

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
CARES Healthcare Grant Committee
MINUTES

May 27, 2025

Organizational Meeting

1. The organizational meeting of the CARES Healthcare Pilot Program Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of City Hall, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Maureen Cahill, Jason Moore, Mike Turner/Richard Donnelly, Ted Berry

Members Absent: Randy Holt

Staff Support: Tami Kelly Also Present: Mayor Stage

2. Introductions were made and Mr. Berry, originator of the legislation, explained his intent with this program. He said every city has problems with uninsured residents. This Committee was put together to create a “gap” program for those workers who don’t receive health coverage and need to purchase an individual government policy. The “gap” would reimburse them for the premium. He said he wants to help small businesses and the working poor.

Members reviewed the legislation and discussed how to get started. They discussed the threshold amounts and determined that, while they may be low, it is a starting point that can be adjusted, if necessary.

Mr. Donnelly noted that a single person making \$20,000.00/yr. can qualify for Medicaid with 100% premium covered and the threshold goes up with a family. He suggested the Committee hear from a Medicaid expert to explain the qualifications, benefits, and if this program would have any detrimental effect on a applicant.

Mr. Moore said hospitals will assist those at two to three times the poverty level.

Ms. Cahill stated that it is a good exercise to go onto Healthcare.gov and put in information. It will tell you what you are qualified for and if there is any cost. She said there is also a CHIP’s program that provides assistance for children. In addition, hospitals will give a 0% interest payment plan to individuals.

Mr. Donnelly noted that this program must be “needs based” in order for the IRS to see it as a non-taxable amount. They must also be careful not to bump someone off other assistance programs if they are awarded a grant from this program. He also noted that there is a difference from being taxable and receiving income (1099). He suggested reaching out to the Columbus Foundation, as they assist thousands of charities. Mayor Stage said he would reach out to them. The Foundation may be able to administer this program as well.

Mr. Moore shared an article from the Columbus Dispatch about Ohio Mother’s Trust that alleviates poverty. He said this group may have run into some of the same hurdles and may be of some assistance. Mr. Donnelly said Lutheran Social Services may also be a source of help.

Ms. Cahill said they need a well-defined goal, which may be: Help Grove City residents pay for

a government insurance plan. Mayor Stage said there may be a bigger issue, but they need to find what can be done without overburdening the system. Ms. Cahill asked if there should be a disclaimer that ‘the applicant is responsible for checking to see if this affects other assistance programs they are on’.

Mayor Stage said Franklin County could be a source to understanding other assistance programs.

Mr. Berry suggested checking with RITA for tax return/income levels. He envisions this program reimbursing someone for Affordable Care Act premiums for the prior year, if they are and were a resident. He said he is trying to capture workers who make too much for Medicaid but not enough to pay for insurance.

Mr. Donnelly said he would check with Mr. Dan Schrader to see if he would be able to attend next meeting to talk with Committee.

3. The Committee set the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. as their meeting schedule.

Adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council