NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing and Homelessness

Hosted by NLIHC and the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

March 1, 2021

Agenda

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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- Diane Yentel, NLIHC

Advancing Equity in ERA Programs

- Ingrid Gould Ellen & Brittany Mazzurco Muscato, NYU Furman Center

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- 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

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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Advancing Equity in ERA Programs

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Ingrid Gould Ellen

Director

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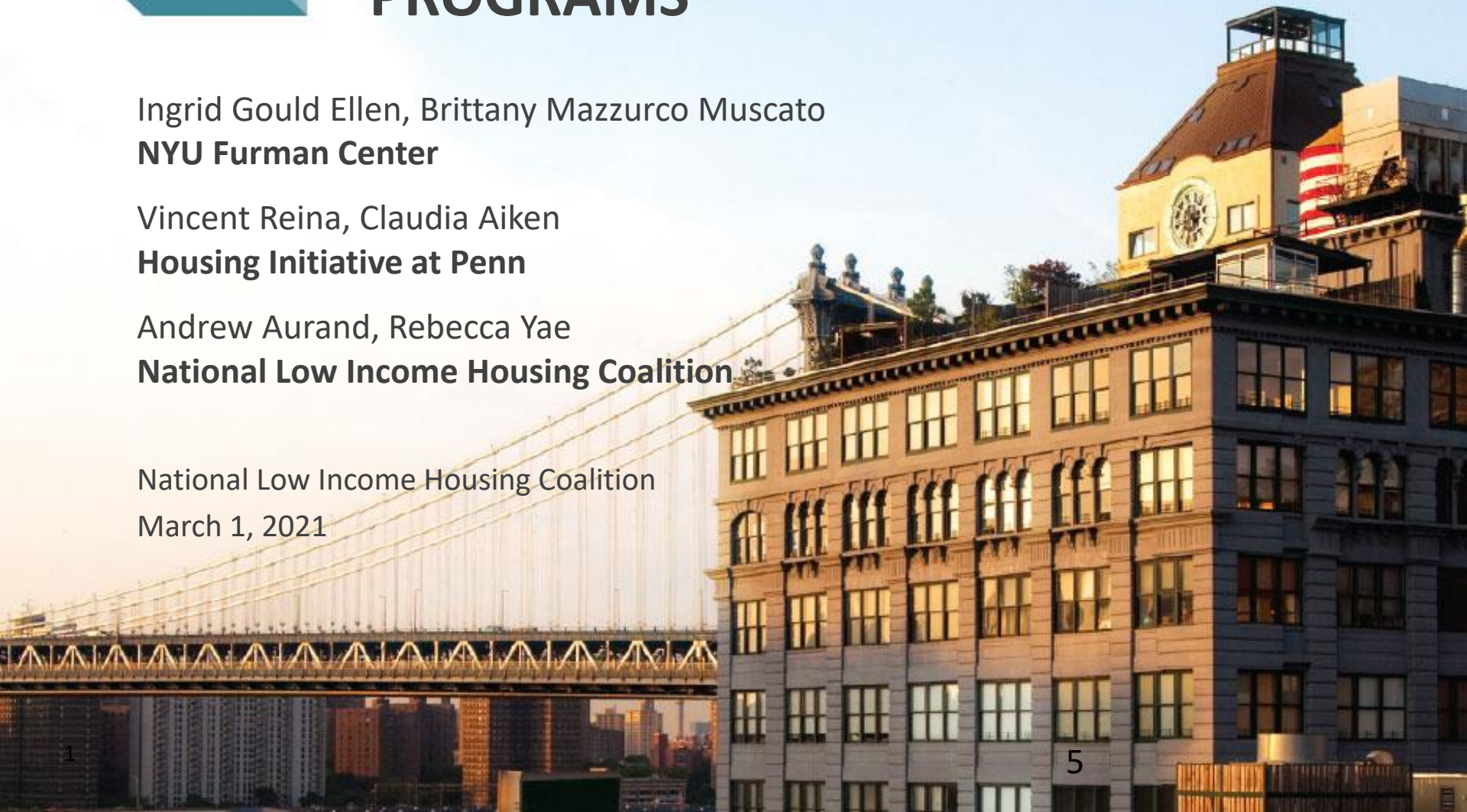
ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY IN EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Ingrid Gould Ellen, Brittany Mazzurco Muscato
NYU Furman Center

Vincent Reina, Claudia Aiken
Housing Initiative at Penn

Andrew Aurand, Rebecca Yae
National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Low Income Housing Coalition
March 1, 2021



Data Sources

- *COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance: Analysis of a National Survey of Programs*

  Access the report: 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**

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.

NYU Furman Center

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

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Noel Poyo

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Economic Development,

Office of Domestic Finance

Department of the Treasury

Increasing Access to Vaccines for People Experiencing Homelessness

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

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NATIONAL HEALTH CARE for the HOMELESS COUNCIL

C19 VACCINES: PRIORITY STATUS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS: A NEED FOR ADVOCACY

Barbara DiPietro
Senior Director of Policy, NHCHC
March 1, 2021

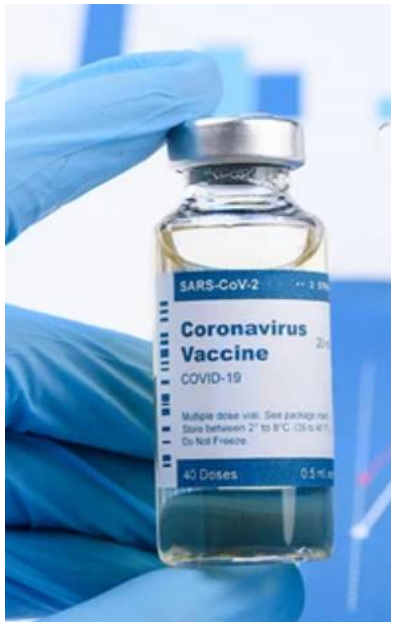
FOUR POLICY & PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

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.



NATIONAL HEALTH CARE for the HOMELESS COUNCIL

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
- Issue Brief: COVID-19 & the HCH Community: Consumer Perspectives of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- *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*



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Our C19 policy page

Our C19 TA page

Federal Court Ruling on the CDC Eviction Moratorium: Implications & Next Steps

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Field Updates

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Field Updates

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Update on New Housing/Homelessness Resources in American Rescue Plan

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Next Steps

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Resources

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Responding to Coronavirus (https://nlihc.org/responding-coronavirus): Recommendations for Congress

Coronavirus and Housing/ Homelessness (https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness): National and Local Updates