

# COVID-19 Office Hours: Transcript

## February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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1

00:00:04.439 --> 00:00:08.970

Hello everyone and welcome to the snaps COVID-19 office hours.

2

00:00:08.970 --> 00:00:15.389

My name is Micah Webster with Abt Associates. I'm going to spend a couple of moments going over some tech notes.

3

00:00:15.389 --> 00:00:18.599

And then we'll get into the content that we have for today.

4

00:00:18.599 --> 00:00:23.700

So, a couple of housekeeping reminders, we are recording the office hours today.

5

00:00:23.700 --> 00:00:31.290

As we do for each office hours, and we will post a copy of the recording along the slides and any content that we received through the chat box.

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00:00:31.290 --> 00:00:34.350

Onto the head exchange in just a few business days.

7

00:00:34.350 --> 00:00:37.560

If you have any issues with audio during the webinar.

8

00:00:37.560 --> 00:00:40.920

Encourage you to switch over from computer to phone audio.

9

00:00:40.920 --> 00:00:47.040

At the numbers that are up there on the screen, and that, I have just pasted into the chat.

10

00:00:48.330 --> 00:00:51.900

Everyone will remain the duration of the office hours this week.

11

00:00:51.900 --> 00:00:57.360

But we absolutely anticipate and hope to hear from you through the chat feature in Webex.

12

00:00:57.360 --> 00:01:01.590

To find the chat, just take a look at the bottom right. Hand corner of your screen.

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13

00:01:01.590 --> 00:01:05.130

You should see the word chat and what it looks like a message bubble.

14

00:01:05.130 --> 00:01:11.310

Click on that to open the chat please and all questions comments and feedback through the chat.

15

00:01:11.310 --> 00:01:17.730

And with that, I'm going to turn things over to Ebony Rankin from the HUD office of special needs assistance programs. Ebony?

16

00:01:17.875 --> 00:01:28.555

hi. Good afternoon. Thanks, Micah. So, today welcome to our February office hours today.

17

00:01:28.555 --> 00:01:36.085

We have our usual rundown of of panelists. Here. You have.

18

00:01:36.360 --> 00:01:50.700

Some folks from the office of special needs assistance programs, myself and Brett and Sharon to answer questions. We do have someone from the CDC to give their highlights next slide.

19

00:01:52.380 --> 00:01:58.500

And then you see other resources that we would normally have on some of our office hours call.

20

00:01:58.500 --> 00:02:09.030

Next slide so the 1st, we'll have is the COVID-19 monkey pox update from Emily Mosites from.

21

00:02:09.030 --> 00:02:22.410

Uh, the CDC, Emily. Hi, everyone, it's really good to talk with you today. Normally, Caroline Waddell from our office provides this update, but she's out. So I am.

22

00:02:22.410 --> 00:02:30.570

Providing it this week, I'm going to talk about impacts and then the end of the public health emergency for 2019.

23

00:02:30.775 --> 00:02:42.175

Excellent. So, if this winter you were feeling like, covered 19 was nothing like last winter you would be correct on this graph.

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24

00:02:42.205 --> 00:02:53.815

You can see that this winter all we saw in terms of cover 19 cases. So far, I hope not to change. This was a little bubble, um, that you can see on the right hand side of the graph.

25

00:02:54.090 --> 00:03:02.850

We are up to mid February now. Um, but what you can see last year is the huge spike of the.

26

00:03:02.850 --> 00:03:14.460

Pieces so so grateful that we did not see anything like that this year and hopefully we'll continue on this trajectory right now. We continue to see a downward trajectory for cases hospitalizations.

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00:03:14.460 --> 00:03:22.590

Next flight that means that the covered 19 community levels are fairly low across the country.

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00:03:22.590 --> 00:03:33.835

There are still some that are high. So if you are in a county where COVID-19 activity is high, these community levels, remember they represent burden of disease.

29

00:03:33.835 --> 00:03:38.305

So they're telling you about how many people are being hospitalized. How many.

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00:03:38.580 --> 00:03:42.270

Inpatient beds are being used and that, um.

31

00:03:42.270 --> 00:03:47.760

That tells you how much activity is going on and how much it's impacting the population. And so.

32

00:03:47.760 --> 00:03:52.020

When your community is in Hi, we do want, um.

33

00:03:52.020 --> 00:03:55.230

Some protection to be in place for people experiencing homelessness.

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00:03:55.230 --> 00:04:00.120

So that 2019 does not spread easily through shelters.

35

00:04:00.415 --> 00:04:15.055

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Next slide, we are seeing a shift in the variance. So right now the most common variant that has been on the rise through this winter bubble that we've been seeing is.

36

00:04:15.330 --> 00:04:27.719

Sbb 1.5, which is a sub variant of on the front these variants again, they will come and they will go if there is any need to modify prevention measures.

37

00:04:27.719 --> 00:04:34.019

Based on a variant, we will let, you know, but as of now, um, the same prevention measure measure should be in place.

38

00:04:34.019 --> 00:04:40.109

Next time I rates and now an impacts, um.

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00:04:40.109 --> 00:04:49.559

Updates, uh, next slide. So, um, more good news here we are very much in a long tail end of the impacts.

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00:04:49.559 --> 00:05:02.009

Epidemic that peaked in August right now in the US we are seeing cases around 2 per day. Uh, so very small numbers. We are, um.

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00:05:02.009 --> 00:05:09.029

Emergency response to impacts closed. So CDC opens emergency responses when there are.

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00:05:09.029 --> 00:05:12.629

When there's an outbreak or an epidemic and so this.

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00:05:12.629 --> 00:05:25.439

Emergency response opened in May or June, and then it closed down at the beginning of February so we are still our team still works a bit on impacts. We will have some specific.

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00:05:25.439 --> 00:05:38.219

Data on impacts and homelessness that will be coming out in the next couple weeks. Overall. We do know that there were several severe cases of impacts among people experiencing homelessness. So.

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00:05:38.219 --> 00:05:41.789

Just something to be aware of, in case of future outbreaks.

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00:05:41.789 --> 00:05:46.379

Next, uh, next 1. okay so, um.

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00:05:46.379 --> 00:05:53.849

That's the end of my slides, but I did want to mention a little bit about the public health emergency declaration ending.

48

00:05:53.849 --> 00:05:57.119

That that does have some implications for.

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00:05:57.119 --> 00:06:05.129

For CDC, but not too many so I want to just clarify what those implications are. So 1st of all.

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00:06:05.129 --> 00:06:15.684

The ends of the public health emergency declaration does not mean that covid has ended, we can still see there there are many cases pretty in there continue to be depths.

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00:06:15.894 --> 00:06:21.594

So CDC is going to continue to be working in this area to prevent severe illness and death.

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00:06:21.899 --> 00:06:25.739

In particular among populations who are at high risk for disease.

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00:06:26.904 --> 00:06:38.094

Also, something that I do want to point out is that some questions have come in about whether, or not the end of the public health emergency means that the vaccine distribution program will be ending.

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00:06:38.784 --> 00:06:49.254

This currently doesn't have implications for that or for transition of vaccination to commercialization. So that's not what this means.

55

00:06:49.554 --> 00:06:55.434

But if there's any movement in that area, we will be able we'll be short term.

56

00:06:55.739 --> 00:06:58.019

That information as soon as possible.

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00:06:58.019 --> 00:07:04.919

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So, do you want to mention there are a couple of data implications for the way that CDC can collect data.

58

00:07:04.919 --> 00:07:11.699

Um, based on the public health emergency, um, most of our covered 19 activity.

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00:07:11.699 --> 00:07:20.609

Areas will not be affected, so we'll still be able to get case and death reporting. We'll still be able to do genomic surveillance, wastewater surveillance.

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00:07:20.609 --> 00:07:27.509

Traveler surveillance, but some things are going to change a little bit. We won't be able to get hospital data.

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00:07:27.509 --> 00:07:31.589

In the same way, it was other ways coming in, through CMS.

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00:07:31.589 --> 00:07:39.179

On a daily basis, and that's probably going to change and also negative laboratory results and will not be able to be.

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00:07:39.179 --> 00:07:50.219

Or they will likely, um, there will be a change in reporting levels of negative laboratory results. So, what does that actually mean, um, to anyone what that means is that.

64

00:07:50.219 --> 00:07:59.009

When we're looking at transition transmission levels on the CDC website, those might be impacted by those changes in data.

65

00:07:59.009 --> 00:08:02.909

But what we use for homelessness guidance.

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00:08:02.909 --> 00:08:13.379

Is community the coordinating community levels that I showed that map those community levels are not going to be changed by these modifications.

67

00:08:13.379 --> 00:08:28.164

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Due to the end of the public health emergency, so the guidance for homeless shelter, uh, homeless service sites that will stay the same. You can still use the same indicators to measure risk for a particular facility.

68

00:08:28.499 --> 00:08:34.079

Uh, it's really just a couple of pieces, um, more related to healthcare things.

69

00:08:34.079 --> 00:08:46.559

That are going to have some modifications if you have any questions about that, or any concerns feel free to reach out. To me, I'll put our special populations email into the chat and I'm happy to take any questions.

70

00:08:51.389 --> 00:08:55.559

I beg you so much. I don't see any questions in a chat.

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00:08:55.559 --> 00:08:59.549

Right now, but it was really good information especially the clarification on a.

72

00:08:59.549 --> 00:09:03.809

Uh, what is the, the end of the public health emergency means.

73

00:09:03.809 --> 00:09:11.759

So next slide, okay, next, we'll have our spotlight. Um, we have, uh, Stacy Matthews, who will be given.

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00:09:11.759 --> 00:09:26.634

In the spotlight thanks, ebony. Hi, everyone as ebony mentioned. My name is Stacy. matthew's uh, she her pronouns. I'm black. I'm on the land of the 100 people in just Berlin. Really? Glad to be with you all today.

75

00:09:27.144 --> 00:09:32.214

I'm a high technical assistance provider, working with the disaster response team.

76

00:09:32.519 --> 00:09:42.749

As Emily mentioned earlier in the pub that the public health emergency declaration is ending, but we know that we need to remain vigilant as.

77

00:09:42.749 --> 00:09:47.849

Uh, relates to our homeless populations and so to that end, I'm going to share.

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78

00:09:49.679 --> 00:09:54.179

That are specific for program serving people experiencing homelessness.

79

00:09:54.504 --> 00:10:09.144

Next slide please. So the 1st document that we have that we're going to talk about here, um, on the assessing appropriate cover, 19 prevention strategies.

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00:10:10.439 --> 00:10:24.209

Excuse me, and the link is going to go into the chat right now from my colleague, Karen Brown. Uh, this is a companion piece to the recently updated CDC guidance on congregate settings.

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00:10:24.209 --> 00:10:27.359

This document is specific to homeless service sites.

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00:10:27.359 --> 00:10:33.749

And can act as a blueprint for how communities can effectively implement these recommendations.

83

00:10:33.749 --> 00:10:47.339

It outlines how communities can think about their everyday strategies and in times of high Kobe transmission, it also provides enhanced that can be added to address the heightened need.

84

00:10:47.339 --> 00:10:53.399

It guides folks to the best practices around how to go about making decisions.

85

00:10:53.399 --> 00:10:58.079

About prevention strategies and who to include in that process.

86

00:10:58.079 --> 00:11:07.379

The document itself is pretty high level, but provides links to more in depth resources for all of the recommendations that are included.

87

00:11:07.379 --> 00:11:12.419

It provides strategies for assessing risk in individual sites.

88

00:11:12.419 --> 00:11:17.339

Facility considerations like ventilation and layout.

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00:11:17.339 --> 00:11:23.819

It includes information on individual preventions, like sanitisation and cleaning.

90

00:11:23.819 --> 00:11:33.239

Medical prevention assessment and treatment such as vaccination and testing and isolation and quarantine considerations.

91

00:11:33.239 --> 00:11:41.429

It's really a great piece that can provide simple, clear guidance. And I hope that you're able to share it with the partners in your community.

92

00:11:43.199 --> 00:11:46.499

All right. Oh, sorry next I.

93

00:11:47.729 --> 00:11:53.459

I already covered that slide. Sorry I've got to say next slide again.

94

00:11:56.459 --> 00:12:03.504

So this is the 3rd time that we're going to be mentioning the infection control and winter planning videos.

95

00:12:04.044 --> 00:12:11.754

Um, this series we are happy to report is now complete and all 5 videos are available on the head exchange.

96

00:12:13.109 --> 00:12:17.519

And the link's going into the chat right now from my colleague, Karen.

97

00:12:18.689 --> 00:12:31.409

So, I'm going to go through the series and just talk about, um, each of the components. So the series itself was created to assist your community and its winter planning and infection control measures.

98

00:12:31.409 --> 00:12:40.649

The target audience for the series is shelter providers, continuum of care, lead agencies and others who serve people experiencing homelessness.

99

00:12:40.649 --> 00:12:49.679

Again, I'm going to give that brief overview of each of the modules here, but I do want to say that they are all very brief, like 10 minutes. Each.

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100

00:12:49.679 --> 00:13:01.079

Uh, we hope that they're easily digestible for folks, so you don't need to be a public health research or understand the public health language in order to use these documents.

101

00:13:02.099 --> 00:13:08.129

The 1st video is about general infection control module measures. Excuse me?

102

00:13:08.784 --> 00:13:19.344

The goal of this module is to teach folks about infection control measures so you can mitigate the spread of contagious viruses that includes viruses like Kobe, 19,

103

00:13:19.644 --> 00:13:26.094

the flu rsp Nora Norovirus and pops formerly known as monkey pox.

104

00:13:26.994 --> 00:13:41.874

As more people move indoors for colder weather, it's important to maintain strong infection prevention and control practices to avoid spreading and keep all staff volunteers, guests and residents healthy.

105

00:13:42.179 --> 00:13:50.549

Infections, especially respiratory viruses can spread quickly without adequate infection, prevention and control measures in place.

106

00:13:50.549 --> 00:13:53.939

So, we hope that that 1st video.

107

00:13:53.939 --> 00:13:58.319

Has been helpful to you, it's been out for a little while video 2.

108

00:13:59.489 --> 00:14:07.769

Is intended to explore guidance on developing a communication strategy to educate staff and residents about infectious disease.

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00:14:07.769 --> 00:14:17.939

This module will also help shelter and lead agencies, develop effective communication strategies to keep staff in residents safe during the winter months.

110

00:14:17.939 --> 00:14:32.009

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And then the latter 3 videos, video, 34 and 5 are newly released and so really hope that you will take some time to head over to the exchange and check them out. So, video 3 gives guidance.

111

00:14:32.009 --> 00:14:35.579

That will assist the shelter, leadership and staff.

112

00:14:35.579 --> 00:14:46.199

To design their winter plans to update policies and procedures as needed and provide information on the day to day management and operations of your facility.

113

00:14:46.199 --> 00:14:58.679

Cleaning and disinfection are critical for infectious disease mitigation and will share the most up to date information to ensure the safety of your facilities and to protect your employees and residents.

114

00:14:59.909 --> 00:15:07.289

Module 4 is focused on isolation, operational considerations for congregate settings like emergency shelters.

115

00:15:07.289 --> 00:15:11.879

And this includes isolation in place and cohort strategies to consider.

116

00:15:11.879 --> 00:15:20.459

And lastly, module 5 focuses on isolation and operational considers for non congregate settings like hotels and dormitories.

117

00:15:21.474 --> 00:15:24.294

What we hope is that you'll find these valuable,

118

00:15:24.744 --> 00:15:36.564

and it builds on and organizes the guidance that has been released over the last 2 years and it helps communities with real and actionable steps to improve their winter planning efforts.

119

00:15:36.629 --> 00:15:39.899

Finally on the next slide, please.

120

00:15:39.899 --> 00:15:46.559

We want to make sure our folks know about these resources that the video series was really built on.

121

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00:15:46.559 --> 00:15:59.579

The things I talked about today are probably less than 1% of what's available to communities on the hot exchange. And my colleague Karen is putting the links to these in the chat right now.

122

00:16:00.084 --> 00:16:09.114

A lot of the content in the series I just talked about is built from these existing resources and if you have specific needs in your community,

123

00:16:09.534 --> 00:16:15.864

there is a very good chance that has already produced guidance to assist in navigating that very issue.

124

00:16:16.169 --> 00:16:23.159

I would encourage you to check out what's available to you and I, thank you for your time back to you. Ebony.

125

00:16:26.129 --> 00:16:34.799

Thank you Stacy, there's a lot of resources and I really appreciate put in the links in the chat for folks to copy and use.

126

00:16:34.799 --> 00:16:45.329

Next slide please and I was checking to see if there's any questions right now does it look like there any questions in a chat?

127

00:16:45.329 --> 00:16:54.119

But someone did as if there's a hood resource that's specific to winding down a covert response. Please share the link.

128

00:16:54.119 --> 00:17:00.779

Um, and Sarah, I'm not sure, but I, I don't know if you want to take this, um.

129

00:17:03.479 --> 00:17:16.769

I will definitely do a little research. See, if I can find anything that's specific to the wind down. I know that we are, uh, right now, looking to see how we can support communities in that way. And there may be some things on the horizon. So, I'll take a look.

130

00:17:18.269 --> 00:17:26.039

Thank you and I just want to let everyone know that you can continue to put your questions in a chat and as you can see.

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131

00:17:26.039 --> 00:17:33.329

It looks like, um, uh, Emily from CDC has been answering some questions. So please, if you have questions, please.

132

00:17:33.329 --> 00:17:42.119

Feel free to put them in a chat and so next up, we have our grant updates and Sharon singer from the staffs office.

133

00:17:46.349 --> 00:17:52.229

Folks just wanted to give you a quick update to see where things are at.

134

00:17:52.229 --> 00:18:05.574

Um, if you can go to the next slide, the soap opera continues, as we continue our drawn down most folks are doing great as you can see over.

135

00:18:05.574 --> 00:18:19.854

Half of our recipients are over 80% drawn, which is terrific. And a good chunk. 34% are our 60 to 80% drawn, and then we have folks who are kind of in the middle and and stragglng behind.

136

00:18:19.884 --> 00:18:21.924

and and stragglng behind

137

00:18:22.229 --> 00:18:34.889

And so, you know, we just encourage you to keep up working to get those dollars obligated and spent it out the door move on to the next slide.

138

00:18:36.294 --> 00:18:47.364

Um, so, at this point, um, 75.6% of the allocation is drawn, which is significant. We also have 96.6Million it's not committed in it.

139

00:18:47.364 --> 00:19:00.204

And then some of the reallocation 7.8Million are not in so much smaller numbers obviously, but still. million are not in so much smaller numbers obviously but still

140

00:19:00.509 --> 00:19:06.569

Something that our leadership is eager to see that those dollars. Um.

141

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00:19:06.569 --> 00:19:10.859

Get used on the ground, you can go on to the next 1.

142

00:19:10.859 --> 00:19:14.219

Um, so, you know.

143

00:19:14.219 --> 00:19:20.459

Draw rates are down, not significantly, but slightly over. What was the trend?

144

00:19:20.964 --> 00:19:35.844

at the end of last year um so we really want people to take this moment to assess where you are on your progress to fully expending your funds by the september thirty th deadline um so do keep in mind that you do want to save some

145

00:19:35.844 --> 00:19:50.184

funds for close out for data for admin um for all the reporting and reconciling your data and that those dollars need to be spent by the end of

146

00:19:50.459 --> 00:19:51.869

23.

147

00:19:52.554 --> 00:20:06.474

So really, we would say this is the time if you have not already reached out for assistance, technical assistants for an or more hands on. Um, we really asked that you reach out.

148

00:20:07.044 --> 00:20:21.174

We're here to help. Um, we have, as you saw lots of good resources that are already out there for you to look at. I think the question that was just asked is a good 1 about sort of winding down in terms of what that looks like on the ground.

149

00:20:21.869 --> 00:20:32.669

So, please, you know, we are here to help and make sure that these funds are spent and spent well to help folks be safe. Um.

150

00:20:32.669 --> 00:20:38.369

And ebony, let me know if there's anything in the chat, if you can go to the next slide.

151

00:20:39.389 --> 00:20:46.529

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So, just so folks know, we are working on, um, guidance and timelines for closing things out.

152

00:20:46.529 --> 00:20:55.799

We're in the midst of doing that, um, there will be a close out training date to be determined and.

153

00:20:55.799 --> 00:21:04.314

If you have fully drawn, or when you have, you can close out your quarterly reporting.

154

00:21:04.794 --> 00:21:17.964

Um, there is guidance in stage on how to submit your final report again, reach out to if you have any, any questions. Um, and.

155

00:21:18.299 --> 00:21:28.409

It looks like you can link back, um, once the slides are shared in the office hours from September, um, and there's guidance on that.

156

00:21:28.409 --> 00:21:38.219

Um, but there will be continued outreach, uh, from our office to folks over the coming over the coming weeks.

157

00:21:38.219 --> 00:21:41.309

And I think that is it.

158

00:21:41.309 --> 00:21:46.859

Um, and I will pass it back to.

159

00:21:50.994 --> 00:21:58.974

Thank you Sharon. Um, and as we look to see if there's any questions, there will be a rotating 3 slides.

160

00:21:59.004 --> 00:22:06.804

So, with some of the other resources we have available that most people who've been on this call, I've seen these resources before.

161

00:22:07.109 --> 00:22:11.459

Um, so we'll see, we have 1 more question in a chat.

162

00:22:11.459 --> 00:22:20.549

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Catherine, as when should we expect grant agreements to be available for the unsheltered? No full funding. So.

163

00:22:20.549 --> 00:22:24.179

I think last week or week before last.

164

00:22:24.179 --> 00:22:28.169

We send out an email to those, um, those.

165

00:22:28.169 --> 00:22:36.359

Recipients who were announced in our 1st announcement for the special shelter in a rule that we will have um.

166

00:22:36.359 --> 00:22:48.029

Upcoming webinar, we haven't put out the information yet, but we will have a webinar that will explain a little bit about expectations in the.

167

00:22:48.029 --> 00:22:52.049

For the special no file and shelter.

168

00:22:53.004 --> 00:23:00.113

Finding, and you can expect that sort of thing. So That'll be coming. So the grant agreements will be available.

169

00:23:00.414 --> 00:23:08.844

It will be after we finish, we're still in our competition mode because we have another potential another announcement.

170

00:23:09.119 --> 00:23:13.559

Um, so nothing will happen until after that. 2nd, what else?

171

00:23:16.499 --> 00:23:22.379

So, do we have any other questions? I think that's the only 1 I see. So far.

172

00:23:28.379 --> 00:23:33.269

The regular CLC competition announcement we are working on that.

173

00:23:33.269 --> 00:23:37.619

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It will be soon like, the, the next few weeks.

174

00:23:37.619 --> 00:23:42.029

Um, so we are working on finalizing.

175

00:23:42.029 --> 00:23:47.159

Numbers and getting everything ready for that announcement. So it should be is really so.

176

00:23:53.874 --> 00:24:03.084

Any other questions, the 2022 SLC awards. So that is the 22,022 COC awards is is the regular competition announcement.

177

00:24:03.084 --> 00:24:13.284

So that's what I was talking about, um, just a few a few seconds ago about it'll be it'll be released. few seconds ago about it'll be it'll be released

178

00:24:18.834 --> 00:24:29.604

Anything else? Yes. Uh, let's see. Of course when norm's not here. I'll get all the questions about the notebook.

179

00:24:29.754 --> 00:24:35.874

So, uh, yes, the novo is still in the stages of development right now.

180

00:24:36.714 --> 00:24:48.654

So, we are, if you follow the no timelines for the past few years, you can kind of see where it goes. As far as the next snowfall. I can't really have. I don't I really don't have a.

181

00:24:48.719 --> 00:24:56.009

Additional when 2023 no full will come out. Um, I don't know about the home.

182

00:24:56.009 --> 00:25:03.869

Implementation guidance email will be answered. I'm not sure about that, but I can always go back and.

183

00:25:03.869 --> 00:25:14.369

And look to see what that is about because I have not, I've never, I haven't heard of the home implementation guide.

184

00:25:21.084 --> 00:25:33.084

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Any other questions okay,

185

00:25:33.084 --> 00:25:36.654

I think that is all we have for today.

186

00:25:36.929 --> 00:25:44.909

so thanks everyone for being on a call and we will see you next month for our COVID-19 updates

187

00:25:44.909 --> 00:25:49.764

Hope you have a good weekend, everyone.