

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Friday, March 27, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/-uNIMOrcpzILb4GTyIH9AikFH03ZT6a8gCYdrqZZnhlZJPmkVVAw1ZsiYn6k5rjYK>

Meeting Agenda:

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
March 27th Agenda



Medical System Updates – Dr. Audrey Kuang & Dr. Tim Mercer
Protocol and Use of PIT Count App



ECHO – National Updates and Local Operations



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Monday, 30th @ 9:00am

Coronavirus Response Package

March 25, 2020



Housing Programs <i>(set asides italicized)</i> <i>(In millions)</i>	Senate Negotiated Proposal	House Democrat Proposal	Final Package
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	1,250	1,500	1,250
Public Housing Operating	685	720	685
Tribal Housing Programs	300	350	300
Hsg. Opp. for Persons with AIDs	65	130	65
Community Development Fund	10,000	15,000	5,000**
Homeless Assistance Grants	4,000	15,500*	4,000
Emergency Rental Assistance	0	100,000*	0
Project-Based Rental Assistance	1,000	1,000	1,000
Hsg. for the Elderly (202)	50	75	50
Hsg. for Persons w/ Disabilities (811)	15	25	15
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity	2.5	7	2.5
<i>Fair Housing Assistance Program</i>	1.5	4	1.5
<i>Fair Housing Initiatives Program</i>	1	3	1
USDA Rural Housing Service	0	0	0

*Reflects authorized levels. In the House bill, Homeless Assistance Grants were provided an appropriation of \$5 billion and emergency rental assistance did not receive an appropriation.

** Congress provided an additional \$150 billion in a Coronavirus Relief Fund that can cover many of the same uses as CDBG.

Notes

ECHO: Matthew Mollica, Kate Moore, Laura Evanoff

- Meeting with city and national TA folks, to discuss how stimulus dollars will flow in our community
- ECHO will convene providers to discuss stimulus dollars in more detail - this includes ensuring housing authorities are a part of the conversation (HACA). Estimating that funding will include a good portion of rental assistance dollars.
- Project based and rental assistance generally go through HACA
- ESG and CBDG funds are distributed to government entities (state to city).
 - City of Austin will receive CDBG and ESG which NHCD and/or APH oversees and distributes to community partners who provide services.
- Will be working on those pathways to deploy those resources as quickly as possible
- HUD Mega waiver - will put together a call ESG and CoC funds
 - Talk through big changes in process, eligible costs, documentation, etc.
- Kate and Laura will organize with CoC funded agencies to provide support and targeted guidance around what HUD is doing to loosen restrictions in response to the pandemic
- ECHO hosted a virtual meeting for Permanent Housing Programs on Thursday. Laura Evanoff will send out materials (slides and zoom recording) in follow up email.
 - Program leadership had a lot of great questions and looking to get guidance around the questions that they had.
 - [Click here to access PH Programs 3.26.20 Meeting Recording](#)
- Working on Repurposing tool used during PIT Count (Hyperion) as the platform for entering screening surveys as a part of the prioritization protocol for quarantine and isolation spaces.
 - Working to connect this to Coordinated Entry on the back end
 - Once available we will make sure everyone knows what the protocol looks like

CUC Health Care for the Homeless Team: Tim Mercer

- Working on community screening tool and protocols - the goal of the protocol and screening tool is to be in the app for all partners to access for streamlined pathway to placement locations based on client need.

City of Austin / Austin Public Health: Vella Karmen, Amanda Rohlich, Lara Foss

- City of Austin is using the homeless service update google doc to help inform of any program or agency changes and is using info to update COA website. Request to either enter updates on google doc or email Lara Foss (Lara.Foss@austintexas.gov) with any service related updates to add to austintexas.gov homeless website
- Secured 25 handwashing stations to be distributed across the city.
- COA has 2500 bottles of drinking water to be distributed to sites as well and taken to outreach staff
 - CHP, PATH, HOST, ETC –
 - Outreach Headquarters is located at the Sobering Center (1213 Sabine Street, Austin, TX 78701)
- Working on other additional basic needs distribution

- Social service branch of Emergency Operations Center
 - City services
 - County services
 - Homelessness
 - Food access
 - Behavioral health
 - Seniors
 - Group homes
 - Faith based
 - Childcare
 - 211 / 311 access
 - Equity
- This is the system that will get requests and operations from formal Emergency Operation Center
- Teams are starting to form and have formed around these issues
- APH made is coordinating community food access initiatives and working to build resources for prepared meals and nonperishable food delivery and pick up locations
 - Contact Michelle Myles for more info - Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov
- Specifics on what assistance will be provided through the declaration of National Emergency Funding is TBD.
 - No updates yet but will continue to check in and provide information
- ESG funding some goes to state (TDHCA) in which some of this state funding goes to partners in community already. The City of Austin (Austin Public Health department) also directly receives and administers ESG funds. COA is working with ECHO, consultants, and partners on how to coordinate additional funding that will be distributed. The procurement procedures for funds may look different than usual process.
- Question about client COVID concerns and how to direct them to the appropriate steps for isolation resources. Response: Call doctor first if no doctor or uninsured call HCH hotline, 311, for next steps.

Services for Uninsured

CommUnityCare Telemedicine Availability

You now can get care without leaving the comfort of your home — [through a phone appointment](#). This allows you to still get great care while helping to address the community spread of COVID-19. Please call **512-978-9015** to schedule a phone visit with your doctor or clinician.

- **CommUnityCare Triage Hotline**

[Central Health-funded CommUnityCare Health Centers](#) launched a hotline staffed with medical professionals to triage uninsured Travis County residents experiencing coronavirus-like symptoms (COVID-19).

People experiencing COVID-19 symptoms who are uninsured and do not have an established doctor can call the COVID-19 Hotline at 512-978-8775 for guidance. Starting today, medical professionals will answer the phones and triage callers – specifically people who are uninsured – to prevent them from going directly to a clinic, urgent care, or emergency department. For now, the hotline is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- [through a phone appointment](#)
- [Central Health-funded CommUnityCare Health Centers](#)

- There is currently a shortage of testing and screening is an important part of prioritization for testing and additional resources.
- COA is working on securing locations for isolation and quarantine cases - No housing/shelter/motel or other types of sites have been confirmed yet.

Resources

- COA Homeless Strategy page: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>
- Google Drive Folder (drop docs/flyers to share)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13MPhvSwdYqfNHASyfnOZgb0x9ScsHGmE>
- Q&A Form
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLTzZ6S91QYm3REfD7Lo6AVJ55dRLaTgsM7mZxx_Dc1pBSRg/viewform
- Community Google Doc (Homeless Services Continuities)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SSLjrNBi7TWvpisfZ5PNIXUjQU_5A9ecoxvmH9DHycM/edit