

[http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/news/local/social-services-funding-draws-a-crowd-to-city-council-meeting/article\\_853ec4a8-5180-11e7-956d-0f2cb391adec.html](http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/news/local/social-services-funding-draws-a-crowd-to-city-council-meeting/article_853ec4a8-5180-11e7-956d-0f2cb391adec.html)

FEATURED

## **Social services funding draws a crowd to city council meeting**

By Ernest Rollins | 812-331-4357 | [erollins@heraldt.com](mailto:erollins@heraldt.com) Jun 15, 2017

A crowd gathered at City Hall Wednesday night as the Bloomington City Council discussed awarding about \$285,000 to various local social service agencies through the 2017 Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding program.

In its 25th year, the program has allocated around \$3.66 million to local agencies over its existence, council member Tim Mayer said.

The council ultimately voted to approve the allocation plan presented on Wednesday, but not before taking comments from both supporters and opponents who spoke on two particular agencies slated to receive portions of the funds: Planned Parenthood-Bloomington Health Center and All-Options Pregnancy Center.

Supporters of Planned Parenthood and All-Options Pregnancy Center praised the organizations for providing the services that they do.

Daniel Hassoun, an Indiana University graduate student, said he sees Planned Parenthood as not simply a resource for women, but more of a community resource, adding he was able to receive the services he needed through the local center.

Council members also stated that the services these agencies provide are important not only to women, but to low-income families.

Council member Dorothy Granger, who volunteers for Planned Parenthood and other social service agencies, said the local center provides many services that benefit the community. Acknowledging that abortion is one of those services, she noted that the decision to go through with an abortion is not easy, but obtaining one remains a woman's legal right.

The fact that these agencies provide abortions as part of a range of services was a main concern of those who opposed giving them city funds. Bloomington resident Jenna Fisher said while she believes in choice, she draws the line at whether it negatively affects another person. She said while a woman should have the right to make decisions regarding her own health care, it should not be at the expense of another living being.

"I am sick and tired of my tax dollars going to organizations that do not respect unborn children," Carole Canfield said.

But approval of this allocation does not provide any funding for abortions, council member Susan Sandberg said. She said Jack Hopkins program funds can only go toward the uses each agency specified in their applications as part of an extensive screening process, and those uses do not include paying for abortions.

"It is not allowed by law for any public funding to go to abortions," Sandberg said.

The Jack Hopkins Social Services committee recommended awarding \$9,000 to Planned Parenthood for long-acting reversible contraceptives, sexual transmitted disease testing and colposcopy procedures. As for All-Options Pregnancy, the agency will receive \$12,000 to purchase diapers and wipes for the Hoosier Diaper Bank.

While those two agencies dominated much of the public discussion, council member Isabel Piedmont-Smith said she was impressed by Shalom Community Center and LifeDesigns' joint request for Chromebooks.

"I think this is the first time we have really seen something like this," Piedmont-Smith said of the request for low-cost computers.

She said she thinks it is important for low-income and homeless individuals to have internet access as they work to get back on their feet, since such technology is often needed to do things such as hunting for a job or paying bills.

Council members also highlighted funding that went to the Shalom Center to pay for two months of operational costs for Friend's Place Shelter, formerly known as Martha's House. Mayer said this is a significant contribution that continues efforts started last year, when the city, Monroe County and other organizations came together to provide funds to keep the shelter open.

## Funding recipients

Twenty-two social service agencies were awarded funding through the 2017 Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding program. Here is a list of those organizations:

- All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center: To purchase diapers and wipes for the Hoosier Diaper Bank, \$12,000.
- Amethyst House: To purchase two refrigerators, refinish and repair flooring, and repair a retaining wall, \$20,350.
- Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington: To purchase chairs and tables for the new Crestmont Club, \$15,000.
- Catholic Charities Bloomington: To purchase supervision and training for play therapy, to increase weekly play therapy hours, and to purchase Positive Family Coaching as part of the Family Services program, \$7,175.
- Centerstone: To purchase furniture and cover the rent costs associated with the Stepping Stones Program, \$21,464.
- Community Kitchen: To purchase kitchen equipment and a power washer, \$2,174.
- El Centro: To pay for interpretive services provided via the Interpreter Network, \$1,500.
- First Christian Church: To purchase an electric steam kettle for the Gathering Place, \$3,880.
- Indiana Recovery Alliance: To purchase naloxone, syringe disposal units\*, a shed, card laminators, totes and bike trailers as part of the Monroe County Syringe Service Program, \$11,617.\* (\$3,726 of the recommended allocation is contingent upon the submission of an adequate plan for placement, collection, and securing written permission for the syringe disposal collection units.)
- LIFE Designs: To purchase tablets, mobile briefcases and design services for the LIFE Designs Mobilizing Work Project, \$15,000.
- Monroe County United Ministries: To pay for staff salaries associated with the start-up operations of the Compass Early Learning Center, \$20,000.
- Monroe County United Ministries & First United Methodist Church Collaborative Project: To pay for kitchen renovation for the Compass Early Learning Center, \$21,600.
- Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: To purchase a freezer, safety lighting and a power washer, \$4,002.
- New Hope Family Shelter: To purchase outdoor educational items for the New Hope Early Child Development Center, a shed and other shelter maintenance equipment, \$12,091.
- New Leaf, New Life: To provide support for the salary of the Director of New Leaf-New Life Transition Support Center, \$10,000.

- Planned Parenthood: To pay for long-acting reversible contraceptive, STD testing and colposcopies, \$9,000.
- Shalom Center: To pay for two months of operational costs associated with Friend's Place, \$29,106.
- Shalom Center & LIFE Designs Collaborative: To purchase Chromebook computers and internet access for the Crawford Homes Technology Access Project, \$27,949.
- South Central Community Action Program: To pay for parenting curriculum and equipment for the Dedicated Dads and Family Development Initiative, \$3,000.
- Susie's Place: To pay for flooring replacements and improvements, \$11,510.
- Volunteers in Medicine: To implement an Electronic Medical Records system, \$24,830.
- Wheeler Mission: To pay for security cameras and associated equipment for the Center for Women and Children, \$2,044.

Total — \$285,292.

## You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

### 15 Walmart Shoppers Captured These Photos

Auto Overload

### Here's What New Dental Implants Should Cost

Save On Dental - Ads

### Think Dental Implants Are Expensive? Think Again

U.S. Consumer Sponsored Ads

### Walmart Photos That Never Should Have Been Captured

Lifestylogy

### Doctor's New Discovery Makes Foot Calluses "Vanish"

DermalMedix Skin Care

### 29 Women With Extraordinary Talents That Will Leave You Speechless

Heraldweekly

### 30 Amish Facts That'll Make Your Skin Crawl

Actively

# **These Unnerving Photos of Life in North Korea Will Make Your Jaw Drop**

Travel Whip