Coronavirus and Housing/Homelessness

Hosted by NLIHC and the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

August 31, 2020
Agenda

Welcome & Overview
- Diane Yentel, NLIHC

Updates on Disaster, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura
- Julia Orduña, Texas Housers
- Denise Galatas, Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.
- Renard Thomas, Reentry Alliance of Louisiana
- Andreanecia Morris, HousingNOLA

Updates on Disaster, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura
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- Denise Galatas, Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.
- Renard Thomas, Reentry Alliance of Louisiana
- Andreanecia Morris, HousingNOLA

California Wildfires
- Ilene Jacobs & Jeffery Hoffman, California Rural Legal Assistance

Iowa Derecho
- Sara Buck, City of Cedar Rapids

Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Framework for Racial Equity
- Sam Batko, Urban Institute

Tracking Evictions & Displacement
- Noëlle Porter, National Housing Law Project

Congressional Action on Next Emergency Spending Bill
- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC
- Joey Lindstrom, NLIHC

Next Steps

www.nlihc.org
Welcome & Overview

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Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura

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Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Hurricane Laura

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Chief Operating Officer

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Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: California Wildfires

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Updates on Disasters, Housing and Homelessness: Iowa Derecho

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Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Framework for Racial Equity

Sam Batko
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Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index Tool
Framework Partnership

- This tool is Urban’s contribution to the Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response

- A partnership with:
  - Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness
  - National Health Care for the Homeless Council
  - National Low Income Housing Coalition
Purpose of the Tool

- The goal is to guide communities in how and where to target rental assistance resources in a way that contributes to minimizing evictions and homelessness in a way that promotes racial equity.
- The tool identifies priority neighborhoods using several economic and demographic indicators to create an index score for each census tract in a county.
- Primary audience is local government administrators of rental assistance, including heads and staff of community development agencies and housing authorities and community-based organizations.
Features :: Where to Prioritize Emergency Rental Assistance to Keep Renters in Their Homes

Franklin County, OH

CENSUS TRACT 001122
in Franklin County, OH

Emergency Rental Assistance Priority Index: 25th percentile (among Ohio tracts)

Housing Instability Risk Subindex: 96th percentile
Shares of: people living in poverty, renter-occupied housing units, severely cost-burdened low-income renters, severely overcrowded households, and unemployed people

COVID-19 Impact Subindex: 89th percentile
Shares of: adults without health insurance and low-income jobs lost to COVID-19

Equity Subindex: 89th percentile
Shares of: people of color, extremely low-income renter households, households receiving public assistance, and people born outside the US

ELI renters = extremely low-income renters, or renters with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income
Index Construction

- Indicators chosen from literature identifying market-based indicators that correlate to homelessness rates & consideration for factors that may contribute to a household’s vulnerability, particularly during COVID-19, including race, job loss, and health insurance coverage.

- Display shows the overall index based on percentile of the tract within the state; expand to see values of sub-indices.

- Weighting:
  - Weighted race 3x heavier within Equity index;
  - Weighted housing instability index as half of overall index.
urbn.is/neighborhood-rental-assistance
Updates on Coronavirus, Housing and Homelessness: Tracking Evictions and Displacement

Noëlle Porter

Director of Government Affairs

National Housing Law Project

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2-1-1 Explained
What is 2-1-1?

2-1-1 is a comprehensive source of locally curated social services information

Referrals are most often made for housing or utilities assistance; physical or mental health services; assistance finding and obtaining employment; and services to address and prevent homelessness. The 2-1-1 network also answers crisis hotlines including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

- 2-1-1 is available to 94.6% of the US population
  - In 2018, more than 12.8 million connections were made
  - Translation services are available in 180 languages
  - If you would like to ensure your services are included in your area’s 2-1-1 resources, follow the instructions here
Summary Data
Utilities and Rental Assistance
Pandemic Month 5

Calls for utility payments and rental assistance increased in month 5 of the pandemic

- Data from 33 states shows
  - Major jump in utility needs as disconnection bans began to expire in some communities
  - Rental assistance calls rose after declining for 3 months, timed perfectly with federal and state eviction moratorium expirations
  - Landlord-tenant issue calls have been steadily increasing throughout (see NHLP report on landlord harassment and other issues)
Selected State Dashboards

Data reported here
Washington State
Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 21% over this time last year (more than 8,000 calls in July)
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 26.7% of inquiries
    - More than 1/3 were requesting rental assistance
    - 17% needed information about shelter
Housing and Shelter calls are up 73% over this time last year – CALL CRAPO

- Housing and Shelter was the 2nd most pressing issue for callers – representing 12.3% of inquiries
  - More than 50% were requesting rental assistance
  - 24% needed information about shelter
Kentucky

Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020 – Data from one of 3 state 2-1-1s

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 16% over this time last year
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 34.8% of inquiries
    - Almost 65% were requesting rental assistance – CALL MCCONNELL
    - Utility related calls saw a significant increase
Virginia

Request increases from August 2019 to August 2020

- Housing and Shelter calls are up 120% over this time last year
  - Housing and Shelter was the most pressing issue for callers – representing 23% of inquiries
    - Almost 55% were requesting rental assistance
    - 21% needed information about shelter
Housing and Shelter calls are up 72% over this time last year

- Housing and Shelter was an important pressing issue for callers – representing 10.5% of inquiries
  - Almost 35% were requesting rental assistance – CALL COLLINS
  - 19% needed information about shelter
Questions?
Congressional Actions and Advocacy: Update from Capitol Hill

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Congressional Actions and Advocacy: Needed Advocacy

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Next Steps
Resources
