



*Note: This presentation was edited on June 24, 2020 to correct the reference on slide 18. ESG-CV cannot currently be used for FEMA cost-share.*

# COVID-19 Office Hours for ESG State Recipients

May 4, 2020



# Reminders

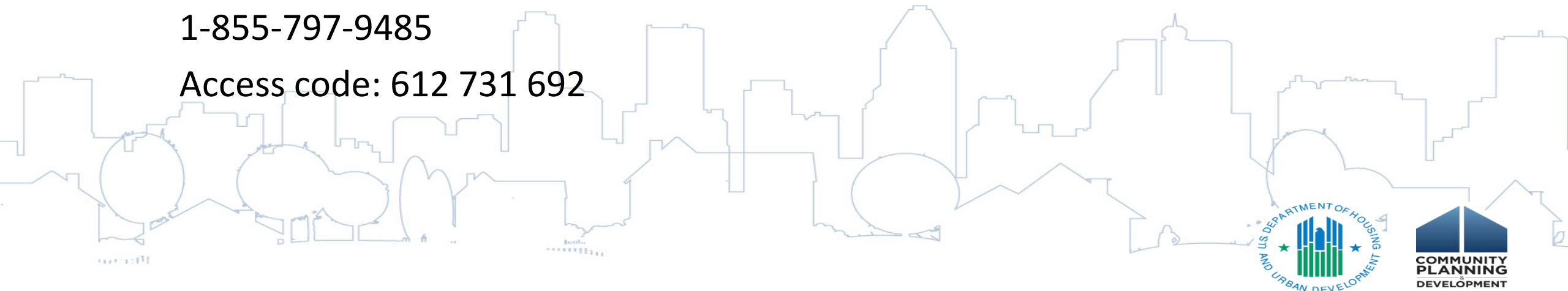
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-webinars-and-office-hours>

- For best audio, please use the phone call-in feature:

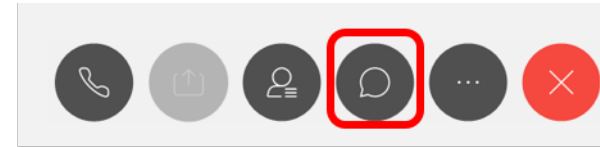
1-855-797-9485

Access code: 612 731 692

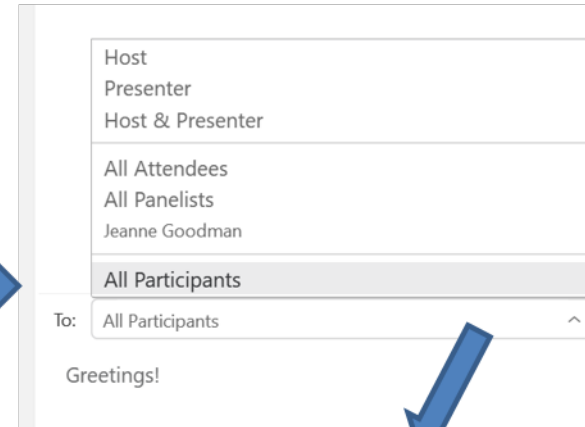


# Chat Feature

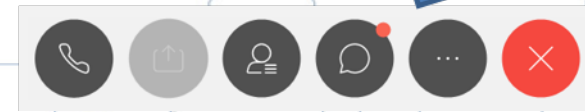
Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.



Be certain the To field is set to **All Participants**



An orange dot on the Chat icon indicates that you have unread messages.



# Panelists/Resource Advisors

- **Norm Suchar** – Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
- **Lisa Coffman** – SNAPS
- **Marlisa Grogan** – SNAPS
- **Aaron Weaver** – HUD CPD Field Office, Chicago
- **Brett Esders** – SNAPS
- **William Snow** – SNAPS
- **Abby Miller** – SNAPS

# For More Detailed Information on ESG-CV Funding

- If you haven't already, review slides from COVID-19 Office Hours for ESG Recipients from Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> on the [HUD Exchange](#)
- Includes detailed information about allowable costs, substantial amendments, and documentation for the Mega-Waivers

# Agenda

- ESG-CV Alternate Requirements
- Guiding Principles and Priorities
- State ESG Recipient Involvement in COVID Response
- Strategic Investment of ESG-CV Resources
- CARES Act Eviction Moratorium
- Keys to Success
- Learning Opportunities & Resources

# ESG-CV Alternate Requirements

- No matching requirement
- No spending cap on Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach
- Up to 10% of the grant can be spent on Administrative activities
- Income eligibility 50 percent AMI for Homelessness Prevention
- HMIS Lead costs can be paid for other than lead agencies

**All programmatic activities must either prepare for, respond to, or prevent coronavirus**



# ESG-CV Alternate Requirements (cont)

- Allows deviation from applicable procurement standards
- Citizen participation/consultation requirements not required
- No minimum period of use for temporary shelters
- May not require program participants to receive treatment or perform any other prerequisite activities as a condition for receiving shelter, housing, or services

**All programmatic activities must either prepare for, respond to, or prevent coronavirus**





# ESG-CV Consolidated Planning – Start NOW

**Don't wait** to begin planning for the use of ESG-CV funding.

HUD is finalizing additional guidance on the process for completing substantial amendments or action plan submissions in IDIS.

# CARES Act Guiding Principles and Priorities

- Equitable and effective use of resources to re-house people, using equity-based decision-making and data-driven policy setting.
- **Follow CDC Recommendations:**
  - Address public health risk by housing people in unsheltered locations and shelters with shared sleeping areas
  - Ensure that people in non-congregate shelters do not return to unsheltered homelessness or shelters with shared sleeping areas.

# Prioritize COVID-19 Response

- SNAPS understands your #1 priority right now is responding to COVID-19
- Don't stress about performance metrics, subrecipient monitoring
- HUD will take these extraordinary circumstances into strong consideration for future monitoring
- Recipients are encouraged to be as flexible as possible when thinking through evaluation metrics

# ESG State Recipient Involvement in COVID Response

**If you have not already, get involved in your state's public health response immediately.**

**As a state recipient of ESG-CV funding, establish the framework for a coordinated, urgent response:**

- Connect with your state Departments of Public Health and Emergency Management, to understand the sheltering and safety response for people who are COVID positive, symptomatic or at high risk of severe illness.
- Reach out to Continuum(s) of Care to coordinate COVID response \*in coordination with public health and emergency management\*



# ESG State Recipient Involvement in COVID Response

- Reach out to Continuum(s) of Care to coordinate:
  - Street outreach efforts
  - Non-congregate sheltering options, \*in coordination with public health and emergency management\*
  - Implementing infection control measures in shelters (i.e., social distancing, symptom screening, testing, sanitation/hygiene protocols, etc.)
  - Continued Rapid Re-housing and Homelessness Prevention
- Complement existing efforts; don't duplicate them.

# Strategic Investment of ESG-CV Resources

## COVID Response and Re-Housing Strategy: **Immediate** Priorities

- Non-Congregate Shelter
- Street Outreach
- Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing

# Strategic Investment of ESG-CV Resources

## COVID Response and Re-Housing Strategy: **Short and Medium Term** needs

- Coordinated Entry
- Prevention

# Strategic Investment of ESG-CV Resources

Use HMIS to maximize track and inform response and re-housing efforts.



# Strategic Investment of ESG-CV Resources

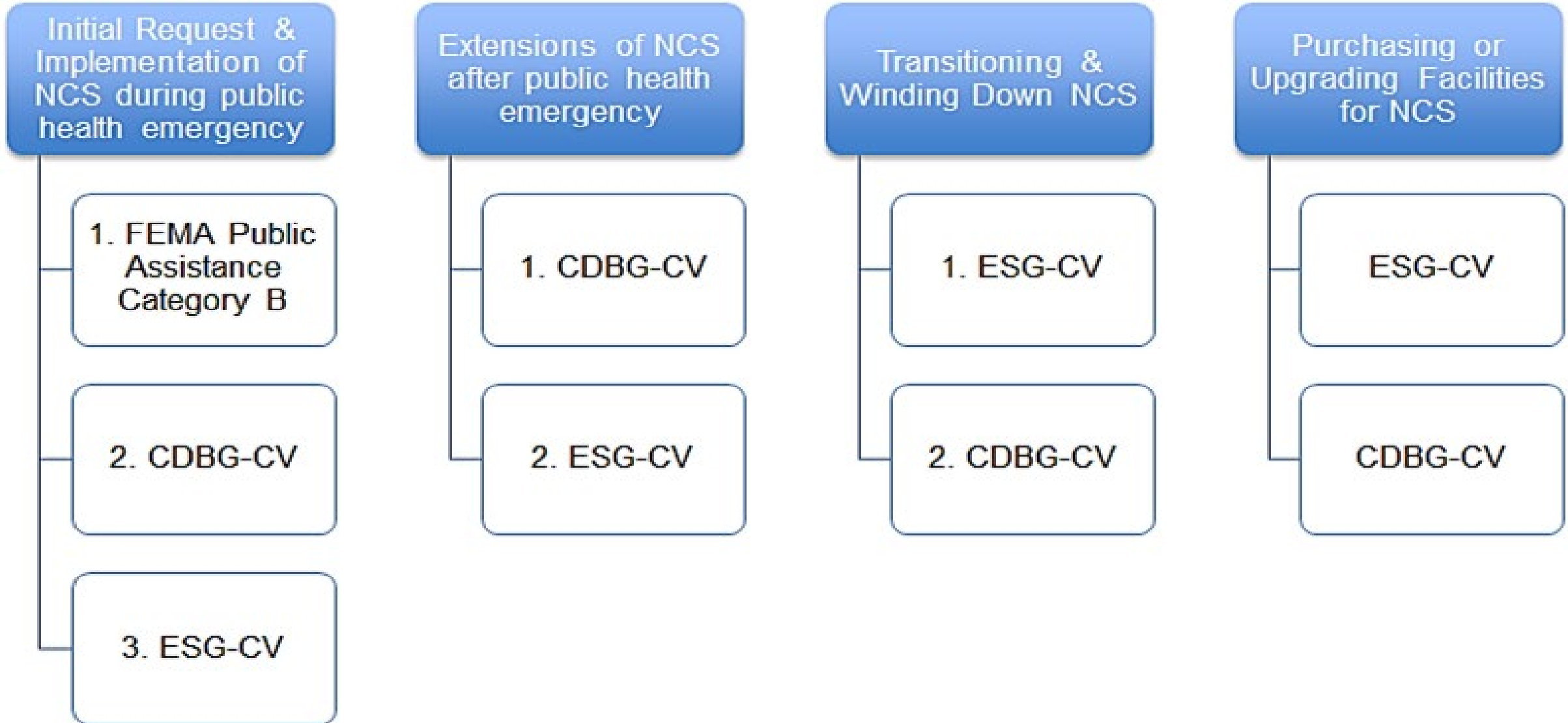
## COVID Response and Re-Housing Strategy: **Immediate** Priorities

- Non-Congregate Shelter
- Street Outreach
- Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing

# Non-Congregate Shelter

- Non-congregate shelter (NCS) protects the health of at-risk individuals and minimizes the spread of COVID-19.
- States or localities that require NCS for [vulnerable and at-risk populations](#), should apply for FEMA Public Assistance.
- States should consider all available resources for cost share including the [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#), operated by the Department of Treasury. CDBG-CV may be used for cost-share.

# Federal Funding Priority Sources for NCS



# Shelter – Immediate Priorities

- Coordinate with CoCs to ensure shelter management protocols are updated (social distancing, symptom screening, testing, hygiene/sanitation protocols)
- Coordinate with public health to establish non-congregate shelter options (hotel/motels; dorm rooms; converted spaces where people can isolate or quarantine in individual rooms)
- Increase staffing ratios and order supplies including PPE

# Shelter - Eligible Investments

Focus on investments that improve shelter quality, ability to prevent and mitigate the spread of infection, and increase the likelihood of positive exits with shortened stays such as:

- Expansion of essential services funding for housing navigation to decrease length of stay in shelter
- Shelter conversion to expand access to non-congregate shelter
- Improved shelter quality and accessibility through renovations

**Note: Any decision to sustain or expand shelter capacity should be supported by inflow data.**

# Rapid Re-Housing – Immediate Priorities

Rapid Re-housing is the first priority investment as it has the greatest capacity of all ESG activities to end homelessness

- Strategically employ RRH in rehousing effort for those in overflow/congregate/non-congregate shelter and unsheltered
- Encourage subrecipients to maintain a progressive engagement model
- Encourage varied data-driven program models to meet needs including:
  - Short-term diversion
  - High-intensity service models for those who will need significant support to maintain housing
  - Scale up staffing capacity

# Rapid Re-Housing – Eligible Investments

Support efforts to:

- Scale landlord engagement activities
- Engage/re-engage in coordinated entry
- Monitor data to ensure that exits to housing are equitable and that returns to homelessness are not racially disproportionate
- Ensure people in housing are linked to appropriate services, including health care and employment services
- Ensure people are provided with adequate assistance, based on individualized needs

# Coordinated Entry

## Immediate priorities and eligible Investments

Support subrecipients to:

- Evaluate written standards and, in coordination with CoC, modify prioritization criteria and process consistent with COVID response and rehousing efforts
- Articulate a clear coordination and referral process with homelessness prevention services
- When appropriate, invest in HMIS upgrades/improvements to accommodate participation in coordinated entry



# Street Outreach – Immediate Priorities

- Address urgent needs by providing PPE, toiletries and other supplies to those who are unsheltered
- Engagement of unsheltered individuals to connect them to coordinated entry, non-congregate shelter and rapid re-housing
- Linkage to health services
- Ramp up street outreach efforts/presence, including increased staffing

# Street Outreach – Eligible Investments

Focus on investments that improve housing-focused services, increase effectiveness of engagement, and improve the speed of exit from the homelessness system such as:

- Mobile assessment
- Engagement and case management to support linkages to housing
- Transportation
- Identify new subrecipients to improve outreach to traditionally underserved populations

# HMIS – Immediate Priorities

- In partnership with subrecipients and CoC, consider using HMIS for COVID-19 response (e.g., symptom screening, client tracking)
- Establish close coordination with the HMIS lead agencies that serve your state (if unsure, contact the CoCs)
- Determine administrative, training and support needs related to expansion and training of new subs/providers (be mindful of need for new licenses and/or equipment to support participation)
- Ensure that you are set up in Sage for CAPER reporting

**Note that HMIS Lead costs incurred by agencies *other than the lead agency* can be paid through 9/30/20**



# HMIS – Eligible Investments

- Support ongoing monitoring and assessment of HMIS participation and HMIS data quality
- Monitor data to ensure indicators show equitable provision of housing and services, e.g., entries, exits, services provided, duration, etc.
- Establish protocols for frequent data assessment to ensure that they align with need projections and that strategies are as responsive as possible

# Homelessness Prevention – Immediate Priorities

- Focus on coordinating with the many other CARES Act resources
- Ensure prevention efforts are focused on the most vulnerable households who would be homeless “but for” assistance
- Require the use of an evidence-based prevention screening criteria (see SSVF screening tool as an example)
- Educate subrecipients on CARES Act eviction moratorium information
- Encourage subrecipient connections to local legal aid services for people who are at risk of homelessness due to eviction

# Homelessness Prevention – Eligible Investments

- Use any investment in prevention resources as a way to improve linkage and coordination with the larger homeless response system
- Support at-risk diversion efforts
- Build out a thoughtful data collection plan to improve prevention targeting and understand system disparities

# Administration – Immediate Priorities

- Stakeholder outreach to ensure alignment of priorities
- Use of HMIS data to determine areas of greatest need
- Submission of Substantial Amendment
- Evaluate capacity of current and potential subrecipients to quickly scale up or undertake priority activities
- Ensure that subrecipients coordinate with CoCs, local and state public health agencies and local health care resources & focus on equity-based decision-making

**CARES Act increased allowable ESG-CV administration costs from 7.5% to 10%**



# Administration – Eligible Investments

- Work with CoCs to modify CE policies and protocols to support rehousing strategies
- Monitor and assess data to project needs for various interventions
- Support communication efforts, especially in rural areas
- Assess effectiveness of strategies and make mid-course corrections as necessary
- Undertake planning efforts to ensure those in non-congregate settings exit to permanent housing



# CARES Act Eviction Moratorium

The CARES Act provides a temporary moratorium on eviction filings for nonpayment of rent for tenants who:

- participate in certain federal assistance programs, including CoC, ESG, HOPWA
- live in dwellings with certain federally backed mortgages

The moratorium extends from March 27-July 24, 2020.

It does NOT apply to no-cause evictions or evictions based on reasons other than non-payment of rent.

[New Q&A's posted on the HUD Exchange](#)



# Keys to Success for State Recipients

- Create an emphasis on emergency needs, access and equity for the most vulnerable with first tranche of funding
- Ensure that appropriate state-level stakeholders share an initial understanding about the purpose and priorities of ESG-CV funding
- Examine current data to determine where there are the greatest racial inequities. Allocate funds to address the inequities at both programmatic and systems level.
- Include people with lived experience, people of color, young people and LGBTQ identified people on resource allocation and decision-making groups.

# Keys to Success for State Recipients

Work with local and Balance of State Continuums of Care:

- Identify local needs, priorities and strong potential subrecipients
- Consider subawarding to CoCs
- Determine how ESG-CV can help strengthen local permanent housing efforts (i.e. moving highly vulnerable individuals in hotels funded through ESG-CV to permanent housing)

# Keys to Success for State Recipients

Work with local and Balance of State Continuums of Care (cont):

- Coordinate entry and access concerns and help stand up best practices and strategies; equity, diversion, CE
- HMIS/Data Collection Plan—work with HMIS lead agency (check on CARES act flexibility-HMIS costs can be paid for other than lead agency only)
- Plan for coordination of monitoring activities

# Keys to Success for State Recipients

- Consider establishing a disaster policy to streamline method of distribution and quickly subaward funding
- Roll out funding in stages to increase flexibility and targeting in this rapidly changing landscape
- Use the funding application and allocation process to reinforce strategic priorities and ensure capacity to carry out program activities
- Communicate with other direct ESG recipients in state to determine needs for support of their ESG-CV funded activities (Note that ESG-CV funds can be used in both entitlement and non-entitlement areas)

# Keys to Success for State Recipients

- For rural areas with few providers, consider funding organizations with regional reach to undertake activities/provide services over a large geographic area
- Whenever possible, contract with organizations that are experts in reaching and engaging with underserved and marginalized populations (e.g. YWCAs, Urban Leagues, CDCs, local NAACP chapters, communities of faith, Housing Justice Alliance local chapters)
- Hold a virtual start-up conference with subrecipients to clearly outline expectations for program funds

# Additional ESG-CV TA & Learning Opportunities

- Additional tools for investment planning, grant management, administrative process will be available
- 5-week Intensive TA Workshops: CARES Act Funding Utilization begin week of June 15. Topics include:
  - housing problem solving
  - coordinated investment planning
  - coordinated entry
  - HMIS
  - strengthening housing-focused practices

# Resources

- HUD Exchange Infectious Disease Prevention and Response Page:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-key-resources>
- HUD Exchange Consolidated Planning:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/consolidated-plan/>
- HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question (AAQ) Portal:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>



# Q & A

Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to  
**All Participants**

