

**COVID-19 Office Hours: Chat and Q&A
August 21st, 2020**

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August 21, 2020 from Natalie Matthews to everyone: 2:30 PM 1-855-797-9485 Access code: 610 976 677

August 21, 2020 from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: 2:33 PM Any update on Grant Agreements from FY2019?

August 21, 2020 from Barbara DiPietro to everyone: 2:35 PM Here's the link to this dashboard: <https://nhchc.org/cdc-covid-dashboard/home/>

August 21, 2020 from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: 2:36 PM January PIT- yes? or no?

August 21, 2020 from Barbara DiPietro to everyone: 2:36 PM If you are doing testing events where you are testing everyone in one program/encampment, please enter the testing results to help make this a more accurate picture of how COVID is impacting our population. Thank you!

August 21, 2020 from Norm Suchar to everyone: 2:37 PM @Suzie, the rest of the FY 2019 grant agreements should be available late next week, or possibly early the week after. Sorry about the delay.

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 2:37 PM @Suzie - RE: 2021 PIT count. There are no decisions yet about the 2021 PIT count. It will likely be a few weeks before that decision can be finalized.

August 21, 2020 from Don Watt to everyone: 2:39 PM Can HUD staff provide an estimation as to when the guidance for the ESG CARES funds will be released?

August 21, 2020 from Brett Penner to everyone: 2:39 PM I have a question about the new data standards for Coordinated Entry. With the change practices and policies related to COVID, will the deadline for implementation be extended past the current October 1 date?

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August 21, 2020 from Bonnie Campbell to everyone: 2:39 PM Can a client self-certify eligibility for ESG-CV assistance? Does anyone know if Round 1 & Round 2 will be tracked separately? Clients tracked separately as well? Thank you!

August 21, 2020 from Whitney McGinniss to everyone: 2:39 PM Any update on the timeline for the FY2020 CoC NOFA? (Or if there will be one?)

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 2:41 PM @ Brett - RE: CE Data Standard. We don't plan on extending the deadline beyond October 1. However, we know that the implementation of the elements and any training necessary to implement will take time. HUD will review the data with realization that CoCs will be in transition in the next year to fully implementing these elements.

August 21, 2020 from Lauren Whitleigh to everyone: 2:41 PM how many folks are being helped with shallow rent subsidy?

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:41 PM Great program. Do you have the affordable housing stock to rehouse all those on the waitlist? 2,000 affordable units seems like a lot to fill.

August 21, 2020 from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: 2:41 PM I thought Rd 1 & 2 ESG CV funding is combined.

August 21, 2020 from Bonnie Campbell to everyone: 2:42 PM I am under the impression that they are separate but will run concurrently...can anyone clarify?

August 21, 2020 from Kexin Ma to everyone: 2:43 PM Can you provide more detail on diversion? How the process works, who will be the 2000 target people, what would they receive? How people going to find this services etc.

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August 21, 2020 from Allison Nye to everyone: 2:43 PM Can you expand on PSH Housing Preservation? Is that just flexible funds?

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 2:43 PM @ Bonnie - RE: tracking Round 1 and 2 separately. HUD will not ask ESG Recipients to track their Round 1 and 2 data separately. The ESG-CV quarterly reporting will be asking about people served with any ESG-CV dollars (regardless of which allocation of funding was used to pay for services).

August 21, 2020 from Don Watt to everyone: 2:44 PM Are there any waivers or exemptions to the Environmental Review requirements for the ESG CARES Act funds that will allow Exempt activities to cover costs prior to the ER determination? It seemed that the CDBG guidance provided some relief for CDBG CARES activities that are exempt or convert to exempt. We were hoping for some relief here for ESG funds as well.

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:45 PM Now that most communities have the funding to rehouse people, how are communities dealing with not having enough affordable housing stock?

August 21, 2020 from Maria Davis to everyone: 2:45 PM I would love to hear more about how the "Landlord Engagement Fee" works...

August 21, 2020 from Katie Peterson to everyone: 2:45 PM @Justin- some communities are using CRF funds for landlord incentives

August 21, 2020 from Bonnie Campbell to everyone: 2:46 PM @williamsnow- Thank you!

August 21, 2020 from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: 2:48 PM folks who "don't work well in RRH"- is that due to the fact they required long-term subsidies?

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August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 2:48 PM @ Justin - RE: insufficient affordable housing stock. Some mayors have championed housing surges which have brought new landlords on board. Other communities are using shared housing models to make existing stock stretch further (even during COVID). And other communities are creating stock like CA's Project Homekey which is converting hotels to PH.

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:48 PM That sounds like a good idea except using funds as incentives towards landlords and not actually rehousing people would require buy in from those who administer the funds. I think most people are not welcome to the idea of spending the funds to give landlords extra funds beyond their rent/utilities. Also, since housing stock is so limited, landlords are willing to pass on guaranteed rent and chose a tenant who will pay for a higher rent.

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:49 PM Thank You Katie and William

August 21, 2020 from Aaron Weaver to everyone: 2:50 PM
<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/notice-cpd-20-07/>

August 21, 2020 from Aaron Weaver to everyone: 2:50 PM @Don Watt, HUD Issued Notice 20-07 on 8/11 outlining guidance on environmental reviews in response to COVID-19. The Notice can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/notice-cpd-20-07/>

August 21, 2020 from Jennifer Fabbrini to everyone: 2:51 PM For CoC PSH programs, is there any allowable flexibility during COVID-19 regarding the % of self-certification used when documenting length of time homeless for chronic homeless status?

August 21, 2020 from Ben Cattell Noll (He/Him) to everyone: 2:52 PM
@Justin- Rhode Island's Governor set up a LL incentive program that paid LLs to offer units. She used a similar rationale to Housing First to make the argument to LLs- it is the RIGHT thing to do (helping house people in a pandemic) and it is the SMART thing to do (on the funder side- LLs are businesspeople in our community and this is an investment in them during a difficult time, and on the LL side- they

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provided money above and beyond the normal rent as an incentive...and guaranteed tenants during a somewhat strange time to rent out to new tenants)

August 21, 2020 from Andrew Willard to everyone: 2:53 PM How did you determine those goals?

August 21, 2020 from Aaron Weaver to everyone: 2:53 PM @Don Watt re: ESG CARES funds, ESG-CV funds have been available for communities. If your community's agreement has not yet been executed, I would encourage you to first reach out to the local entitlement jurisdiction to identify whether or not they have applied to HUD for the funding vis-à-vis their Consolidated-Annual Action Plan amendment/submission.

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:53 PM This looks similar to the Coordinated Investment Planning Workshop. Highly recommend that communities take advantage of the intensive ESG/CoC TA being offered.

August 21, 2020 from Justin Marino to everyone: 2:56 PM Thanks Ben- I think more of the issue is also we just don't have the usual turnover and units are just not becoming available as they usually are in normal times.

August 21, 2020 from Aaron Weaver to everyone: 2:56 PM @Suzie Tolmie and Bonnie Campbell, just to add to William's response, if you're asking about whether grantees can apply for both Rd. 1 and Rd. 2 funds at the same time, the answer is "yes".

August 21, 2020 from Katie Peterson to everyone: 2:58 PM @Bob- Rhode Island is giving \$2,000 for the first unit, \$500 for any additional unit

August 21, 2020 from Kexin Ma to everyone: 2:58 PM Would a specific diversion team locating at the shelter?

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August 21, 2020 from Don Watt to everyone: 2:58 PM @Aaron Weaver.
Thanks we have reviewed that notice; however, unless we are missing something, it does not make any changes to the requirement that we cannot fund anything prior to the date that the ER determination is signed off on by Certifying Officer. It appears that CDBG-CV has been provided some grace with that respect in the recent CDBG CV guidance that was released.

August 21, 2020 from Bonnie Campbell to everyone: 2:59 PM @Aaron
Weaver-Thank you!

August 21, 2020 from Nancy Fitzpatrick to everyone: 2:59 PM The diversion
component can be very effective and cost effective too. ...a real gap filler.

August 21, 2020 from Kexin Ma to everyone: 2:59 PM Because we found that
shelters have incentive to keep a person because they get paid for each beds. So they are not motivated to divert the person....

August 21, 2020 from Ben Cattell Noll (He/Him) to everyone: 3:00 PM These
communities recently profiled in this HUD TA document are all doing great diversion work!:
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Housing-Problem-Solving-in-Practice.pdf>

August 21, 2020 from Lisa Coffman to everyone: 3:04 PM
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Special-Population-Rehousing-Strategy-Family-Violence.pdf>

August 21, 2020 from Lisa Coffman to everyone: 3:04 PM
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Special-Population-Rehousing-Strategy-Youth-and-Young-Adults.pdf>

August 21, 2020 from Lesa Weikel to everyone: 3:07 PM Do the current ESG
Waivers (March and May Memos) apply to all non-CV ESG funding or a specific FY/PY of ESG non CV-funds

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August 21, 2020 from Suzie Tolmie to everyone: 3:09 PM GIWs to our Field Offices, not DC, right?

August 21, 2020 from Lisa Coffman to everyone: 3:09 PM @Suzie Tolmie - that is correct. Send GIW's to your Field Office

August 21, 2020 from Whitney McGinniss to everyone: 3:10 PM Does the CoC competition have to be completed by the end of the federal fiscal year (September 30th)? Or could it be completed after that date?

August 21, 2020 from Lauren Whiteleigh to everyone: 3:12 PM will CDBG folks be joining us next week?

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 3:12 PM @ Whitney - RE: NOFA timing. The competition could be completed after the federal fiscal year. We did it that way in the past. We look forward to seeing what flexibility Congress will give us.

August 21, 2020 from Whitney McGinniss to everyone: 3:12 PM @ William. Thanks!

August 21, 2020 from Lesa Weikel to everyone: 3:12 PM Can the ESG-CV funds (or other CARES Act/CV funds) be used as match?

August 21, 2020 from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: 3:12 PM @Lesa - the current ESG waivers apply to all annual ESG grants, not specific grant years.

August 21, 2020 from Jennifer Fabbrini to everyone: 3:12 PM For CoC PSH, is there any allowable flexibility during COVID-19 regarding the % of self-certification used when documenting length of time homeless for chronic homeless status?

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August 21, 2020 from Lesa Weikel to everyone: 3:13 PM @Marlissa - Thank you

August 21, 2020 from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: 3:13 PM @Lesa, no ESG-CV funds can't be used as match for annual ESG grants

August 21, 2020 from Lauren Whitleigh to everyone: 3:13 PM we have 2 renewals who want to voluntarily reallocate their CoC Program funding, and we are concerned about our ability to retain funds in the CoC for new projects. With a non-competitive renewal process, will we be able to retain these funds in the CoC?

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 3:14 PM @ Lauren RE: reallocation. We don't know at this point. We need to see what flexibility we can get from Congress before we can answer that question.

August 21, 2020 from Lauren Whitleigh to everyone: 3:14 PM Thanks William!

August 21, 2020 from Amanda B to everyone: 3:15 PM We also are looking to reallocate in this competition period. We have a program that will be closing at the end of this year. I hope there will be some opportunity for reallocation.

August 21, 2020 from Lisa Snipes to everyone: 3:16 PM We too have a project which will be ending at the end of this operating year and they are also voluntarily reallocating their funds. This will be very important to our CoC for future projects.

August 21, 2020 from Amanda Rosado to everyone: 3:18 PM I see a lot in the chat about the competition. Did I miss an announcement about that?

August 21, 2020 from DAVID CANAVAN to everyone: 3:19 PM @Amanda: No. No you did not.

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August 21, 2020 from Amanda Rosado to everyone: 3:19 PM Thanks David :)

August 21, 2020 from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: 3:19 PM @Lauren - we have invited the CDBG folks to join us; while we can't confirm they'll be at next week's office hours, we're hoping they'll be making an appearance soon.

August 21, 2020 from Lauren Whitleigh to everyone: 3:20 PM Thanks Marlissa!

August 21, 2020 from William Snow to everyone: 3:24 PM @ Lauren, Amanda, and Lisa - RE: reallocation - absent info on a 2020 competition we would encourage to look at doing grant amendments to transfer grants to recipients that can administer the grants. That is a safer bet and lets you keep your money. We know that also has challenges but we would hate to see anyone lose money because of challenges with recipients.

August 21, 2020 from Aaron Weaver to everyone: 3:25 PM @Don Watt, re: environmental review. Per Lauren Hayes in the Office of Environment and Energy, "it should be the same guidance as the CDBG-CV notice re: reimbursement. [HUD has] said that projects can be eligible for reimbursement as long as they can complete a Pt 58 and document no env harm. This is probably doable for CENST activities, but beyond that they may run into issues." HUD will have to address it on a case by case basis. Essentially, reimbursement is, "allowed in the CARES Act for both CDBG and ESG... but if it's for a CEST activity for example and they can't get to an "after the fact" agreement with SHPO for instance, the project wouldn't be eligible for reimbursement. [For] CENST activities, they can just document the CENST after the fact...otherwise I'd say they should reach out to me and the FEO" Lauren can be reached at

August 21, 2020 from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: 3:25 PM @Teresa, please stay tuned - we will be providing training on reporting shortly

Q&A Session for COVID-19 Office Hours

-Justin Vorbach - 2:38 PM

Q: News on HEROES ACT and 2020 CoC App process?

Priority: N/A-