At Cunningham Township Supervisor’s Office, each month we serve about 200 low-income, homeless and near homeless Urbana residents. We are working to respond to the imminent threat of the coronavirus in our community.

Low-income residents are likely to be some of the hardest hit in our community by the coronavirus since:

- It is nearly impossible to stock provisions for 2-3 week quarantine without funds.
- The homeless are exposed to shelters or the streets and cannot self-quarantine.
- Many struggle with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

With many students likely pursuing their education from outside of Champaign Urbana, we expect our local economy to take a hit. Every summer, our community experiences layoffs and hours reductions. We expect that problem to arrive soon and last longer; more people will get behind in rent and utilities.

At Township we are preparing for a possible doubling of participants. In addition, we appeal to leaders at the state and local level to provide relief in the form of:

- **Immediate housing options to allow the homeless to self-quarantine.** Their housing crisis is a public health crisis for everyone.
- **Stays of evictions.** People need to stay in housing for everyone’s protection.
- **A halt to utility shut offs.**
- **Paid sick leave for employees.** Paid by employers or the government, we need this to help sick people recover at home.

We also appeal to landlords to work with tenants -- reducing payments or providing a payment plan. We appeal to neighbors to reach out to those with the fewest resources to help them meet their needs.

We are taking donations through our angel donor fund, 100% of which will be redirected to help Urbana residents with material needs that fall outside our programs.

Out of concern for the health of our participants, staff and the public, effective Thursday, March 12, 2020 the Cunningham Township Supervisor’s Office are making the following changes to our process:

- We are calling and/or mailing participants to inform them how to take precautions to avoid infecting themselves and others.
• We are surveying participants about their needs - food, rent, medications - and working alongside partners to support them meeting these. We are seeking food pantry partners to assemble and/or drop off 2 weeks of provisions.
• We are moving from face-to-face to distanced and virtual interaction. The township lobby will remain open to get applications and to scan or drop paperwork. The public will interact with staff by email, phone or intercom for those who lack phones. We are asking no more than two people to be in the lobby at a time.
• Intakes will no longer require in-person meetings. We will determine eligibility based on paperwork submitted and contact applicants with any questions.
• Updates appointments in the next month will be rescheduled to a later date.
• Community Work Assignments are suspended for March. No one will have General Assistance revoked due to lack of CWP hours until further notice.
• Case workers will be working directly with the Social Security Administration, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and Illinois Department of Human Services to gather necessary documentation for applicants. We want to avoid making applicants travel by bus or wait in lines.
• Staff will check their temperatures daily and anyone with even a low grade fever or symptoms will call in sick or negotiate to work from home.
• We are working to allow for secure access to the office to allow staff to work from home.

Please reach out to me if there is any way we can partner or be of service.

Best,

Danielle Chynoweth
Cunningham Township Supervisor