

COVID-19 Office Hours: Chat and Q&A

January 7th, 2022

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January 7, 2022 2:30 PM from Micah Webster to everyone: To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using

+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 185 207 6880

(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

January 7, 2022 2:31 PM from Alex Dunn to everyone: Happy New Year~!

January 7, 2022 2:33 PM from Alex Dunn to everyone: Question on PIT. According to CFR, we are only required to do a PIT every 2 years. If we did a FULL PIT without waivers in 2021, we are allowed to skip a PIT count in 2022. We would pick up again in 2023. From my reading of CFR, that is allowable. Please confirm for me.

January 7, 2022 2:33 PM from Ann Isaac to everyone: Will we be granted a waiver this year due to the rise of cases in the COVID 19?

January 7, 2022 2:34 PM from Ann Isaac to everyone: For the unsheltered count?

January 7, 2022 2:34 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Alex - correct. CoCs that conducted a sheltered and unsheltered PIT count in 2021 will not have to conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2022. They will need to conduct a sheltered PIT count though (and HIC).

January 7, 2022 2:34 PM from Alex Dunn to everyone: Thank you, William.

January 7, 2022 2:36 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: @ann isaac - following

January 7, 2022 2:36 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Ann - no, we are not issuing a general waiver this year for the unsheltered PIT count. If your CoC did not conduct a count in 2021 there is an expectation that they will conduct a full count this year (sheltered and unsheltered). However, there is an option to request to move the count to a later date (February). We will talk about

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that a little later today. We encourage CoCs to seriously consider moving the PIT count back based on Omicron.

January 7, 2022 2:36 PM from Ann Isaac to everyone: Thank you William.

January 7, 2022 2:36 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: Thank you, William. We will wait for your presentation.

January 7, 2022 2:38 PM from Catherine Huang Hara to everyone: If PIT dates get moved, will that change the due dates for the HIC/PIT reporting?

January 7, 2022 2:38 PM from Alex Dunn to everyone: They want quarantine and isolation regardless of exposure and symptoms? Or only for symptoms and exposures? I missed that.

January 7, 2022 2:40 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Catherine - no. That is an important caveat. We still anticipate a requirement to submit the data in HDX by the end of April 2022. If your CoC moves the PIT count back (and this requires HUD approval first) your CoC would still need to be able to submit the data by the end of April.

January 7, 2022 2:40 PM from Deb Borne to everyone: Are there any jurisdictions using 5 days for open congregate shelters? This would be due to IQ and other resources

January 7, 2022 2:43 PM from Jack Moran to everyone: Is there a place to find a decision tree or reference that we can find with this guidance outlined in detail?

January 7, 2022 2:43 PM from Catherine Huang Hara to everyone: Thank you for the clarification. Since we did a unsheltered PIT sample in 2021 along with the annual shelter count, we could also be eligible for a waiver for an unsheltered count this year?

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January 7, 2022 2:44 PM from Ann Isaac to everyone: Can Planning Grant funds be used in conjunction with Cares Act funding to purchase N-95 masks, and other PPE?

January 7, 2022 2:45 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Catherine - if you did an unsheltered count in 2021 then you are not required to conduct an unsheltered count in 2022. This is not a waiver - it is merely a regulatory allowance (so you don't have to submit a request for this). But you will still need to do a sheltered count and the HIC.

January 7, 2022 2:46 PM from Brett Esders to everyone: @Ann - CoC planning grants can only be used for costs directly related to carrying out CoC Planning activities. So if a mask is needed, for example, for a staff person to attend a public planning meeting that would be eligible. But CoC planning funds cannot be used to buy PPE generally for projects within the CoC.

January 7, 2022 2:47 PM from Betty L. to everyone: With increases in COVID cases, we have had some challenges/delays in getting in-person client signatures on consent/agreement forms (e.g., participant agreement terms, termination policy, confidentiality policy, etc.).

If we provide the information and receive verbal consent/agreement from program participants, is a staff notation of verbal consent in the client files sufficient for CoC/ESG documentation requirements?

January 7, 2022 2:47 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: in 2021, we conducted an observation only unsheltered count (with a HUD approved waiver). But as part of the this year's competition, we also committed to conducting a PIT count. As a result, we are in the planning stages of a full unsheltered count for 2022.

January 7, 2022 2:48 PM from Brett Esders to everyone: @Betty - yes, from our perspective that would be acceptable. However, I'd recommend your agency update your policies and procedures to specify that this is allowed and what type of information is required on the form or in the case file (e.g., name, date, time).

January 7, 2022 2:48 PM from DAVID CANAVAN to everyone: In Los Angeles "Interim Housing" = shelter.

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January 7, 2022 2:49 PM from Betty L. to everyone: @Brett, very helpful, thank you!

January 7, 2022 2:50 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Lisa - that makes sense. We are still working through the implications of those who committed to count in the 2021 CoC Application. It may be wise to take advantage of the opportunity to move the count to a later date when Omicron surges should (hopefully) be trending down.

January 7, 2022 2:52 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: Thank you, William.

January 7, 2022 2:56 PM from Lauren Phillips-Thoryn (she/her) to all panelists: This was sent to All Attendees: from Jessica Sones to all attendees: 2:55 PM

Apologies if this was already masked - @William - if a CoC did observation only unsheltered PIT in 2021 (just a head count, no demographics), would they still be allowed to skip 2022 unsheltered PIT? not sure how that works with the regs

January 7, 2022 2:57 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Jessica - yes. if you conducted an unsheltered PIT count, even if just a partial count, that satisfied the requirement for the count in 2021 and you are not required to conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2022.

January 7, 2022 3:00 PM from Lauren Phillips-Thoryn (she/her) to all panelists: from Catherine Huang Hara to all attendees: 2:59 PM

Are shelters and transitional housing projects required to exit clients from projects in the HMIS if they are going to a short-term stay in a COVID isolation bed that is paid by another source? We are concerned that this could create an artificially higher recidivism rate, though I understand someone can't be in 2 beds at the same time. This is of a particular concern for TH projects.

January 7, 2022 3:03 PM from Belinda Estes to everyone: Oh I would hope not. My brain thinks that if they're going there because of COVID eligibility, that shouldn't take away their homeless eligibility, since it's not permanent housing they're to.

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January 7, 2022 3:10 PM from Jennifer Wenger to everyone: Are we going to discuss the latest memo about the waivers?

January 7, 2022 3:13 PM from Brett Esders to everyone: @Jennifer - the new waivers can be found here for the CoC, YHDP, ESG (FY 21 ESG annual funds only), and HOPWA funds can be found here:
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Additional_Waivers_CPD_COVID19_December_2021.pdf. It extends certain waiver flexibilities until March 31, 2022. We can discuss if there is time, but if there are specific questions please feel free to put them in the chat.

January 7, 2022 3:15 PM from Jennifer Wenger to everyone: Thank you @Brett. I have no specific questions. Was just wondering.

January 7, 2022 3:16 PM from DAVID CANAVAN to everyone: Emily Thomas, all the gratitude. What an amazing effort in an incredibly challenging situation.

January 7, 2022 3:17 PM from Jack Moran to everyone: That was amazing, thank you @Dr. Thomas!

January 7, 2022 3:26 PM from Amber Lewis to everyone: Slight change of topic to ESG-CV spending deadline: we understand the deadline is September 30, 2022, to provide assistance. How about close-out costs after that -- submitting/reviewing reimbursement requests and close-out reporting?

January 7, 2022 3:28 PM from Norm Suchar to everyone: @Amber, great question. We're working on guidance and we plan to have more information about that in a future Office Hours.

January 7, 2022 3:28 PM from Jack Moran to everyone: Is it poss to share those testing links?

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January 7, 2022 3:29 PM from Maria Davis to everyone: Any news on the CoC Award announcement coming soon?

January 7, 2022 3:29 PM from Ashley Meehan to everyone: @jack: points of contact for the regional testing coordination teams can be found here: <https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Operation%20Expanded%20Testing.pdf>

January 7, 2022 3:30 PM from Norm Suchar to everyone: @Maria, we are reviewing CoC applications. We expect to have a CoC award announcement in February.

January 7, 2022 3:30 PM from Ashley Meehan to everyone: The narrative is framed strongly around schools but shelters are also an eligible setting

January 7, 2022 3:30 PM from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: Shelter in place guidance from King County: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/providers/~media/depts/health/communicable-diseases/documents/C19/hch/shelter-in-place-guidance.ashx>

January 7, 2022 3:30 PM from Maria Davis to everyone: Thank you @Norm!

January 7, 2022 3:30 PM from Anne Cronyn to all panelists: Good afternoon -- Has there been any discussion at HUD RE the ESG-CV 80% expenditure deadline in March, particularly looking at how the rental housing crisis and recent COVID #s have affected housing availability, rents, and grant admin staffing?

January 7, 2022 3:31 PM from Lauren Phillips-Thoryn (she/her) to all panelists: from Natalie Burtzos to all attendees: 3:28 PM

will there be ESG-CV Grants Status Report today or in future office hours? I don't think they have been featured since 11/15 but I have appreciated the updates in the past

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January 7, 2022 3:32 PM from Norm Suchar to everyone: @Anne, thanks for your question. We have been discussing the upcoming expenditure deadlines, and we don't have anything to share today, but we expect to cover that in a future Office Hours.

January 7, 2022 3:32 PM from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: Regional Testing Program links:
West: <https://letsendthistogether.com/>
Midwest: <https://testedandprotected.org/#/>
Northeast and South: <https://testedandprotected.org/#/>

January 7, 2022 3:35 PM from Roy Graham to everyone: Hello...the Northeast and South link brings up the Midwest link. Thank you

January 7, 2022 3:35 PM from Norm Suchar to everyone: @Lauren, regarding ESG-CV grants status reports, we won't have anything today (we obviously have a lot of COVID content we wanted to share), but we will get back to reporting about it in the future. In the meantime, please keep using ESG-CV to shelter and re-house people experiencing homelessness. :)

January 7, 2022 3:35 PM from Ashley Meehan to everyone: To reach us at CDC -
eocevent366@cdc.gov

January 7, 2022 3:37 PM from Marlisa Grogan to everyone: Thanks for flagging the typo to the Northeast & South Testing Program link. Here's the correct one:
<https://operationexpandedtesting.azurewebsites.net/>

January 7, 2022 3:37 PM from Roy Graham to everyone: Thanks!

January 7, 2022 3:39 PM from Denise Albertson to everyone: will there be an office hours on the 14th?

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January 7, 2022 3:42 PM from Lauren Phillips-Thoryn (she/her) to all panelists: from Martha Montgomery to all attendees: 3:40 PM

@Karen Henry - If a client has symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested first. If positive, they should wait until they end isolation before getting vaccinated. More FAQs can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

January 7, 2022 3:46 PM from muriel bassil to everyone: Can we have access to this presentation?

January 7, 2022 3:46 PM from Maria Davis to everyone: That was a fantastic presentation -- Thanks so much, snappers!

January 7, 2022 3:47 PM from Micah Webster to everyone: @Muriel The slides, chat, and a recording of this presentation will be posted to the HUD Exchange in 2-3 business days.

January 7, 2022 3:49 PM from Cindy Ravida to everyone: thank you - this was extremely informative and helpful in addressing COVID in our congregate/shelter systems in NY

January 7, 2022 3:51 PM from Lauren Whiteleigh to everyone: echo amandas question

January 7, 2022 3:51 PM from Greta Guarton to everyone: Do we need to get actual approval from HUD, or do we have to document that we requested the ability to postpone the count?

January 7, 2022 3:52 PM from Lauren Whiteleigh to everyone: do unsheltered and sheltered pit count have to take place on same date??

January 7, 2022 3:52 PM from Lauren Whiteleigh to everyone: can sheltered be in jan and unsheltered be in feb?

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January 7, 2022 3:52 PM from William Snow to everyone: you can send exception requests to HICPITCount@hud.gov

January 7, 2022 3:53 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: William - what about the commitment during the competition? Any thoughts on this?

January 7, 2022 3:53 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Lauren - no. The PIT count is a package deal and needs to be conducted at the same time (both sheltered and unsheltered)

January 7, 2022 3:53 PM from William Snow to everyone: @ Lisa - that is something we are considering but we don't have a specific thing to share on that right now. We will likely consider that in the next NOFO

January 7, 2022 3:54 PM from Lisa Snipes to everyone: Thank you!

January 7, 2022 3:54 PM from Chris Johnson to everyone: Any hopes of extending FMR Waiver past March 31st?

January 7, 2022 3:54 PM from Jack Moran to everyone: Thanks Norm and everyone else, great information and always helpful!

January 7, 2022 3:54 PM from William Snow to everyone: @Greta - movement of the date does actually require HUD approval

January 7, 2022 3:55 PM from Emily Thomas to everyone: Thank you all!