

Ellsworth County

SPARK Taskforce

Minutes

7.20.2020

Taskforce members present: Stacie Schmidt, Kerianne Ehrlich, Dale Brungardt, Greg Clark, Rusty Varnado, Tina Davis, Andrew Bair, Pat Hoffman, Theresa Staudinger, Keith Haberer, Sarah Goss (Administrator).

Application Letter Distributed: The application letter for reimbursements and direct aid was posted live to the ECED website and emailed directly to eligible entities.

Funds Transfer from State to County: The funds were transferred to Ellsworth County on 7/20/20. Shelly Vopat and Julie Neuman are the signers on the account.

Budget Allocation: ECMC declined their allocation; citing abundant HHS funds that will cover their needs. The City of Ellsworth also reduced their allocation. Discussion then ensued on reallocating additional funds to the school districts. In order to open schools, the school districts have the greatest financial burden in terms of equipment and staff. Andrew Bair moved, and Theresa Staudinger seconded a motion to reallocate 50% of the total Ellsworth County funds to the two school districts, divided proportionately based on school enrollment. The motion carried unanimously.

Direct Transfers: The State is now recommending use Transfers to make larger allocations to entities. This process allows the entire allocation to be distributed at one time, instead of making smaller allocations over time. The receiving entity then submits reports monthly to the county for verification. Stacie will add the transfer tab to the Direct Aid application spreadsheet.

Memorandums of Understanding: As a means of protecting the county and ensuring appropriate use of SPARK funds, Paul Kasper is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by Ellsworth County and any entity receiving Direct Aid funds.

Round 2 Funding: The State was still determining how Round 2 will be distributed. More information will be available on Friday, July 24.