

BCO boost: Service organization gets \$60,000 to aid in merger

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BRISTOL — The Bristol Community Organization has been awarded two grants totaling \$60,000 ahead of its planned merger with the Human Resources Agency of New Britain.

The leaders of the two agencies announced last week that they are merging due to shrinking budgets and expected reductions in state revenue. They are planning to complete the process by Oct. 1.

Administrative services for the combined organization will be handled in New Britain's HRA offices, but all of the Bristol-related community services and programs BCO now offers will remain in place in town, BCO Executive Director Tom Morrow said Thursday.

The new grant money includes \$40,000 from the state Department of Social Services and \$20,000 from the Main Street Community Foundation. The grant money will be used to hire a consultant and obtain legal and financial services to assist in the process.

“We need a consultant to be able to look at the big picture, to be able to identify all the aspects of the merger that need to be addressed and lead us through the process,” Morrow said. “We’ll probably need to hire a lawyer to look at the dissolution of the organization and pay someone to handle the fiscal part.”

Susan Sadecki, president of the Main Street foundation said Thursday that she thinks the merger deserves the financial contribution.

“In order for this potential merger to be successful, they need the right support,” she said. “The services that BCO offers need to be here. These are people in our community who need a helping hand.”

Both the BCO and HRA provide social services, opportunities and assistance to the needy. Both agencies offer children's services, emergency assistance, employment and training, health and wellness and financial consultations.

“In times of budget constraints, it's important for nonprofits to streamline back office operations that don't affect clients directly,” Sadecki said. “Obviously any time two nonprofits are providing similar services they can't afford to use valuable money that can go to services.”

The agencies will begin looking for a consultant “as soon as possible,” Morrow said. Applications will go through the HRA of New Britain, then both agency leaders will get together to make a decision.



Merger-BR-032416_4535.jpg

10/16/2013 Mike Orazzi | Staff Bristol Community Organization Executive Director Tom Morrow.

Once the dissolution of BCO is complete and the merger is finalized, Morrow, who has been the head of BCO for 28 years, will retire, he said.

“He has been a gift to the greater Bristol community,” Sadecki said. “He has both passion and compassion.”

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