

HUD ACF_Webinar recording_08-16-2021

ALICIA WOODSBY: [INAUDIBLE] ...For People Experiencing Homelessness.” Next slide, please.

I will start with some webinar logistics. This session is being recorded, and the recording will be shared at the following HUD link on the HUD EHV website. All participants are muted. If you're having any trouble connecting your computer audio, you can always call in using the following call-in information listed here. Please submit any of your questions through the Q&A box. And if you're having technical issues, please also send a message through the Q&A box and our technical staff will follow up with you directly. Next slide, please.

OK. So welcome again. I'm Alicia Woodsby. I'm a senior associate with the Technical Assistance Collaborative or TAC. And I'm happy to be facilitating this discussion today with our partners at HUD, or the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Administration for Children and Families or ACF. Next slide, please.

We will start with an overview of the content. I'm sorry, we'll start with the welcome from Richard Cho, who is the senior advisor for housing and services for the office-- in the Office of the Secretary at HUD. And then we will have some background content information that we'll cover. And then we'll hear from our presenters from the Administration for Children and Families. So I will first turn it over-- it's my pleasure to turn it over to Richard Cho.

RICHARD CHO: Thank you so much, Alicia. And thanks to everyone for joining this webinar. This is actually the third in a series of webinars that HUD staff and HHS have put together with the assistance from the Technical Assistance Collaborative, and I want to thank our friends at TAC for working with us on putting this series together.

The first couple of webinars that many of you may have joined focused on the opportunities within HHS to provide funding for supportive services, focusing on programs at SAMHSA, as well as HRSA, and then last week a session focused on the opportunities in Medicaid and home and community based services.

Today we'll hear about some opportunities at HHS focused on families with children that can fund a variety of services that can be coordinated with HUD housing assistance in order to address homelessness among families with children as well as youth. But what I wanted to say, to begin with, is that we have on the one hand, the emerging crisis where the-- I think worsening crisis of homelessness particularly among families. In 2020, HUD's point-in-time count showed that for the first time since 2012, homelessness among families with children did not decline. And so while we saw steady declines in family homelessness from 2010 through 2019, from 2019 to 2020, family homelessness was relatively flat. We've seen some progress on youth homelessness, particularly through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration program that HUD has been administering, but what we're seeing currently is a plateauing

of progress on our ability to reduce family homelessness and an urgent need to be able to respond to the needs of young adults and youth who are experiencing homelessness.

Fortunately, we have an exciting opportunity through the American Rescue Plan that's going to make historic progress on reducing and ultimately ending family and youth homelessness. In particular, HUD has awarded 70,000 emergency housing vouchers to communities that can help them address the needs of a variety of different populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including people fleeing domestic violence, and that [INAUDIBLE] those 70,000 emergency housing vouchers that have been awarded.

There are also, I think, opportunities beyond HUD's programs to be able to assist families with children, including through Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program that is intended to help households who are at risk of eviction or who have already experienced eviction or housing loss, as well as through CARES Act funding that we still today have.

But I think we need to look beyond even the obvious, and usual suspects in terms of resources. The American Rescue Plan also included a child tax credit that now can be provided in advance payments and through its enhancement is able to provide families with children with additional resources. So all of that adds up to a significant opportunity to make a historic dent in family homelessness and potentially to really make significant progress in reducing it. And I think the best way we can do that is by breaking down silos between housing and human services programs to be able to provide the complement of housing and services to reach families as well as youth.

We're doing that at the federal level. As you can tell from this webinar, we are partnering closely with our colleagues at HHS, and here in particular, the administration with children and families to ensure that we're providing information to communities and states on how to coordinate HUD assistance with HHS programs to provide that full complement of housing services, and we encourage all of you to do the same. So once again, thank you for joining. We hope the information provided here will be useful. We are asking for your help and partnership to help us to reduce and ultimately end family and youth homelessness. So with that, I'll turn it back to you.

ALICIA WOODSBY: Thank you, Richard. And I think that really covered the learning objectives for today's webinar well. And you can see here that our agenda is to focus on defining housing-related supports and services and how they can be paired with HUD Housing Assistance to benefit people experiencing homelessness.

So as I mentioned, you'll hear from our partners at ACF about specific resources that can be explored, as well as some on-the-ground example of partnerships and pairing of services with Housing Assistance resources. And then we'll have a little bit of time for some question and answers. Next slide, please.

And as Richard mentioned, this is the third and final webinar in a three-part series. And so if you haven't gotten to view the first two, they will be posted on the HUD EHV website. The first one actually is already posted and the second webinar will be coming soon. Next slide, please.

OK. So now we'd like to do a quick poll that we've been using during these sessions to get a sense of who's joining us. So we'll just take about 30 seconds or so, if folks can just indicate what type of agency they're coming from. And if you are choosing "other," if you could just identify what that is in the Q&A box, that would be great. OK, we'll just give it another few seconds. I think we have 20% public housing agencies, about 32% from Continuums of Care, CoCs, 4% from victim service providers, and 45% from other. And you can see some of those other folks are through the Q&A box. We have some folks from HRSA and other federal agencies joining us. So this is great. Thank you for doing that. Next slide, please.

So now we just want to give an overview of what we mean by housing-related supports and services starting with outreach, engagement, and referral services that are really the services that help to identify people experiencing homelessness and connect them to coordinated entry systems to access housing assistance.

Then we have the pre-tenancy services, that are those services that help people really gain access to housing in the first place, such as finding a housing unit, engaging with landlords, really navigating the whole process of securing housing, including supports with security deposits, rent or utility arrears, helping obtain documentation for eligibility, and move-in assistance to give you a sense of some of the supports that are involved there.

And then housing stabilization services and service coordination, which are focused on helping to stabilize people in housing and make connections to some community-based services.

And then finally, the ongoing tenancy sustaining supports and wraparound services that really help people to be successful in maintaining their housing and in being successful tenants. And so this is the individualized case management services, ongoing engagement, help with activities of daily living, and that coordination with health and behavioral health care services and systems to help improve overall well-being in the outcomes in stability for people. Really typically the types of-- this type of service array that you would see in permanent supportive housing. Next slide, please.

And so here we wanted to talk about the populations that may be in need of housing-related supports and services. And so you can see the chart lists the population on the left, starting with individuals with disabling conditions, what their typical needs are. Care coordination partners and intensity of services. And so I won't read this all to you, but you can see in general, people with disabling conditions often utilize permanent supportive housing, needs support with benefits and entitlements, supported employment in education, and primary behavioral health care, coordination, and connections. You can see some of the general partners that it makes sense to engage for those folks. And the intensity of services are generally intensive, ongoing engagement. Those case management services that we talked about and the capability to provide 24/7 response to crises. And so for families, it's often more the rental assistance and housing location supports that are needed. You can see some of the care coordination partners here include landlords, child welfare, community corrections, and some of the services are more of the short-term engaging, stabilizing, and making connections to community supports. Next slide, please.

On this slide we wanted to highlight youth. And I'm not going to read all of this out loud either, but you can see that the rental assistance and housing location supports are also often the major need for youth. And then some additional youth-specific partners here are schools and education programs, family engagement services, foster care programs, and juvenile justice providers to name a few. Next slide, please.

And so as Richard already noted and I think most of you already know, the Emergency Housing Voucher Program is available through the American Rescue Plan Act. It provides a 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local public housing authorities in order to assist the following populations that are listed here. And as you know, PHAs are required to partner with CoCs and other homeless or victim service providers to assist qualifying individuals and families through a direct referral process. And the MOUs between PHAs, CoCs, and other partners were due to HUD on July 31 and should have identified services that will be provided to participants. And so as PHAs and CoCs are really encouraged to prioritize those with the most intensive needs, it really does make sense to partner with agencies that deliver these services in the community if we really want to ensure successful referrals in lease up in that ongoing tenancy stability for the EHV program, really as well as for other HUD housing programs. Next slide, please.

So in that vein, additionally we wanted to highlight the broader range of HUD housing assistance options that could also be paired with the services that are under discussion today and across these three webinars. Next slide, please.

And we've been highlighting in each of these webinars a matrix that helps to illustrate for communities which programs have resources that may be used for housing-related supports and services. So this and the next couple of slides cover the ACF matrix. And in the left column you'd have the agency or the program, starting with a Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. And then it goes into what are those eligible housing support services, which are indicated with an X. If it is something that could be covered by that program, the state administering agency, typical general eligibility for that program, and then a typical service providers or local partners that you'd see at the local level. And we'll go to the next slide. And this covers Head Start and the Family Violence and Prevention programs. And the next slide covers the block grant programs, the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, and TANF, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. These, as I mentioned, will be posted on the HUD EHV website, so you can always check this matrix out if you'd like to look more at the detail.

And with that, it is my pleasure to introduce our first presenter from ACF today. We have Kiersten Beigel who is-- sorry, I went through several slides. The Senior Program Specialist at the Office of Head Start, and I'm going to turn it over to Kiersten. Thank you.

KIERSTEN BEIGEL: Good afternoon. Thanks for having us here, from the Administration for Children and Families. In next slide you'll see a list of some of us, the offices and programs that we're from. This isn't all of ACF, but this is who's joining us today for the webinar. And I'm kicking us off with the Office of Head Start. Next slide.

Which appears maybe we already did introductions. We do have an ongoing initiative that we refer to as Home at Head Start, so that's what you're seeing here in the little social media picture. Next slide, please.

We always start in our conversations around families experiencing homelessness by thinking about the youngest ones and some of their particular vulnerabilities. We know that infants are the most vulnerable population to be entering into the shelter system. And we also know that young children, birth to five, have more and increased developmental challenges, health challenges, including chronic health problems like asthma. They often have inadequate access to health and dental services. And just generally, more emotional and physical challenges than their peers. So we really want to think about homelessness services as to generation in this way so that we can support and wrap around the youngest ones and families, as well as the oldest, hence the two generation. Next slide, please.

I'm going to tell you quickly a little bit about Head Start and Early Head Start. Head Start was founded in '65, Early Head Start in the '90s. And we refer to these programs as Whole Family Comprehensive Services. We have center-based education services, we have home-based services, and we also have Early Head Start and Head Start child care partnerships. We have over 1,600 programs all over the nation, the bottom of the Grand Canyon. We have migrating seasonal Head Start programs, we have American Indian and Alaska Native programs. So Head Start and Early Head Start are everywhere. And these are just some of the services that we provide in our programs. I mentioned early education, but also nutrition, health and mental health, prenatal health care and access, we prioritize children with disabilities for enrollment, we provide services to support adult and family being, and we support parents' education and their leadership in terms of supporting their children as they move on into other early childhood settings as well as into kindergarten.

When families are eligible for Head Start, they typically are 100% of the poverty level. They are in -- children are in foster care or homeless, and therefore, automatically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start. Next slide, please.

Head Start, Early Head start programs are prioritizing families. And just a couple of bits for you around sort of their administrative requirements, if you will. So these are the things they're doing in your community. They are looking at needs assessments and trying to-- in their community trying to understand how many children and families experiencing homelessness there are. They are doing active recruitment and enrollment. They are enrolling children with sensitivity to immunization and health records and how challenging those can be to have for families. They are reserving enrollment slots for families experiencing homelessness for up to 60 days. And they are often -- not always, but often -- providing transportation supports. And if I didn't mention already, we do go in Head Start, as well as child care, go through the definition of McKinney-Vento for homelessness. So those are some of the ways that Head Start programs are prioritizing families experiencing homelessness and partnering with education liaisons through McKinney-Vento. Next slide, please.

Here's a few benefits I wanted to point out for those of you who haven't yet partnered with Head Start. They can be, as I mentioned, the outreach, the recruitment. And they're doing those needs assessment.

Can be a very trusted local prioritization referral process for coordinated entry. They can certainly support pre-tenancy services through the staff of Head Start and Early Head Start programs called family service coordinators who do a lot of goal setting with families, as well as our home visitors to a lot of family support services as well. Through housing stabilization supports and ongoing tenancy, sustaining supports for families with young children in just the same way through our family support services and home-based. And many teachers have really strong relationships with families as well and are a really important support. And then Head Start and Early Head Start have some expertise that you can leverage: really strong knowledge around the unique vulnerabilities associated with young children, pregnant families, and also just a real great knowledge about developmental and developmentally appropriate spaces in child development, et cetera. Next slide.

I'm going to move along here. So I just wanted you to know that the Office of Head Start is really wanting to support partnerships as well between you all and your agencies. And Head Start, we send this communication out, letting folks know about the vouchers and to reach out to the public housing authorities. And we'll be doing those continued communications about reaching out to Continuum of Care, et cetera. Next slide.

We have a few examples here of partnership. And one is in Pennsylvania where the Head Start Collaboration Office used Head Start dollars to create a map of each county. Head Start directors found this super helpful because they didn't always know about the shelters and the local shelters in their area that they could coordinate with. In Connecticut, a program placed a center-based classroom in a permanent supportive housing center. In Chicago, Illinois, Head Start staff and homelessness service providers across the city are doing cross-training with each other. In Champaign, Illinois, a shelter has an on-site Early Head Start program. And finally, in Phoenix, Arizona, there's a shelter for families experiencing homelessness that recently received a new grant for doing an Early Head Start child care partnership. Next slide.

If you would like to find a Head Start or Early Head Start program near you, can go to our ECLKC, that's our Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, and you can locate a program just by putting your ZIP code in. And I also wanted to just make sure I mention the collaboration directors, that every state has a collaboration office, and their job is to really facilitate connection, coordination, and collaboration between Head Start and other early childhood systems, and many of them have prioritized homelessness as an important area with which they work. Next slide, please.

I wanted to just leave you with a couple of resources you might find interesting. The first is one that was produced by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. And it's really designed to connect early childhood providers and housing programs, Continuum of Care, make much the same points I've been making today. We also have this early childhood self-assessment tool for families shelters. This was started out and designed in Connecticut, and then ACF has also partnered with some private organizations to keep updating it, so it was recently updated last week.

And I think that might be - let me see if I have one more slide. I do not. So now, it's my pleasure to turn things over to our friends over at the Office of Family Assistance, Rachel Gwilliam and Deb List.

RACHEL GWILLIAM: Hello, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here representing the Office of Family Assistance. And I'd like to also, of course, welcome my colleague Deborah List here, and she can add anything if I'm missing pertinent information. OK, next slide.

OK. So the TANF program provides money to states, tribes, and territories in the form of block grants, and these entities can use TANF to fund assistance payments to needy families with children, as well as a wide range of benefits and services designed to address one or more of the programs for broad purposes, which are to provide assistance to needy families, to children who may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, and dependents of needy parents through job preparation, work, and marriage, prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

So in the following slides, I'll explain two critical publications that we've sent out. The TANF Information Memorandum on Family Homelessness in 2013, and then Enhancing Family Stability, A Guide for Assessing Housing Status and Coordinating with Local Homelessness Programs for TANF agencies. But first, it's important to note that of course, many families are eligible for TANF-- who are eligible for TANF of are homeless are at risk for homelessness or housing instability. And some of these families may not be accessing TANF assistance, and so of course, we want to provide the information out there so that we can connect homeless families through these services, because TANF can definitely have a role in addressing housing needs in various ways. Next slide, please.

OK. So our information memorandum from 2013 covers allowable uses of non-recurrent short-term benefits or what we call NRSTs and services, and these NRST benefits are designed to extend no longer than four months, must address a specific crisis situation rather than the ongoing needs, and often homelessness is temporary -- or can be temporary if we can address the crisis at home immediately. So it also covers allowable employment services such as education, job training, job placement, and subsidized employment. And TANF funds can be used in coordination with other targeted homeless assistance programs to maximize resource impact. Services should be coordinated with other programs and providers. We disseminated this year listservs, webinars, and rural TANF regional team meetings, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and other advocacy groups and stakeholders. And I'll have a link at the end of this presentation to the IM in case you're interested in looking at it. OK. It's also important to note that, just really quickly, the income standard may differ from cash assistance, and the income standard and eligible population may differ for each NRST. And I wanted to add just really quick, too, before coming to this enhancing stability guide, that we also came out with a PI related to TANF and COVID-19 which provided guidance on how states and tribes may use TANF to assist needy families experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19. And this applies to homeless families or those at risk of homelessness, such as increasing cash benefit levels, providing NRSTs, and also online approaches for participants to engage in work activities.

So as far as our enhancing family stability guide, it helps state TANF agencies recognize the important role they have in identifying and serving families experiencing homelessness and families at risk of homelessness. It encourages states to use it as a resource to better assess for homelessness and housing instability during intake, and to formulate cohesive strategies with state and local homelessness providers and systems, such as HUD-funded Continuums of Care or CoCs. And the appendices offer examples of housing status and assessment tools that TANF jurisdictions can use in developing their own standardized set of questions regarding housing status and risk of homelessness. It's hard-- just grabbing a drink of water-- to integrate into the TANF client intake process. I'm so sorry. And also, next slide, please.

Also, just to note that there is an Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation study on TANF and homelessness that's analyzing how TANF agencies support families experiencing homelessness, and that report is in draft form and we should expect that shortly. So we're going through that now and that will provide a wealth of information for us. So these are resources are linked to the IM and a link to our housing family stability guide. Thank you so much. And I'd like to pass this on to the next presenter.

SETH HASSETT: So good afternoon. I'm Seth Hassett and I'm a senior advisor with ACF's Office of Community Services or OCS. And I'm going to be providing you with a brief overview of the programs and resources in OCS, and then we'll be talking a little bit about ways to make contact with and partner with our grantees at the state and community levels.

So we'll go to the next slide and I'll just start with a little bit of background about OCS. We have a number of different programs, but as noted here, across all of our program efforts, OCS works in partnership with states as well as territories and tribes and community and local agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, to increase economic opportunity and economic security, to support individuals, families, and households, and to revitalize communities. Our work builds on a long legacy dating back to the Great Society programs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It has evolved significantly over the years to address changing conditions and needs. And one thing I will say is that a common theme across OCS programs is that we generally set broad parameters at the federal level either based on statute, regulation, or terms and conditions or guidance.

And then we support state and local decision making about the highest priority needs in the communities that are grantees serve. So we can go to the next slide. And just to highlight, we have five standing grant programs in OCS. These are the programs that have been funded from year to year in our annual budgets and appropriations.

The first three on this list are really large-- the largest funding, and they are all block grants, meaning that some funds are allocated essentially on a formula basis with significant oversight in decision either at the state level or territorial tribal level, or in some cases the decisions are made in the community.

I'll share a little bit more about the types of services in the upcoming slides, but just to highlight that in terms of funding that's provided through these programs, LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, had a regular appropriation of approximately \$3.7 billion last fiscal year. Social

Services Block Grant of SSBG have an annual appropriation of approximately \$1.7 billion. The Community Services Block Grant or CSBG had an appropriation of approximately \$740 million. And the two other programs at the bottom of this list, just for your background, are the Community Economic Development or CED program, which is funded approximately \$20 million last year, and the Rural Community Development Program funded approximately \$9 million. These are both competitively-awarded programs. They may not be available in every community, but they can be important critical partners in securing resources and economic development efforts. So let's go to the next slide.

And just to say that OCS programs are also playing an important role in the response and recovery efforts related to COVID-19, not just in terms of public health needs, but also in terms of addressing the economic and social impacts. This slide lists some of the supplemental grant efforts that are currently being supported by OCS. So I'm actually going to talk about the two at the bottom first, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance or LIHEAP efforts. There has been a significant appropriation -- additional appropriations, both through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan, for this effort. So significant resources going to support household energy assistance, and I'll tell you a little bit more about that in an upcoming slide. But also the Community Services Block Grant through the CARES Act supplemental was appropriated an additional billion dollars. And these funds have all been allocated to our state grantees or to-- for both LIHEAP and CSBG, there are grants that can go to tribes and territories.

The one at the top, the program effort at the top is actually a brand new effort in OCS and in the federal government in general this year. It is called the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program or LIHWAP, and Congress appropriated through two separate appropriations approximately a total of \$1.1 billion. This is to help households pay past due and current water bills. I'm going to tell you a little bit more about this, but this is, again, an effort that is being done in the context of the COVID recovery efforts, and there are some really unique needs for households that relate to water access and affordable water. It also has been an issue prior to the COVID pandemic, but has been significantly exacerbated, and the stakes have become higher in terms of preventing shutdowns and making sure that households have ongoing water access. So let's go to the next slide.

And this gives you kind of a brief summary across all these different—[SCREEN FREEZE, AUDIO LOST] ...million-dollar appropriation. But it's also a really important resource because it provides a core funding for our national network of community action agencies or anti-poverty agencies. And I'll tell you more about them, but essentially they provide-- CSBG can be used to try to address a wide variety of causes or conditions of poverty identified at the community level. It can address employment, education. It can help households make better use of available income. It can provide housing support-- either direct support for housing or other supportive services. Nutrition, emergency services, and even health services as examples.

The Social Services Block Grant, which is the next list on this list, is perhaps the most flexible grant program overseen by OCS. It can support services and activities that may include child care, child welfare services, services for people with disabilities, case management, protective services. There are actually 29 allowable service categories. Funds go to states and territories. They may be administered in some

cases by the local municipality that's allocated funds by the state. The SSBG does not fund-- go to tribes unless if the funds come through a state agency. And then the next two programs, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance or LIHEAP, the kinds of services that are funded here are either support to help with home energy bills. It can include crisis support for a household that has an energy crisis or an emergency need. It can include weatherization or energy-related home repairs. Funding here, again, it's a block grant. It goes to states, territories, and tribes, and they may allocate to the subrecipient agency. I mentioned the community action agencies that they are often an administrating agency for LIHEAP. And then this new effort, the LIHWAP effort, provides services and activities to support low-income households in terms of their water bills. And it can support arrear in paying for past due bills. And in fact, a large part of our emphasis in this effort has been on helping assure that ongoing water services, preventing disconnections, or restoring services if a household has had a disconnection in part because we believe that it's important for that water access to help in-- certainly in the COVID situation, but helping household members stay in their household and have access to water both for drinking purposes, for household hygiene, for a variety of other needs.

So those are the high level in terms of the types of programs that we support and the types of services. I want to tell you a little bit now on the next slide about what we would recommend in terms of how you can partner with OCS grantees at the community level. As I mentioned, we support a lot of communities-- a lot of different types of partners that are very critical across with a presence in almost every community across the country is our Community Action Network. And this network is composed of what are known typically as community action agencies. They may not have that label in your community. They may be referred to as an economic opportunity council. They may just have an acronym, but they are generally known as community action agencies. There are over 1,000 of them across the country. Most of them are nonprofit agencies, but they can also be a public agencies such as county government or city government. The CAAs, as I mentioned earlier, they date back to -- they have a long legacy. They were created in the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act, part of the War on Poverty. One of the hallmarks of these efforts is that they-- was referred to as a Tripartite Governing Board, meaning that at least a third of the representatives must be representatives of a low-income community on that board, a third must be local elected officials and their designees, and the remainder may be other community members and there's more flexibility there.

These agencies address the causes and conditions of poverty based on local needs assessments and plans. And I would just highlight that these are really supposed to be multi-service providers, and part of their mission is to partner with other community providers. They may actually be the provider of LIHEAP, they may be be the provider of this water assistance, they may provide other utility assistance or household supports. So they can be a really important partner not just in helping people get into housing, but so to retain housing. And a key point, again, is that this is their mission, is to partner, and an expectation is to partner with you. So we strongly encourage you to reach out.

So let's go to the next slide and just talk about how you can partner with our Community Action Network, and then this slide lists-- and I think you will be provided the links for all of these, the federal contacts, the state contacts, and what are called our state Community Action Associations, and they might be a good

organization or for outreach in terms of understanding the different programs and different community action agencies in your state.

And then there at the bottom is where I would encourage, if you are a local provider looking to find your counterpart in terms of community action agency, this link, the Community Action Partner-- Community Action Agency Locator is operated by a partner of ours, and you can just type in the zip code and it will tell you the organization and should provide you the name of the executive director and some contact information. So we'll get to the next slide.

And just in terms of other contacts that may be of use, these are the links for our federal program context to LIHEAP and LIHWAP, and they also should have links to state contacts. I will highlight that for both-- because the Water Assistance program is modeled on LIHWAP, it is, in many cases, the program contacts will be the same person or at least the same agency in different states. And in many cases, that local provider is that community action agency that I mentioned earlier. So you can certainly look at these links. You can also reach out to community action agency to find out more in terms of who is providing LIHEAP and LIHWAP in your community. And the Social Services Block Grant contact list is provided here. These are all state-level contacts. This is, again, another flexible resource. They don't have-- there's not a lot of new SSBG funds coming out right now, but there are, again, ongoing appropriated funds that often can address needs related to housing and homelessness or supports.

So with that, I will be prepared to answer questions later, but I would like to hand off to Sanzanna Dean who is going to be sharing information from the Family & Youth Services Bureau of ACF.

SANZANNA DEAN: Thank you, Seth, and good afternoon, everyone. I'm Sanzanna Dean. I'm the Director for the Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth in the Family & Youth Services Bureau. I'd like to take just a brief moment to provide an overview of the Family & Youth Services Bureau and the work that we do.

FYSB works through three national programs and a division of Data and Evaluation and Policy to support the many organizations and communities that work every day to put an end to homelessness, adolescent pregnancy and prevention, as well as domestic violence. At FYSB we offer a variety of programs that provide shelter and services to ensure the safety and support the emotional and well-being of children youth and families. As I mentioned, there's three program divisions which you see here on the slide. And each of our programs provide services-- a broad range of services that support youth and families in addressing their needs. And so I'll talk really briefly about the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, and then I'll turn it over to my colleagues in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act Program to share a little bit about their program as well.

And so I'd like to talk a little bit about the RHY Program. And for those of you who are not familiar with the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program or RHY Program, the RHY Program supports the provision of emergency and long-term shelter and an array of comprehensive prevention and support services for runaway and homeless youth, as well as youth who may be at risk of separation from their family.

We have four core programs that are authorized by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which I'll speak about in more detail shortly. It's important to note that in FY20, the RHY Program received an annual appropriation of \$136 million. FYSB passes through 90% of those funds directly to community-based organizations, and the remaining 10% is used for support activities and support services which we'll talk about as well. And so the funding for the RHY Program is provided competitively to public and nonprofit entities that are used to establish and operate local services that provide safe and stable housing for runaway and homeless youth. Each of our programs are required to assess each youth's individual's needs, and then to either directly offer or refer you to appropriate services using a positive youth development approach and using services that are trauma-informed. Next slide, please.

And so the first program that I'll talk about is our basic center program, which we refer to as BCP. The BCP program provides a great deal of support services and outreach, as well as crisis intervention and emergency shelter for youth under the age of 18 for up to 21 days. Many of the services that are provided in the BCP program include counseling and support services for family reunification, as well as aftercare services. You may also receive services to provide for their basic needs, which might include clothing, basic hygiene, medical care, as well as individual and counseling, and family counseling. Youth may also receive additional supports for education and employment assistance as needed. In many cases, we know that youth are not able to return to their home and they may have no other safe and appropriate housing options available. So longer-term housing and support services are necessary for these youth. And so this is really where the assessment and referral process is critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of youth who enter our programs. FYSB grantees work with community-based partners as well as their local continuums of care to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth in the community, and to be able to provide those referrals and connections to community services.

You'll see on the slide here that FYSB currently has over 600 branches across four programs, but the Basic Center Program has over 250 programs across the country-- actually, 261 programs that are providing emergency shelter, family reunification, and counseling services for youth that really works to determine and assess the needs of young people and if they can be reunited with families or if longer-term shelter is needed. And so next slide, please.

And so one of the ways that the RHY Program actually begins to connect with young people and meeting them where they are is through our Street Outreach Program. And so the Street Outreach Program supports grants to community-based organizations to provide street outreach and educational services-- as well as referrals-- for shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth who are under the age of 18 who because of their time on the street may have been subjected to or at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse, exploitation, or human trafficking. Many of our grantees, though working in the street outreach program, they work to deploy teams to meet young people where they are who are living on the streets or in other unsafe situations to offer them an opportunity to either return home or to return to a stable shelter, whether that is in our Basic Center Program or one of our longer shelter programs, which I'll speak about here shortly. And so the network of grantee providers in our Street Outreach Program is currently at 109. FYSB does add to this network each year when we award a new grant. So in FY21, we

will look forward to enhancing this number of providers for all of our programs as new awards are made. Next slide, please.

And so our longer-term program is called a Transitional Living Program or the TLP Program. And this program supports community-based services and adult-supervised and longer-term shelters such as apartments for youth ages 16 to 20 who are homeless and can't safely return to their families. This program does provide a longer-term option that provides safe and stable services in a nurturing environment. Youth can stay in a TLP program for about 18 months, and under extenuating circumstances, that time can be extended to about 21 months. And the TLP is a little bit different than the BCP and that it's really designed to help young people who are homeless to develop the skills necessary to make a successful transition to self-sufficient living and really to include the provision of education and job skills training. As I mentioned, the young people in the TLP program are typically older youth between the ages of 16 and under 22. And so the program and the program staff and the community organizations do this through providing education and job skills training as well as individual and group counseling. There's also family counseling that is offered when appropriate. Next slide, please.

And so in FY21, FYSB released a separate funding opportunity to support the maternity group home program, which are essentially transitional living programs that are specifically designed to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting youth. You'll notice that there are 18 MGH or Maternity Group Home programs currently offer. That's because previous to FY21, the Maternity Group Home Program was funded through the Transitional Living Program. And so that number we expect to increase this year as we are funding more programs with that specific set-aside announcement specifically for the maternity group home programs. And so the Maternity Group Home Program includes all of the Transitional Living Program services in addition to providing parenting skills, child care, child development, education, as well as health and nutritional services.

I believe, based on the population of individuals over 18 for the Emergency Housing Voucher Program, that either connections would be best made with the Transitional Living Program or the Maternity Group Home as a best fit for individuals looking for connection opportunities for community-based support services. The SOP and BCP programs are also available for individuals within a family that may need those supports, but if you're looking specifically for supporting individuals aged 18 and older, this program would likely be the best fit. Next slide, please.

And so in addition to our four primary grant programs, our annual appropriations also supports a national communication system which is operated by the National Runaway Safeline. And the NRS works to assist runaway and homeless youth in communicating with their families and identification of service providers who can meet their needs while they're looking for shelter or assisting them in identifying an appropriate and safe and stable shelter. We also have the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center or RHYTTAC, which provides training and technical assistance resources to our RHY grantee organizations. And then we also support the National Clearinghouse on Homeless Children and Families, which provides a broad range of resources to organizations that support runaway and homeless youth and their families.

And so the slide here provides a brief overview and description of each of these support activities and resources, and the following slide actually provides information and links where you can find this information within these individual websites as well as on the FYSB website. Next slide, please.

And so here are links to these resources and supporting activities for runaway and homeless youth and grantee providers. It's important to note that because the RHY Program provides funding specifically to community-based organizations, there is no single state point of contact. Program officers are housed in regional offices within FYSB. And so programs are supported and managed through a federal regional project officer. Information on grantees in each program are listed on the website. But the federal project officers can definitely work with our counterparts at HUD and other community-based organizations to make those connections at the local level.

And so with this, I will thank you for your time, and I will now turn it over to my colleagues Shawndell Dawson and Rachel Orsinger in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act Program.

SHAWNDELL DAWSON: Thank you, Sanzanna, good afternoon, everyone. I am Shawndell Dawson. I am the Director of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program. Next slide, please.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program has existed since 1984, and for 36 years, we've served as the primary source around domestic violence shelter and supportive services in local communities. The reach of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Program is extensive. We provide a non-competitive funding and formula grants to states and territories which reaches 56 grantees in total and 1,500 domestic violence shelters as subrecipients of that funding every year. Our funding also reaches 252 tribes that are serving American Indians and Alaska Natives that are surviving domestic violence. And then our funding, which is state coalitions-- there are 56 of them in each state and US territory-- that serves as technical assistance providers, coordinators, and policy assistants and leaders in their states to help coordinate services in their local communities on behalf of the needs of domestic violence survivors and families, as well as of the local programs and helping to coordinate health and social service agencies.

In addition to our formula grant program, the FVPSA Program also supports some discretionary grants. 330,000 children are served at FVPSA-funded shelters every year, and we have a demonstration grant program called Specialized Services for Abused Parents and their Children that offered them multigenerational support for both kids children and youth that have been impacted by domestic violence and also impacting their well-being and bonding and stability as a family. So these specialized programs are looking at trauma-informed initiatives and services that they can provide as well as culturally-relevant supports for families and children and youth that are accessing their services. We have 26 grantees in total.

In addition to our demonstration grants, we host and support a network of technical assistance providers that serve as leaders and think-tankers and subject matter experts on domestic violence as it intersects with health and mental health and trauma, working within the child custody and child welfare and family

court systems, looking at the needs of housing, supporting the work of culture-specific communities. The African American, the Latino, the Asian/Pacific Islander community, for example. Specializing in the work around American Indians and Alaska Natives who are surviving domestic violence. There are 14 grantees in total. Today we will feature the work of one of those capacity-building centers, Safe Housing, in which my team member, Rachel Orsinger, will talk to you about momentarily.

And lastly, in addition to our network of resource centers, shelters, and programs, we also support some national hotlines. The National Domestic Violence Hotline has existed for over 28 years and providing 24/7 support to domestic violence survivors. So no matter where survivors call from, they can be connected to a domestic violence shelter or a program in their state and local community 24 hours a day via phone, via chat, and via online text messages as well. And then in addition to that, we support the Strong Hearts Native Helpline which is the first helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives that are surviving domestic violence and dating violence. And then we have Love is Respect, which is a helpline for young people and young adults that are in dating violence or unhealthy dating relationships and in need of peer support.

This network all together supports 1.3 million people per year. 330,000 of those are children. We know that domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for families and families with children, and our programs work and stand ready to be partners with all of youth and teams of care and housing authorities to help connect families to longer-term and short-term housing options, but also provide the safety planning, trauma-informed support the families often need in addition to housing to support their overall safety and well-being.

I will now turn things over to Rachel Orsinger-- next slide, please-- who will talk to you a bit more about this intersection and our technical assistance.

RACHEL ORSINGER: Thanks, Shawndell. So as Shawndell mentioned, I think we've all long known that there's a broad intersection of domestic violence and homelessness with some studies finding that up to 80% of homeless women with children have previously experienced domestic violence. We know that it's much broader than just homeless women with children, though. You may also have single people experiencing homelessness who need domestic violence services or people of any gender identity who may need domestic violence services.

The two most pressing concerns for survivors of abuse who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness are the need for safe housing – so where they can be safe from abuse and the specific issues of stalking or physical danger or emotional danger that they might be facing because of their abuse -- but also the need for economic resources to maintain safety. Almost every survivor of domestic violence reports having experienced some form of financial abuse, which can create huge barriers to housing stability from either a lack of steady employment, poor credit, or ruined credit rental histories connected to their abuse. Next slide, please.

As Shawndell mentioned, we fund, through states and tribes, direct services providers, about 1,500 programs throughout the country. While each state and tribe has a great deal of latitude to determine what exactly is going to be in their program of domestic violence services that they provide, in general, they have to provide emergency shelter and supportive services. And supportive services include things such as shelter survivor advocacy, counseling, case management, housing referrals, legal advocacy, preventative health services, culturally and linguistically-appropriate services, and public benefits and community services referrals. In particular, you may find that some of your domestic violence partners in your community, while they refer to some of the same systems that you might, they may have partnerships and expertise in referring in specific safe ways for survivors of abuse that may help them navigate confidentiality or other safety concerns that they might have with interfacing with other systems. Next slide, please.

In addition to the direct service providers in your community, every state and territory receives a grant to fund a domestic violence coalition. Each domestic violence coalition is funded to provide education support and technical assistance to the domestic violence service providers in that state and to support the state policy development. Each of these coalitions-- next slide, please-- offers opportunities for collaboration. That could include partnering with the state domestic violence coalition to help coordinate the Emergency Housing Voucher referrals or helping share information with your PHAs about how local domestic violence programs in their particular area might be able to help. Or helping connect with local programs to coordinate safety planning and support services for families. Next slide, please.

Many communities already have current ongoing successful collaborations between victim service providers and public housing authorities. Some of the ones that we've heard about in our office have reported practices such as having weekly meetings between the staff of the victim service provider and the public housing authority to coordinate around VAWA transfers, the Violence Against Women Act which gives various transfer policies. Or an advocate co-located at the housing authority so that they're on-hand to offer immediate supportive services and links to the local service provider for ongoing support. Or a public housing authority and a victim service provider that co-created a video training on the Violence Against Women Act protections for new residents to watch when they come on board so that they were aware of their rights. Next slide, please.

The next two slides are simply the links to each of the state and territory domestic violence coalitions. This is a great place to start if you want to start building a partnership if you don't already have one. Next slide. And next slide, please.

And then we wanted to briefly mention, as Shawndell said, one of our national technical assistance providers, which is part of a shared project between HUD, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services, to provide coordinated technical assistance about the intersection of domestic violence, sexual violence, and safe housing. This project brings multiple technical assistance providers from each of the agencies together to coordinate technical assistance about the housing needs for survivors. Next slide, please.

I encourage you to visit their website and find resources there that can talk better about-- for different audiences, both victim service providers and housing providers, on how to support survivors who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Next slide, please.

Some specific resources are listed here that you may find useful. Some on how to ensure the safety of survivors and coordinated entry, tips for successful partnerships, and information for victim service providers on emergency housing vouchers. So if you have a provider in your neighborhood who is not currently involved in this work, this may be a good resource to share with them. Next slide.

And we encourage you to visit our website for links to more resources on supporting survivors of domestic violence. Next slide. Next slide. With that, I will turn it over to our colleagues at the Children's Bureau, beginning with Julie Fliss. Thank you.

JULIE FLISS: Thank you, Rachel. Thank you, Rachel. This is Julie Fliss with the Children's Bureau, specifically in the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. Next slide, please.

Thank you. I'm going to talk a little bit about prevention of child abuse and opportunities for collaboration. The big thing about the Children's Bureau that I just wanted [INAUDIBLE] that we are the primary agency for overseeing child welfare services. So that is from prevention of child maltreatment all the way through [INAUDIBLE] and post-permanency, what we refer to. So in a moment [INAUDIBLE] will talk a little bit more about youth services. But [INAUDIBLE] is that-- the authorizing legislation is the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. And the majority of the funding goes to formula grants to all states, the District of Columbia, [INAUDIBLE]. And every state that receives funding on-- the state agency that oversees it is designated by-- the [INAUDIBLE] state. So most of them are child welfare agencies, but some of them will be children's trust fund agencies, Department of Health, or nonprofits. And in a little bit I'll be able to provide you a link to how you can identify who the state lead agency in your state is. In 2021, \$60.6 million was appropriated, but we did receive an additional \$250 million [INAUDIBLE] funds through the American Rescue Plan Act to help stabilize families and address some of the factors that put them at risk for child abuse and neglect. One percent of funding is set aside for tribal organizations and migrant programs, and those are done through discretionary grants. And I apologize, this is my-- I think it's a little choppy. I'm going to do my best to make it a little better. Actually, I'll take my ear buds off. That's better. Yeah, [INAUDIBLE]. Hopefully that's a little bit better. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Actually, go back one more slide. Sorry.

The main piece of it is when we talk about prevention, it's universal services-- you can go to the slide after this, sorry. Universal services for primary prevention. So services that are available to all families or families who are at higher risk for child abuse and neglect. So that includes-- that may include single parents, parents of young children. It could be families at risk for homelessness or those who are homeless. I do want to say that we don't ever say that homelessness *is* child abuse, but it is a factor that can put families *at risk* for child abuse. So that's one of the places where we are really looking to these services to provide support to families and try to address those risk factors to make it less likely that they are going to fall into the situation where they may harm their child. So I'm not going to read this verbatim,

but just wanted to mention that we do fund services that are available to all families to support them, and then also, we do try to target some of those populations that I mentioned. Next slide, please.

In the next slide, these are some of the specific services that are authorized to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. And I did want to highlight here, one of the key pieces as it relates to funding for families that are maybe homeless or at risk for homelessness is increase family stability. And you'll also see there that there is a couple of bullets down-- improve family access for formal/informal resources, including access for unaccompanied homeless youth.

So one of the key pieces is that CBCAP programs have not received a lot of funding historically. So we have always encouraged them to reach out to other providers who are serving families such as shelters or homeless support services to try to connect with them. Some of the types of services that are funded through CBCAP include family resource centers or services that are trying to connect families with other services that may address some of their concrete needs. With the addition of the Annual Rescue Plan funds, many of the CBCAP programs have been offering some more of what we refer to as concrete services. Rental assistance, food pantries, things like that, in addition to things like parents' education and other things-- other support services. So home visiting voluntary-- home visiting is another example. So they may partner with homelessness or homeless support services to provide some of those to families, but they also are a way to be able to get information out, such as the voucher services that you're talking about. So because they are accessing families in so many different ways. So I encourage you-- you can go actually to two slides forward-- not the next one, but the one after that.

Here is a way through the FRIENDS National Center. Some funding is put aside for training and technical assistance. And through these links-- and I believe the slides are going to be provided to you, you can access the state lead agency that is in your state to find out where the funding is going through their state, to be able to learn about some of those resources where you may be able to work with them and be able to potentially collaborate to get the word out, or to even help with some of those post-supportive services and things like that.

So I highly recommend you looking more for more information-- I know we're running short on time-- to get more information on CBCAP or to identify your state lead agency so you can learn more information about CBCAP and what is happening-- what is being funded in your state or your community. So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Tamika Thurston who's going to talk a little bit more about Chafee programs.

TAMIKA THURSTON: Thank you so much, Julie. In consideration of time, I'll try to quickly get to the important information. There are numerous grants awarded by many agencies of the federal government to state governments -- If you can advance to the next slide, that's good right there; you can go back a slide -- to state governments to improve the lives of children and families. The grants and funding by the Children's Bureau is used to help fund the provisions of child welfare services from prevention to adoption. Since 1986, Congress has appropriated funding to meet the specific and unique needs of youth in transition from foster care. The current program is called the John H. Chafee Program for Successful

Transition to Adulthood, or more commonly known as the Chafee Program. While states and certain tribes and territories also use its funding for youth and foster care between the ages of 14 to 17, the money is most often associated with supporting youth as they transition from foster care. On December 27, 2020, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress passed a Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act, often called the Division X.

Division X added \$400 million to the annual Chafee allocation of \$143 million. Division X also allowed certain flexibilities, including allowing child welfare agencies the option to serve young people up to the age of 27. The ability to serve young adults up to the age of 27 expires on September 13, 2021. After October 1, 2021, Chafee services will revert back to age 21 or 23 as elected by the state. Chafee funds are provided to states and certain tribes and territories and are administered at the state, local, and county level. It is important to know how child welfare is administered in your state as it will help to determine who are the agencies and community partners that can support pre-tenancy and housing stabilization services for youth in transition from foster care. What you'll be able to find either in our resource attachment is a link to be able to find where to go for more information within your state. And with that, I will turn it over to Alica.

ALICIA WOODSBY: Thank you so much, Tamika, and thank you to all of the presenters today. A big thank you. That was an incredible amount of rich information. It looks like the ACF and HUD staff have been doing an incredible job of responding to all of the questions that have been coming into the Q&A. And so I do have one additional question that I'll pose now, and then we can move on and we'll revisit at the end if there are additional questions. The question for ACF is, how does ACF define safe housing? Is there anyone that can take that from our panel?

SETH HASSETT: This is Seth Hassett from OCS. I'm not familiar with an ACF-wide definition for safe housing. I know that as we mentioned, a lot of the programs that we administer in OCS are based on local priorities and needs. And so we would have-- our grantees would be looking to work with either local definitions or definitions from housing authorities. So we don't have a particular definition that we propagate out of our office, and I don't know if any others [INAUDIBLE].

ALICIA WOODSBY: OK. And a second to see if anyone else wants to chime in. Thank you, Seth, for that. And we will move on to the next slide.

So we wanted to offer some next steps for you to think about if you haven't already started to engage in this work. Learning how your state plans to use their increased Head Start, Family Violence Prevention Program, and LIHEAP resources, and whether housing related supports and services are part of those plans. Really getting a sense and a handle on who are the agencies that are administering any of these new resources as well as some of the existing funds that we've talked about today. Community action agencies, that could be victim services providers, early childhood providers, or others. And then outreach to and engaging these local partners as necessary and making them aware of the availability of housing vouchers for their target populations.

Even if a program currently doesn't exist, working with-- in partnership with these systems can really open up-- potentially open up an opportunity to shape a program for a population to make these housing vouchers available. And bringing housing to the table can really open up a lot of opportunities for how you can work with individuals and families. Next slide, please.

And some additional next steps are offering to educate local partners about coordinated entry. Not everyone understands what it is or how it works. And clarifying the process for referrals can be extremely helpful for people understanding how to connect folks to the system who are eligible for housing resources. Having an established partnership and plan in place for offering services to EHV recipients will really allow for you to start providing those services as soon as possible and better support long-term housing stabilization, which we really want to make sure folks are able to maintain these housing vouchers. Next slide, please.

And now we're just going to take a couple of minutes to do a couple of polls to ask you all, which of the following agencies who deliver ACF-funded services are PHAs or CoCs already partnering with. Community action agencies, runaway and homeless youth providers, victim services providers, early childhood providers, child welfare, or other, which if you could identify in the chat. I'm sorry, not the chat, the Q&A. Another-- a few seconds. OK. So a lot of partnerships with community action agencies exist, up 48%. But not a whole lot of partnerships in the other categories. Victim service providers were 22%, and even the other category, 11%. So it does seem like there's some room here to really explore and expand more upon these partnerships. Next slide, please.

And our last poll question is, what have been the greatest barriers to accessing needed housing-related supports and services for the populations served by the ACF resources that we covered today? Is it lack of funding? Lack of provider capacity? Individuals not meeting eligibility criteria? Lack of information on how to make those referrals? Individuals not engaged or interested? Or other? Another few seconds for folks to-- and you can choose more than one. OK, let's see. Looks like all of them are barriers, the most prevalent being lack of funding, lack of provider capacity and lack of information on how to make those referrals. Folks not being engaged was the least chosen option. So some of this is, I think, we would expect to see about 13% don't meet eligibility criteria. So thank you for doing that. That's helpful information to have when we think about the types of strategies and information to generate and disseminate moving forward in this work. Next slide, please.

So I'm just going to check and see if we have any additional questions. And if you have a question that hasn't been answered or you've been wanting to ask, please-- now is your time to do that. You can put it in the Q&A box. All right. Just checking with my colleagues to see if they have any questions.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, Alicia, we don't see any remaining questions in the Q&A box that we want to ask the panelists.

ALICIA WOODSBY: OK. Well, thank you so much to our HUD and ACF staff again for answering those questions as they came in so thoroughly, that was extremely helpful. Looks like that's all we have for today.

Many thanks, again, to HUD for hosting this webinar today and for the wonderful presenters from ACF. I also want to thank all of the HUD TAC and ACF staff who worked behind the scenes to put this together today. And all of the guests for joining us and participating in today's webinar. Thank you and we hope you enjoy the rest of your day.