



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Coronavirus and Housing/Homelessness

Hosted by NLHHC and the

Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

August 17, 2020

Agenda



Guest Speaker

- Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Advocacy Spotlight

- Meredith Dodson, RESULTS

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- Barbara Poppe, Barbara Poppe and Associates

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- Susan Reif, Georgia Legal Services Program
- David Klein, Great Plains Housing Authority
- Margarita de Escontrias, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation

Congressional Action on Next Emergency Spending Bill

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC
- Joey Lindstrom, NLIHC
- Lisa Marlow, NLIHC

Next Steps

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Welcome & Overview



Paul Kealey

Chief Operating Officer

National Low Income Housing
Coalition

pkealey@nlihc.org

www.nlihc.org

Guest Speaker



Senator Jeff Merkley

Oregon

United States Senate

NLIHC
www.nlihc.org

Advocacy Spotlight



Meredith Dodson

Director, US Poverty Campaigns

RESULTS

mdodson@results.org

NLIHC
www.nlihc.org

Equitable Homelessness Responses During COVID-19 Funding Matrix



Barbara Poppe

Principal

Barbara Poppe and Associates

Former Executive Director

US Interagency Council on Homelessness

barbara@poppeassociates.com

www.nlihc.org



The Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response

#HousingEquity

*The implementation of this Framework, and the development of additional tools and materials,
is being collaboratively guided by the following partners:*

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities • National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Innovation Service • National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Low Income Housing Coalition • Urban Institute
Barbara Poppe and associates • Matthew Doherty Consulting

Version 3, August 7, 2020



Introduction

We created the [Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response](#) to help policymakers address the public health implications of COVID-19, help contain the spread of the virus, and help communities quickly get back on track economically. The Framework provides a guide to help communities maximize their resources and use them wisely. The needs are great but smart planning and execution will help more families, individuals, and communities emerge from the pandemic even stronger. Communities that use the Framework will be more effective and cost-efficient. [Key principles](#) include:

- Advance racial justice and equity
- Address the highest needs first
- Grow partnerships
- Get people into housing
- Act quickly

Policymakers in communities across the country have a powerful opportunity to put these principles into action as they make decisions regarding how to use new funding appropriated through the CARES Act, including ESG-CV, CDBG-CV, and the Coronavirus Relief Fund. To have the greatest impact on reducing homelessness and advancing racial justice and equity, these funds need to be used strategically and wisely, aligned with the following recommendations.

[For more information on the Framework click here](#)

Using this Matrix

1. The matrix on the next page provides an overview for prioritizing among the potential uses of CARES Act funding for investments into different essential strategic interventions to best address the needs of people experiencing homelessness amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The matrix provides two scenarios within which these prioritization decisions need to be made - communities with high levels of unsheltered homelessness; and with low levels of unsheltered homelessness. In both scenarios, and across all of the potential interventions, communities should be **prioritizing people who are at risk of COVID ahead of other households.**

At-a-Glance Matrix: Prioritizing Among Potential Uses of CARES Act Funding

step
1

Is your community's unsheltered population high or low?

step
2

What interventions are needed in your community?

step
3

What funding sources should you prioritize?

		Key CARES Act Funding Source			FEMA	
		CRF	ESG-CV	CDBG-CV	Public Assistance Program	
If high, start with these interventions and then complete those below:	Stand up and sustain non-congregate emergency shelters to support deconcentration of existing shelters (per CDC Guidelines) and to be able to provide safe sheltering opportunities to people who are unsheltered	2	3	2	1	
	Purchase hotels or other properties to expand supply of non-congregate shelter, affordable rental housing, and/or permanent supportive housing	1	-	2	-	
	Outreach and other supports for people in unsheltered locations (CDC Guidelines)	1	2	-	-	
If low, start with these interventions:	Rapid rehousing for people at high risk of poor health outcomes due to COVID (CDC guidelines)	1	2	3	-	
	Diversion Diversion to help households avoid entry into homelessness and rapid resolution for households who don't need more intensive housing help to exit homelessness quickly	1	3	2	-	
	Targeted homelessness prevention for formerly homeless people who may be at highest risk of losing their housing.	1	3	2	-	
step 4	Are the interventions above funded? If funded, focus on the following:	Targeted homelessness prevention for extremely low-income households who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are at high risk of homelessness reside in neighborhoods that experience high rates of entries into homelessness. 	1	-	1	-

The priority is to create additional space to accommodate people who are unsheltered and to replace shelter capacity lost due to need to decompress congregate shelters.

The priority is to create additional space to accommodate people who are unsheltered.

Only fund if existing outreach coverage is inadequate. Focus efforts on rehousing and providing help to maintain hygiene, food, and PPE.

Focus first on those who have recently exited rapid rehousing programs or are currently in rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing with inadequate rental assistance.

Continue to prioritize high risk people ahead of other households

Funding Sources

About ESG-CV

CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) is a formula grant to states and local governments. It funds a broad range of activities for people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness, which in this bill includes anyone with income below 50 percent of area median income (we recommend targeting to below 30 percent of area median income to best reach those most in need). The deadline for expenditures is September 30, 2022. To see the amount of your community's ESG-CV allocation see [here](#).

About CDBG-CV

CARES Act Community Development Block Grants (CDBG-CV) is a formula grant to states and local governments which can be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus”. The CARES Act waived public services cap so funds can be used flexibly for income qualified households (low/moderate income, but we recommend targeting to 30 percent AMI) with a COVID-19 related event. CDBG-CV can fund up to 3 consecutive months of rental assistance (includes arrearages) and security deposits (landlord must agree to return security deposit to grantee, not the tenant). The deadline for expenditures is September 30, 2022. To see the amount of your community's CDBG-CV allocation see [here](#). You can also access a CDBG-CV fact sheet [here](#).

About Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) provides \$150 billion to state and local governments. These flexible funds can provide be used to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precaution expenses and associated economic support, including emergency rental and utility assistance to help keep individuals stably housed. Costs must be incurred by December 30, 2020. To learn more about CRF, see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

About Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Program (FEMA-PA)

FEMA's Public Assistance Program in accordance with the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, is available for non-congregate medical sheltering. Funding is subject to prior approval by FEMA and is limited to that which is reasonable and necessary to address the public health needs of the event, is pursuant to the direction of appropriate public health officials and does not extend beyond the duration of the Public Health Emergency. To learn more about FEMA-PA, see [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). For additional guidance on funding priority for federal funding for non-congregate shelter, see [here](#).

Use new funds strategically and wisely.

The needs are great but smart planning and execution will help more families and individuals while also helping communities emerge from the pandemic even stronger. Communities that use the Framework will be more effective and cost-efficient. Key principles include:

1. Advance racial justice and equity

Both homelessness and the pandemic shine a light on racial and economic inequities in our nation so new funds should help eliminate disparities in communities – not exacerbate them.

2. Address the highest needs first

People who are unsheltered, older, disabled, medically fragile, literally homeless and extremely low income should be helped first. Start by addressing needs of people who are currently experiencing homelessness.

3. Grow partnerships

By reinvigorating partnerships with a broad range of organizations and mainstream systems there will be more resources and you can reach deeper into impacted communities.

4. Get people into housing

The best health intervention is stable housing. Stable housing is necessary for economic recovery.

5. Act quickly

Business as usual will not work. We must act quickly in the context of the pandemic and the growing economic crisis.



Field Updates



Susan Reif

Eviction Prevention Project Director

Georgia Legal Services Program

sreif@glsp.org

NLIHC
www.nlihc.org

Field Updates



David Klein

Executive Director

Great Plains Housing Authority

david@greatplainsha.com

NLIHC
www.nlihc.org



GREAT PLAINS HOUSING AUTHORITY

NLIHC – Update
August 17, 2020

David Klein, Executive Director



Client issues

- ▶ Food insecurity
 - ▶ Community of 16,000 handing out 900 boxes of food every two weeks
- ▶ Landlords unwillingly to rent to voucher holders
- ▶ Unemployment ended, many never received
- ▶ Concerns about school started
 - ▶ Not applying for employment because of school
- ▶ Many doubled-up households
- ▶ Domestic violence, suicide rates, child neglect up



Agency preparedness

- ▶ Deal with natural disasters and isolation in rural area
- ▶ COVID hitting hard second round
- ▶ Offices are implementing various measures
- ▶ Developed INFECTIOUS DISEASE PLAN
 - ▶ Covers COVID, Flu, and other diseases and how to react with families
- ▶ Use online tools and implemented online application
- ▶ Make sure website is ADA compatible



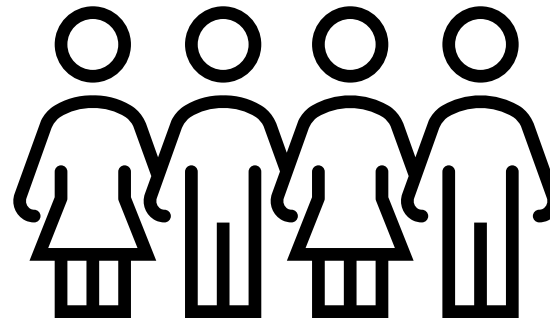
Agency preparedness

- ▶ Be involved with community emergency management discussions
- ▶ Issue press releases
- ▶ UPDATE your web site and other information
- ▶ Loss of communication tools
- ▶ Unique marketing and education
- ▶ Online landlord education
- ▶ Landlords unwilling to do inspections *not their job*



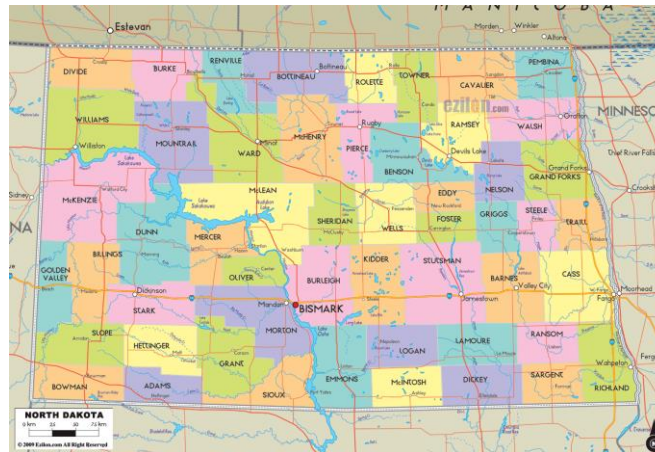
Child support issue

- ▶ Increased number of clients ending up in jail
- ▶ Can afford either rent or child support, not both even on assistance
- ▶ Taxpayers feeling the burden through jail and law enforcement
- ▶ Children have greater needs as parent not helping financially
- ▶ National change needs to happen to help families all around... this issue is bigger than just housing assistance



North Dakota tools

- ▶ ND Smart plans
- ▶ Rent Bridge
 - ▶ Developed to help families impacted by COVID pay back rent
 - ▶ Cannot be used by voucher holders
- ▶ Community Action Agencies
- ▶ Developing rural communication tools / telehealth



Puzzle pieces



- ▶ Project Renew
 - ▶ Statewide Human Services effort to help communicate with children, co-workers, providers, and clients
- ▶ First Link / 211
 - ▶ Statewide resource referral system
 - ▶ Organization covers suicide hotline and domestic violence



Contact

- ▶ David Klein
- ▶ Executive Director
- ▶ 701-252-1098
- ▶ David@greatplainsha.com



Field Updates



Margarita de Escontrias

Chief Executive Officer

Cabrillo Economic Development
Corporation

mescontrias@cabrilloedc.org

www.nlihc.org

Congressional Action on the Next Emergency Spending Bill: Update from Capitol Hill



Sarah Saadian

Vice President of Policy

National Low Income Housing
Coalition

ssaadian@nlihc.org

www.nlihc.org

Congressional Action on the Next Emergency Spending Bill: Needed Advocacy



Joey Lindstrom

Director for Field Organizing

National Low Income Housing
Coalition

jlindstrom@nlihc.org

www.nlihc.org

Congressional Action on the Next Emergency Spending Bill: Communications Updates, Tools and Tactics



Lisa Marlow

*Manager of Media Relations and
Communications*

National Low Income Housing
Coalition

lmарlow@nlihc.org

www.nlihc.org



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Next Steps

Resources



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

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