Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing and Homelessness
Hosted by NLIHC and the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition
March 1, 2021
Agenda

Welcome
• Diane Yentel, NLIHC

Advancing Equity in ERA Programs
• Ingrid Gould Ellen & Brittany Mazzurco Muscato, NYU Furman Center

New Treasury Guidance for Emergency Rental Assistance Programs
• Noel Poyo, Department of the Treasury

Increasing Access to Vaccines for People Experiencing Homelessness
• Barbara DiPietro, NHCHC

Federal Court Ruling on the CDC Eviction Moratorium: Implications & Next Steps
• Eric Dunn, NHLP

Field Updates
• Marc Jolin, Joint Office for Homeless Services, Multnomah County, OR
• Kendra Knighten, Idaho Asset Building Network & Idaho Voices for Children

Update on New Housing/ Homelessness Resources in American Rescue Plan
• Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Next Steps
Welcome

Diane Yentel
President & CEO
National Low Income Housing Coalition
dyentel@nlihc.org

www.nlihc.org
Advancing Equity in ERA Programs

Ingrid Gould Ellen
Director

Brittany Mazzurco Muscato
Graduate Research Assistant

NYU Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy

www.nlihc.org
Data Sources

- **COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance: Analysis of a National Survey of Programs**
  Access the report: [bit.ly/3cSRDmS](https://bit.ly/3cSRDmS)

- Document review
- Interviews with selected programs
LESSONS

1. Ensure program funding is allocated based on need

- Treasury allocated assistance to states/localities based on total population rather than renter population share or need

- Example: NYC received 19% of total New York state rental assistance
  - 75% of the state’s rental need is concentrated in NYC
  - 73.8% and 79.5% of the state’s Black and Latinx renter households are located in NYC, respectively

- States can make funding flows more equal (1) by passing on additional state assistance to large cities, or (2) by allowing people in large cities to apply to the state's assistance program.
LESSONS

2. Target and prioritize assistance to vulnerable groups

- Adopting additional priority criteria
- Prioritizing small landlords
- Avoiding first-come, first-served applications

- **Harris County, Texas**: applications were chosen by a lottery system and were prioritized for:
  - Those ineligible for unemployment assistance
  - Applications from prioritized census tracts, receiving 50% increased chance of being selected
LESSONS

3. Invest in outreach and targeting

▪ Consider barriers to application, such as government mistrust or fear of stigma

▪ Many cities relied on community-based organizations to conduct outreach, especially those with ties to “hard-to-reach communities”

▪ Many cities are opting to prioritize through targeted outreach rather than prioritizing applications

▪ Example: Chicago thoughtfully selected community organization partners to reach specific underrepresented communities
LESSONS

4. Simplify applications and documentation

- Greater documentation requirements were correlated with incomplete applications

- Strategies:
  - Ensure the application process itself is inclusive: simple, clear, accessible
  - Minimize documentation requirements and allow for self-certification
  - Work with nonprofits to provide potential applicants assistance in filling out applications, increasing accessibility and boost completion rates

- Example: City of San Leandro & Oakland
LESSONS

5. Monitor and make mid-course corrections

- Collect and monitor both process and outcome data broken down by gender, age, race/ethnicity, neighborhood, and other variables of concern.
- Monitor all program activities and outcomes: outreach, application intake, participation, funding awarded, and compliance.
- Example: **Utah’s** Division of Multicultural Affairs and Department of Workforce Services analyzed data on how approved applications were distributed throughout the state.
CONCLUSIONS

- Many households, especially low-income renters and renters of color, faced housing affordability challenges prior to the pandemic.
- COVID-related emergency assistance will *not* address these pre-existing affordability challenges.
- But lessons here hopefully provide some useful ideas for how to design implement racially equitable strategies to meet those pre-existing needs as well.
ADDRESSING RACIAL EQUITY IN EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Ingrid Gould Ellen
NYU Furman Center

This research has been prepared by a Center affiliated with New York University School of Law and Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, but does not purport to present the schools’ institutional views, if any.
New Treasury Guidance for Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

Noel Poyo
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Economic Development,
Office of Domestic Finance
Department of the Treasury

www.nlihc.org
Increasing Access to Vaccines for People Experiencing Homelessness

Barbara DiPietro
Senior Director of Policy
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
bdipietro@hchmd.org
C19 VACCINES: PRIORITY STATUS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: A Need for Advocacy

Barbara DiPietro
Senior Director of Policy, NHCHC
March 1, 2021
FOUR POLICY & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Immediately make all adults experiencing homelessness an eligible population for Phase 1B or 1C distribution (similar to DC, MA, MN, and Baltimore).

2. Immediately require race/ethnicity data be reported for every vaccination, rigorously evaluate that data for inequities, and create corrective plans of action if needed. Add housing status to tracking systems and report data to our data dashboard with CDC (similar to MN, which is able to regularly evaluate impact on this population).

3. In collaboration with state and local health authorities, all states should allow homeless health care providers more flexibility to deliver vaccines to smaller, more targeted settings. Likewise, allow health centers participating in the HRSA vaccine program more flexibility to reach target populations.

4. All states should immediately prioritize homeless populations and use currently available vaccines. There is no reason to delay care or wait for another vaccine.

TWO ACTIONS:
Advocate with your state/local for priority status
Sign on to our letter to Governors & Health Officers by Friday, March 5!
VACCINE RESOURCES

- Issue brief: COVID-19 & the HCH Community: Vaccines for Patients and Staff


- Council COVID-19 Flash Blast: Bi-weekly e-blast w/ most recent issues, strategies, and resources specific to C19, health care & homelessness

- Infographic: COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine FAQ

TWO ACTIONS:
Advocate with your state/local for priority status
Sign on to our letter to Governors & Health Officers by Friday, March 5!
CONTACT INFO

Barbara DiPietro, PhD
Senior Director of Policy
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
bdipietro@nhchc.org
www.nhchc.org

Our C19 policy page
Our C19 TA page
Federal Court Ruling on the CDC Eviction Moratorium: Implications & Next Steps

Eric Dunn
Director of Litigation
National Housing Law Project
edunn@nhlp.org
Field Updates

Marc Jolin
Director,
Joint Office for Homeless Services
Multnomah County, OR
marc.jolin@multco.us
Field Updates

Kendra Knighten
Policy Associate
Idaho Asset Building Network & Idaho Voices for Children
kknighten@jannus.org
Update on New Housing/Homelessness Resources in American Rescue Plan

Sarah Saadian

Vice President of Public Policy
National Low Income Housing Coalition

mmaadian@nlihc.org
Next Steps

Diane Yentel
President & CEO
National Low Income Housing Coalition
dyentel@nlihc.org
Resources
