

Twitter Thread by Cleveland Documenters



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Last week, [@CleCityCouncil](#) started reviewing Mayor Frank Jackson's proposed city budget for 2021. There was robust discussion, and Documenters were there to cover it. Here's a thread of what we learned last week about the #CLEBudget

First, it helps to know where we are in the budget process. From today through Feb. 24, the council will meet about the General Fund budget. The council will then agree on a budget with their changes (if any); 15 days after doing so, they can vote to make the budget official.

CLEVELAND BUDGET TIMELINE

✓ Steps in the Process

City Council holds CDBG hearings

Virtual retreat for City Council

City Council holds General Fund hearings

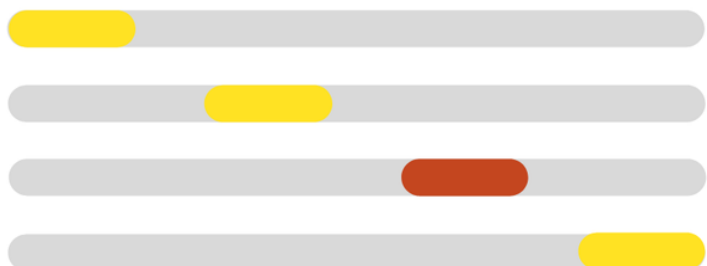
Cleveland must finalize a budget by April 1

Feb. 9-11

Feb. 12

Feb. 16-24

April 1



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In other words, there's still time to use your voice! The [#refundcleveland](#) tool can help. Create the #CLEBudget you want and send it to your council member. Click "Change the Budget" on the homepage and follow the on-screen instructions from there. <https://t.co/ljyAhABg5h>

Want to know the budget basics? Our #CLEBudget primer details the timeline, different types of budgets and the funds involved, and defines budget-related terms. It can be a helpful guide during City Council's discussions.

<https://t.co/Uz3yjYAmAP>

And don't forget: all these meetings are livestreamed on City Council's YouTube channel. They're slated to start at 9 a.m. every business day from today through the 24th. You can also follow along with #CLEDocumenters live-tweet threads and notes.<https://t.co/pLwmzS0f1S>

Now, let's dig into some details. The General Fund supports most city services, including police, fire, emergency medical services, rec centers, and trash collection. It's funded by state and local taxes, service charges, licenses and permits, and fines. Here's what we learned.

GENERAL FUND OUTLOOK

Proposed 2021 Budget:
\$659,321,845

Hospitality Taxes

2020 revenue from admissions, parking, and hotel taxes is about \$60M short of projections

Incoming Revenue

The city's budget assumes \$424M of income tax revenue in 2021

We also learned a bit about the Department of Public Safety, which is set to receive the biggest portion of the General Fund budget — about 56% of it. Here are some key department tidbits that Documenters captured.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET AND PLANS

Set to receive **\$371,484,992** of the General Fund, Public Safety's plans include...

- Staffing 1,640 uniformed police officers, an increase from 1,535 in 2020
- Fulfilling the demands of the U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree — ending in 2022 at the earliest — which will cost Cleveland \$6M in 2021
- Building its new police headquarters at E. 75th along the Opportunity Corridor
- Training three new police classes to offset retiring officers; the training costs \$650K
- Using TikTok and Instagram in safety-personnel recruitment efforts

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City Council also asked for clarification regarding how many officers \$1M can afford. The city says \$1M can cover 6-7 police officers; some council members said they'd previously been told \$1M could fund 10 officers.

Curious about City Council's approach heading into the General Fund hearings? Read through this live-tweet thread of last Friday's virtual retreat by [@GenniferwithaG](https://t.co/qCjwAJo18Y) <https://t.co/qCjwAJo18Y>

Good morning, [#Cleveland!](#) I'll be covering the Cleveland City Council General Fund Budget Retreat today starting at 9 a.m. for [@cledocumenters](#) [#CLEdocumenters](#) & [@NeighborUpCle](#). You can watch along on [@CleCityCouncil](#)'s YouTube channel here: <https://t.co/kfORaAgob1> [#CLEbudget](#)

— Gennifer with a G (@GenniferwithaG_) [February 12, 2021](#)

You can also take in Mary Paxton's notes on the afternoon portion of the retreat. <https://t.co/uFFxeboLiS>

And you can work through the mayor's full proposed General Fund budget here: <https://t.co/U3EGalwDLy>

Despite some newsworthy nuggets regarding the General Fund, the council spent much of last week discussing Community Development Block Grants, also known as CDBG funding. What is CDBG? Well...



Essentially, CDBG is money provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD intends for CDBG funds to be used for safe, decent housing and economic opportunity in low-wealth areas. Check out our #CLEBudget primer for more CDBG insight.

Also, this thread from [@Jesstrivisonno](#), economic development director for the Detroit-Shoreway and Cudell Inc. community development corporations (CDCs), provides a detailed look at the challenges surrounding CDBG funds and the way Cleveland uses them. <https://t.co/S8Lv1dYgEs>

This week, [@CLECityCouncil](#) is holding committee meetings about federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). CDBG is complicated and it's hard to know how it impacts our City, so I thought I might share some background and how I interact with CDBG on the regular.

— Jessica Trivisonno (@Jesstrivisonno) [February 8, 2021](#)

Here are some high-level takeaways from last week's CDBG hearings. #CLEBudget

CDBG BUDGET TAKEAWAYS

- City Council approved the city to apply for just over **\$20M** in CDBG funds, a decline of about \$1.7M from 2020
- CDCs and city programs reported **113,000 accomplishments** last year; entities must report federally compliant accomplishments in order to receive CDBG funds
- Council Members Basheer Jones, Joseph Jones, and others sought to expand eligibility for home-repair programs from households making 30% or less of the area's median income to those making **75% or less**; City Council did not hold a vote on such an amendment
- The city proposes allocating **\$1.3M** of CDBG funding to its Third Party Social Services Program. That program distributes money to nonprofits and city departments with initiatives that affect low- to moderate-income residents
- The city proposes **\$309,889** for its Storefront Renovation Program, which aims to do what its name suggests: help business owners renovate their storefronts

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Have the CDBG heebie-jeebies? Learn more from the following live-tweet threads from #CLEDocumenters who observed last week's hearings...

@dmcbillion on the Feb. 9 morning session: <https://t.co/iwRH4r0qL5>

Hiya! I'll be live-tweeting this morning's #CLEbudget @CleCityCouncil Development, Planning & Sustainability Committee meeting for #CLEDocumenters @CLEDocumenters @NeighborUpCLE.

— Danny Mc (@dmcbillion) February 9, 2021

@seandene on the Feb. 9 afternoon session: <https://t.co/7z0uzaj3gt>

Hi, I'll be live-tweeting today's Cleveland City Council, Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Budget Hearing (part 2) at 1:30pm, for #CLEDocumenters @CLEDocumenters @NeighborUpCLE

— Seanna Dennee' (@seandene) February 9, 2021

@MelanatedMillennial on the Feb. 10 afternoon session:
<https://t.co/6Mc0bWoPiu>

Good day! I'm representing @cledocumenters and live-tweeting the Cleveland City Council Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee: CDBG Budget Hearings at 1:30 pm

— Melanated Millennial (@MelanatedMill) February 10, 2021

Leslie Bednar's notes on day three of the CDBG hearings offer important details, as well.

<https://t.co/NLE1znVcST>

And you can read the proposed CDBG budget book here. <https://t.co/mppuEKZx8Z>

Think the learning stopped there? Not so. Documenters also gleaned some info about the Capital Budget, which is reserved for larger, long-term investments in city infrastructure. City Council and the City of Cleveland finalize this budget a little later in the year.

In fact, as of last Friday's virtual retreat, the full Capital Budget book was not complete. Regardless, Documenters did gather some important details.

CAPITAL BUDGET

**Proposed Budget for
Capital Projects:
\$48.9M**

Street resurfacing – \$13M

Major roads and bridges – \$15M-\$20M

Recreation Centers – \$6M

Parks – \$4M

Pools – \$1M

Fleet refresh – \$8M

Tree Canopy – \$1M

Tree-damaged sidewalks – \$900K

**Cleveland Chief Operating
Officer Darnell Brown
presented this capital projects
spending plan during the Feb. 12
virtual budget retreat.**

Learn more about the Capital Budget and the General Fund from Leslie Bednar's notes on the morning portion of Friday's virtual retreat. <https://t.co/YpUckQZInx>

And here is the full capital projects presentation that the city gave to council members during Friday's retreat.

<https://t.co/6yoboefP02>

Keep up with all Documenters reporting on our website. Documenters will cover the remaining budget meetings, along with other city government happenings. <https://t.co/rWTPAI2ytm>

That's a wrap on this thread, which is just a snapshot of what last week's #CLEBudget meetings entailed. Let us know if you have any questions, and stay tuned for more documenting!