \$74,040
Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately): PNC Grant \$5,000 Individuals \$19,295 Applied for: McGregor, Cleveland West for \$25K
Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars: \$5,000
Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward: Grant renewals from PNC, McGregor, Cleveland Foundation and individual investors. Long term an Endowment will be setup to meet annual operating expenses.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Ken Counihan

Signature:

Date:

10Aug2026

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:
No additional documents.