



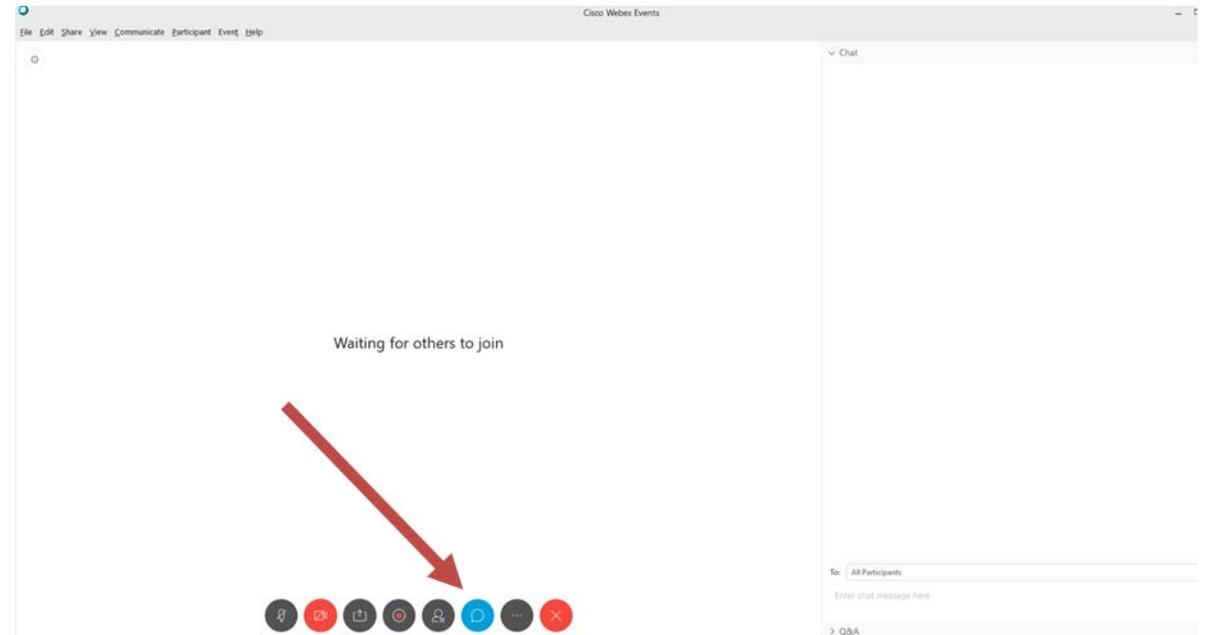
Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response

March 20, 2020



Logistics for Today

- All participants are muted and will remain muted for the duration of the webinar
- Connect with us during the webinar through Q&A to ask questions, or through chat to more informally communicate
- Please submit any unanswered questions to HUD through the Ask A Question desk



Panelists

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Emily Mosites, PhD MPH- COVID-19 At-Risk Population Task Force, Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
- Brett Esders, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS
- Marlisa Grogan, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS
- Amy Palilonis, Senior Program Specialist, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy, National Health Care for the Homeless Council



Panelists (continued)

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center), VHA Homeless Program Office
- Jillian Weber PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Program Office

Corette B. Taylor, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Primary Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services



Shelter Capacity

- **Screening-** Develop a plan for screening for symptoms
- **Isolation-** Identify places for isolation of symptomatic individuals.
- **Space issues-** Work with your community to identify additional space. Look for unused buildings, motels, trailers, or other options.
- **Staffing-** Assume staff will get ill or need time off; identify other staffing options
- **Supplies-** Determine what supplies you must have on hand to operate; explore multiple options for obtaining supplies

Critical for CoCs to work in partnership with public health & emergency management officials



Shelter Scenarios from CoCs

If your shelter becomes full as a result of social distancing recommendations

Create a plan in coordination with your COC and public health department to identify sites for general overflow capacity. Facilitate a protocol for how to redirect clients when there is no space in your shelter.

CDC and local public health partners have recommended screening participants for COVID-19 symptoms and adjusting shelter operations to serve both groups. If you are not able to screen people entering the shelter:

Follow guidance for distancing and infection control. Be in communication with the public health department and healthcare facilities to identify if people in the shelter test positive for COVID-19.



Scenarios from CoCs – con't

If your shelter has been identified as a location that cannot support people with any respiratory symptoms (eg, cough and fever)

Communicate with your COC and public health department to identify where people with respiratory symptoms will go. Facilitate a plan for how to redirect those clients as safely as possible.

If your shelter is not able to support people who are positive for COVID-19

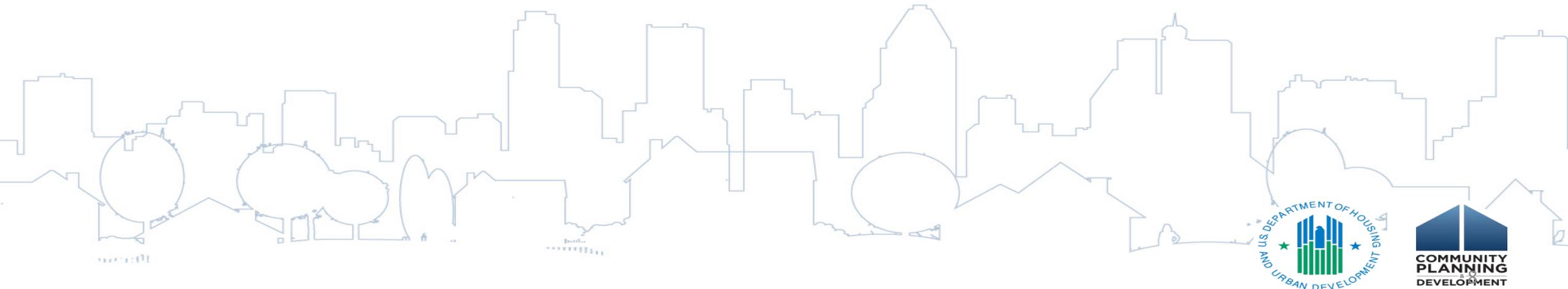
Communicate with your COC and public health department to identify where people will go if they are known to have COVID-19 or are awaiting test results.



Encampments

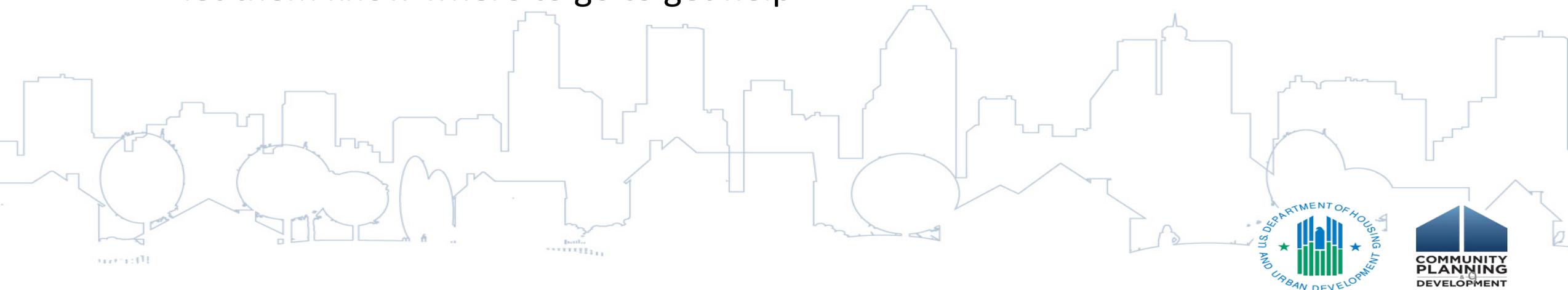
HUD recommends avoiding encampment sweeps and avoiding removing people from encampments unless there are safe alternative housing placements for them to move into

- Makes symptomatic people harder to follow up with and care for
- Likely increases the risk of spreading infection
- Shelter capacity is severely strained



Encampments

- Increase health and safety measures in encampments; complete COVID-19 screenings on unsheltered in coordination with public health, Healthcare for the homeless partners
- Increase spacing between tents and sleeping spaces
- Increase hygiene (handwashing stations, etc),
- Educate unsheltered people on social isolation and COVID-19 symptoms, let them know where to go to get help



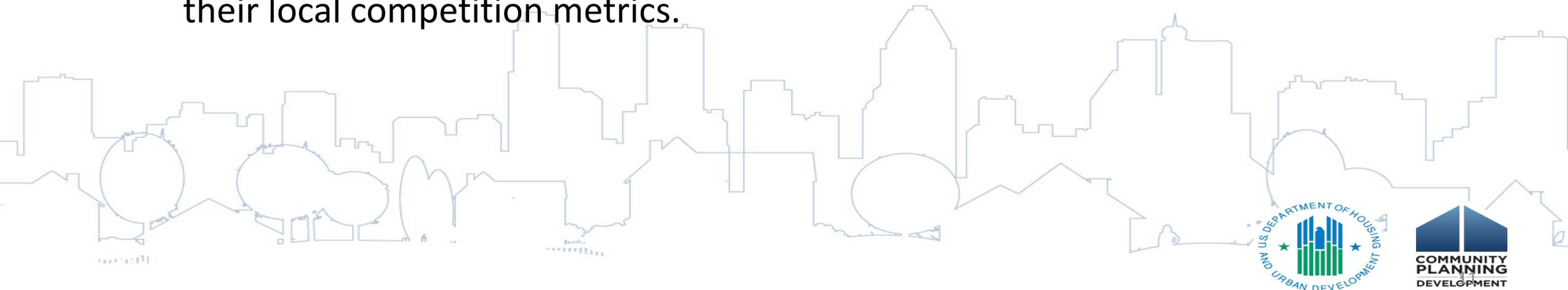
HMIS

- Some communities are using HMIS to assist in symptom screening and tracking
- HUD will have community tools available today on the HUD Exchange
- Consider using **HMIS** only if it makes your workflow easier; focus on **collecting** the information you need to save lives or quantify need



Prioritize Your COVID-19 Response

- SNAPS understands your #1 priority right now is responding to COVID-19
- Don't stress about performance metrics, subrecipient monitoring, governance;
- HUD will take this extraordinary time into strong consideration for future monitoring, and the competition.
- CoCs are encouraged to be as flexible as possible when thinking through their local competition metrics.



Structuring ESG & CoC Grants

- ESG: Look at any older funding and reprogram
- CoC: Think about project funding balances and reprogram
- Contact HUD CPD Field Office about amendments
- Consult resources on the HUD Exchange for information:
 - [Using a Disaster Policy to Fund Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response with ESG](#)
 - [Using CoC Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response](#)
 - [Eligible ESG Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness](#)



Coordination with Partners: Engaging County Public Health Partners

As CoC resources are exhausted, it is time to escalate requests for assistance.

- People who are homeless should be included in a community's public health response to COVID-19; See Questions for Public Health on the HUD Exchange
- Be specific about what you need- e.g. Supplies, Isolation locations, Public Health Nurses at shelters
- Quantify needs and the vulnerability of the population; Use data about the population to make your case
- Review the HUD document: *Questions to Assist CoCs and Public Health Authorities to Limit the Spread of Infectious Disease in Homeless Programs*



Coordination with Partners cont'd

How do you identify the right partner within your County Public Health Agency?

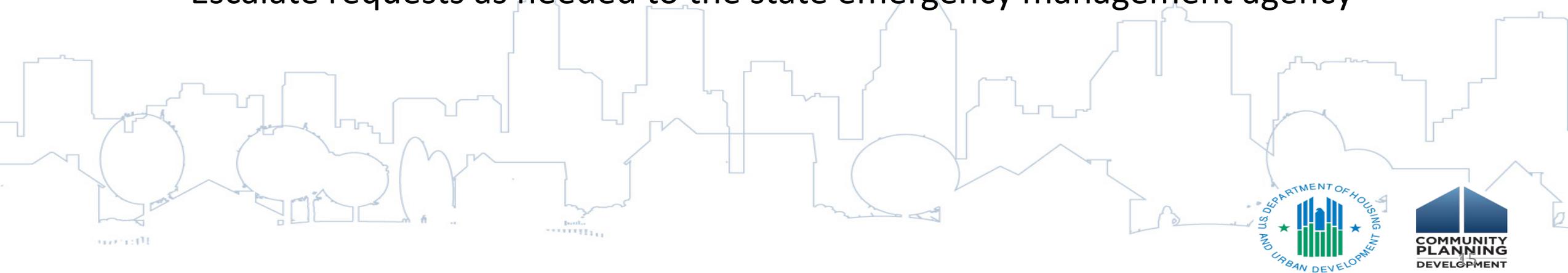
County Public Health Departments may have different points of contact for the homeless that are helpful to your planning. These are personnel positions at County Public Health Department who are points of contact to Continuums of Care and co-creating solutions locally:

- Infectious Disease Coordinator/Director
- Epidemiologist
- Senior Policy Advisor



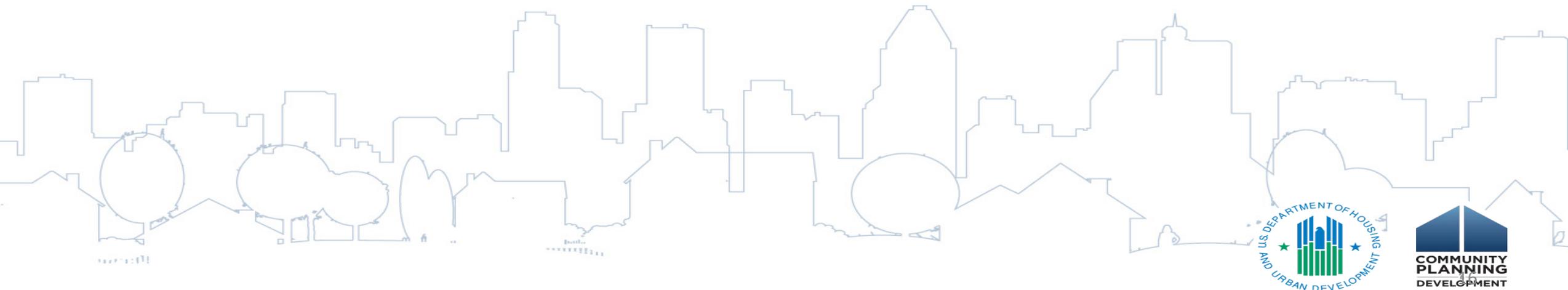
Coordination with Partners: Engaging County Directing Requests to Emergency Management Agencies

- The COVID-19 response in your community may require additional coordination by your Emergency Management Agency. Reach out to your County Emergency Management Director to be included in response activity such as
 - Planning for community- based quarantine or isolation strategies
 - Escalate requests as needed to the state emergency management agency



Coordination with Partners: Engaging County

If your CoC needs guidance in establishing relationships with essential community based partners or developing a coordinated response to COVID-19 for the homeless you can make a TA request on the AAQ.



Resources for CoCs and Homeless Assistance Providers on the HUD Exchange

Infectious Disease Prevention & Response page on HUD Exchange

- [Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs](#)
- [Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness](#)
- Specific Considerations for Public Health Authorities to Limit Infection Risk Among People Experiencing Homelessness
- Questions to Assist CoCs and Public Health Authorities to Limit the Spread of Infectious Disease in Homeless Programs
- Submit a question on the [HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question \(AAQ\) Portal](#)
- Stay tuned for:
 - ESG Disaster Policy
 - Eligible CoC Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

Check back regularly for new posts!



Key Websites with Available Resources

HUD: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>

NHCHC: <https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/>

USICH: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>

VA: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

HRSA: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html>



CONTACTS

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/COVID19; 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636); TTY: 1-888-232-6348
- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
[HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question \(AAQ\) Portal](#)
- Department of Veterans Affairs High Consequence Infection (HCI)
Preparedness Program:
vhahcigenerall@va.gov



Q & A

