



National CARES Act Training Conference

HOPWA-CV Implementation

Date: July 27, 2021



Presenters/Facilitators

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Webinar Topics

This HOPWA-CV webinar is intended to provide a broad overview of key implementation facts and strategies for addressing COVID-19 when utilizing CARES Act funds and program flexibilities to serve HOPWA-eligible households during the pandemic.

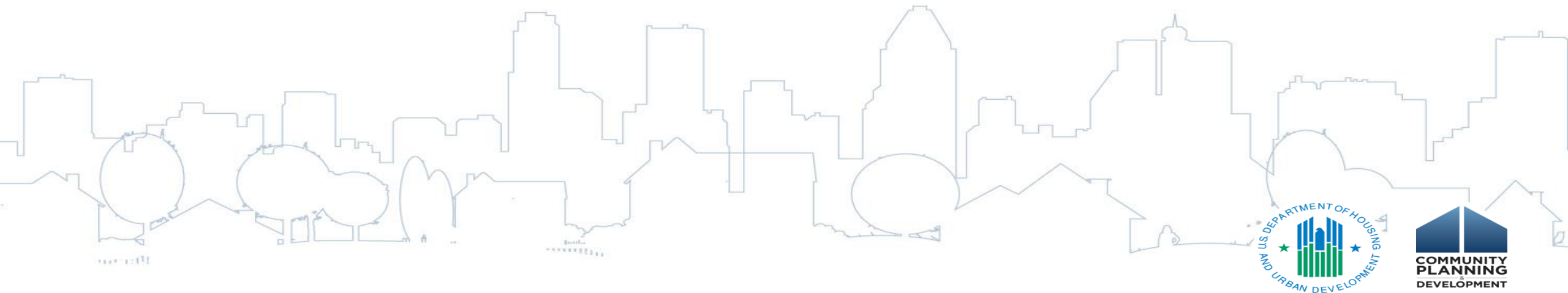
Topics will include:

- Background and CARES Act funds granted
- HOPWA CARES Act waivers, Notice and HOPWA program flexibilities
- Key HOPWA/CV program elements
- HOPWA/COVID-19 response planning 2021
- Participant Q & A



Submit Your Questions

Please submit your questions at any time throughout the webinar by entering them into the **Q & A box** located on the lower right side of your screen.



BACKGROUND AND HOPWA CARES ACT FUNDS GRANTED



Background

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Act provided substantial resources to HOPWA grantees and project sponsors to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
- This funding was intended to be **flexible** to help grantees respond to the immediate needs of their communities related to COVID-19



Award Information

CARES Act provided **\$65M in supplemental funding for HOPWA in 2020**

- \$53.7M for formula grantees using the same data elements to determine their FY2020 HOPWA formula allocations
- \$10M in one-time, non-renewable funding for competitive grantees that is proportionate to their existing grants
- Note: Competitive Grantees were not required to use their supplemental grant funds on permanent supportive housing activities

This was a “one-time” award and must be directly related to the COVID-19 crisis.



HOPWA/COVID-19 Funding Streams

For **Formula HOPWA grantees**, there are 3 potential HOPWA funding streams that may be used for COVID-19 activities, including:

1. CARES Act Funding
2. FY20 Funds Designated for COVID-19
3. Regular formula HOPWA Awards

For **Competitive HOPWA grantees**, there is 1 HOPWA funding stream that is designated for COVID-19 activities:

1. CARES Act Funding
2. Competitive grantees will also continue to implement their current grants as approved and may make use of waivers



HOPWA-CARES Act Eligible Activities

How does HUD expect the HOPWA CARES Act funds to be used?

- CARES Act funds were granted as **additional funding** to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 beginning in 2020
- Funds may be used to provide **any eligible HOPWA activities** identified at 24 CFR Part 574
- Grantees must use these funds to provide activities that are consistent with their **community needs for COVID-19 preparedness and response.**
- In order to protect PLWHA, funds may be used to **self-isolate, quarantine, or** provide other COVID-19 infection control services as recommended by the CDC **for household members not living with HIV/AIDS**



CARES Act Eligible Activities

Specific COVID19-related Activities Covered by the CARES Act:

- Stays at **hotels, motels** or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible individuals or their family members;
- **Transportation** services, including costs for privately-owned vehicle transportation to access medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment;
- **Accessing essential services and supplies** such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information;
- **Nutrition services** in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;
- Educating households to **reduce the risk** of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others; and
- Costs related to **infection control measures** such as cleaning and disinfectant supplies, gloves and other safety-related supplies for staff and assisted households



HOPWA CARES ACT WAIVERS, NOTICE AND PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES



HOPWA Program Waivers 1 and 2

Mega-Waiver 1 - [Mega Waiver 1 - 3.31.2020](#) provided the following HOPWA waivers:

- **Self-Cert of Income & Credible Info on HIV** (documentation flexibility)
- **Rent Standard for TBRA** (allows for rent standard increases)
- **Property Standards for TBRA** (delay initial inspections or conduct remotely)
- **HOPWA Space and Security** (use of alternate spaces for housing/shelter)

Mega-Waiver 2 - [Mega Waiver 2 - 5.22.2020](#) Provided the following HOPWA waivers:

- **Rent Standard - HOPWA Rental Assistance** (extended to all rental assistance)
- **Property Standards** (extended to all HOPWA rental assistance)
- **STRMU Limits** (up to 12 months of STRMU in a 12-month period, case by case)
- **Short Term Supported Housing Limits** (up to 120 days vs 60 in a 6-month period)



HOPWA CARES Notice

HOPWA [Notice CPD-20-05](#) was released on 5/8/2020 to provide HOPWA implementation instructions and related flexibilities for HOPWA/CARES Act funding. Specific elements included:

- **Administrative Costs** (increased to 6% grantees and 10% sponsors)
- **STRMU Limits** (STRMU may be provided with CARES Act \$ for up to 24 months)
- **Hotel/Motel Stays**
- **HOPWA Supportive Services**, including those specifically noted in the Act
 - **Transportation**
 - **Accessing essential services and supplies**
 - **Food/nutrition**
 - **Education on COVID-19 risks and infection control costs**
- **FY20 Allocations for COVID-19** (Grantees may designate portion of FY20 funds in their AAP for COVID-19 response)
- **Grantees must prevent Duplication of Benefits (DOB)**



HOPWA Waiver Extensions

To date, HUD has issued two waiver extensions that allow HOPWA grantees and sponsors to extend the use of certain waiver options beyond the original end dates:

[Mega Waiver Extensions - March 31 2021](#) This Mega-Waiver provided time extensions for CPD activity waivers, including those connected to HOPWA.

[Mega-Waiver Extensions - June 30 2021](#) This Mega-Waiver provides additional time extensions for CPD activity waivers, including those connected to HOPWA



HOPWA Waiver Extensions & End Dates

HOPWA Waiver Provision End Dates

	Mega-Waiver #1 Dated 3/31/2020	Mega-Waiver #2 Dated 5/22/20	Waiver Extensions as of 6/30/21
Self Certification of Income & Credible info on HIV Status	End: when public health officials determine special measures not needed		End date set: 9/30/21
FMR Rent Standard for TBRA	End: 1 year (Through 3/30/21)		N/A
FMR Rent Standard for HOPWA (All rental)		End: 1 year (Through 5/21/21)	End: Extended through 12/31/21
Property Standards for TBRA	End: 1 year (Through 3/31/21)		N/A
Property Standards for HOPWA (All rental)		End: 1 year (Through 5/21/21)	End: Extended through 9/30/21
HOPWA Space & Security	End: Undefined – while quarantining necessary		
Time Limits for Short-Term Housing Facilities and STRMU		End: 1 year (Through 5/21/21)	End: Extended through 12/31/21

HOPWA Waiver End Dates

Waiver provisions ending September 30, 2021:

- Self-Certification of Income & Credible Info on HIV Status *
- Property Standards for HOPWA (All rental, TBRA, Master Leasing) Note that all units must be physically reinspected by December 31, 2021

Waiver provisions ending December 31, 2021:

- FMR Rent Standard (All rental)
- Time Limits for Short-Term Housing and STRMU

Waiver provisions with no specific end date:

- HOPWA Space and Security – may be used when quarantining is necessary

**Note: This provision now has an end date vs being tied to local health conditions*



HOPWA Waiver End Dates

Grantees and Project Sponsors should be aware of the **9/30/21** and **12/31/21** end dates and begin planning the activities that will be required as the waivers end, such as:

- Obtaining source documentation on HIV status and income
- Returning to the established Rent Standard
- Transitioning from virtual to on-site initial inspections and physically reinspecting units previously inspected virtually
- Ending 12-month STRMU limits and days allowed in short-term supported housing

Stay tuned for more information and guidance on transitioning program operations as the waiver activities end!



Additional HOPWA Program Flexibilities

HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) approved new, temporary program flexibilities for certain HOPWA activities carried out during the pandemic.

Some examples include:

- Gift cards for food and gas are allowed
- Car repairs (CARES or FY20 designated \$ only)
- Annual unit re-inspections may be delayed or remote
- Hotel/motel room damages (CARES and FY20 funds only)
- PHP/STRMU combination (at least 1 activity must be CARES Act \$)

For more detailed information:

[HOPWA-COVID19 Activity and Cost Eligibility Chart](#)

[Get The Facts - HOPWA-CV Response](#)

[HOPWA COVID-19 Webinars](#)



KEY HOPWA/CV PROGRAM ELEMENTS: OVERVIEW AND UPDATES:

- STRMU
- TBRA
- Hotel/Motel Vouchers
- Permanent Housing Placement
- Supportive Services



STRMU

Short-Term Rent Mortgage and Utility Assistance (STRMU) is a key component of HOPWA's COVID-19 response, as an activity to help HOPWA-eligible renters and homeowners avoid housing instability and the threat of homelessness.

The expansion and flexibility of STRMU under the CARES Act and HOPWA waivers allow HOPWA grantees and sponsors to quickly respond to emergency housing needs and provide extended rental/mortgage and utility assistance for households impacted by COVID-19/



STRMU Program Categories

STRMU funded by : Regular HOPWA Allocations	STRMU funded by: Regular HOPWA Allocations –Using the 5/22/20 Waiver option Available to use through 12/31/21	STRMU funded by: CARES Act and by FY20 \$ designated for COVID-19
Eligible Households may receive: Up to 21 weeks of assistance in a 52-week period	Eligible Households may receive: Up to 12 months of assistance in a 12-month period as decided on an individual household basis	Eligible Households may receive: Up to 24 months of assistance



STRMU

Resources for information on STRMU/CV program operations:

[STRMU Funding Options Guide](#)

[HOPWA Webinar - Responding to COVID-19 Surges](#)

[HOPWA Webinar - STRMU Office Hours](#)

[HOPWA Webinar - Operating STRMU With HOPWA CARES Act Funding](#)

Answers to specific STRMU-related questions or case examples:

[HOPWA Ask A Question - AAQ - Portal](#)



TBRA/Permanent Housing

TBRA and other permanent housing activities such as Master Leasing and permanent housing facilities remain important resources for HOPWA-eligible households during the pandemic.

Programs may utilize CARES Act funds to strategically add housing units and/or may use the funds to cover increased costs of rental subsidies resulting from household income losses, increased rents and similar circumstances. Care should be taken not to increase rental subsidy rolls to the extent that subsidies cannot be continued when CARES Act funding is no longer available.



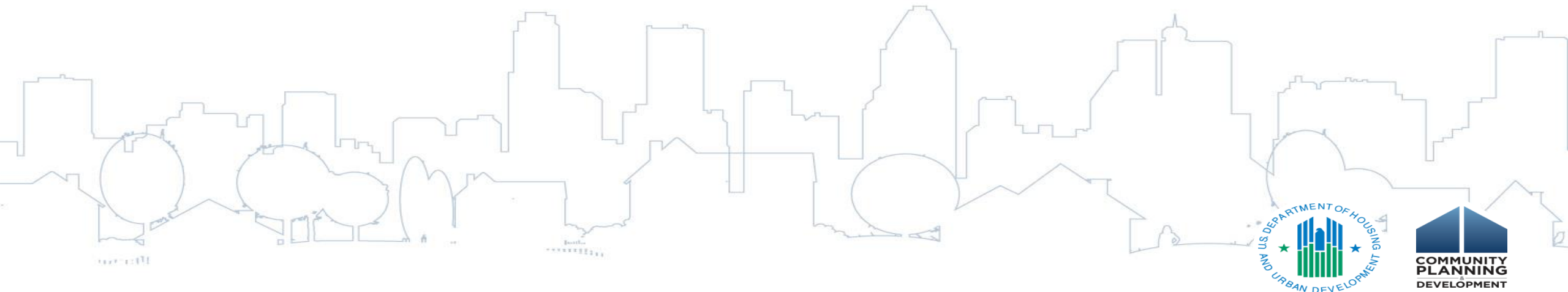
TBRA/Permanent Housing

Resources for TBRA and other permanent housing operations:

[Get The Facts - Remote Inspections](#)

[Get The Facts - FMR Rent Standard](#)

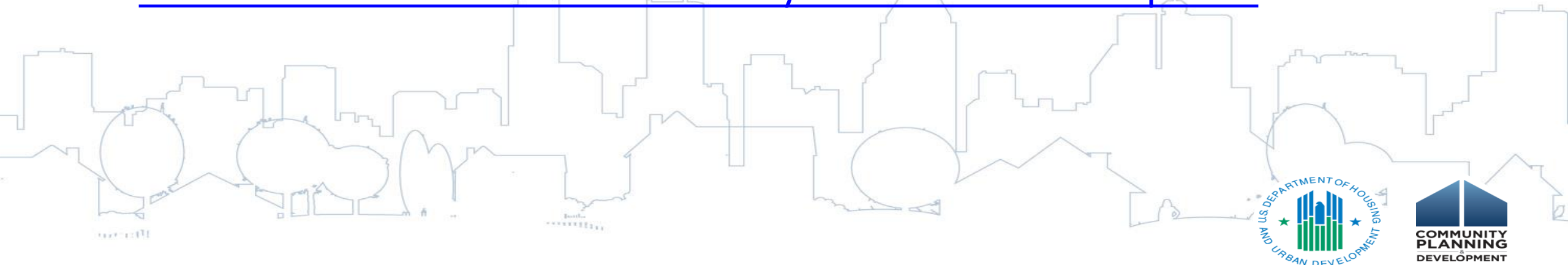
[HOPWA Webinar - Virtual Inspections Intake and Annual Certifications](#)



Hotel/Motel Vouchers

The increased flexibility to utilize **Hotel/Motel Vouchers** for emergency housing as well as for quarantine purposes is an important HOPWA/COVID-19 resource.

[Get The Facts - Using Hotels-Motels in Your HOPWA Response](#)
[HOPWA Webinar - Hotel Motel Stays for COVID-19 Response](#)



PHP

Permanent Housing Placement (PHP) is expected to be an important resource, especially as eviction moratoriums end, to help ensure that households that are evicted or without stable housing can be assisted in accessing new, permanent housing.

PHP can be funded through regular HOPWA allocations or through CARES Act funding.



Supportive Services

HOPWA Supportive Services funding through CARES Act or regular HOPWA funding provides many options to help address the safety, health and housing stability of HOPWA-eligible households during the pandemic. Key services include:

Nutrition/Food: meal delivery, food banks, grocery delivery or cards

Transportation: bus tokens/passes, gas cards, agency vehicles/gas

Safety and PPE: COVID education, disinfecting supplies, PPE

Communication – loaned phones, phone minutes, internet

Robust remote services – more frequent outreach, assessment, check-ins



Supportive Services

Resources for Supportive Services:

[Get The Facts - Remote Methods and Practices](#)

[Get The Facts - Supportive Services Q&A](#)

[HOPWA Webinar - How To Deliver and Adapt Supportive Services](#)

[HOPWA Webinar - Delivering Supportive Services as a COVID-19 Response](#)



HOPWA/COVID-19 RESPONSE RECOMMENDATIONS 2021



HOPWA/COVID-19 Response

The risks of housing instability, evictions, homelessness, difficulty in accessing food, medications and medical care may rise as the pandemic continues and as local conditions spike or change. **HOPWA grantees and project sponsors are encouraged to revisit their client support and care efforts and priorities**, including the following key items:

- Make housing security the top program priority
- Increase client outreach and engagement
- Provide safety education and PPE
- Educate client households and staff on vaccinations

Download [Responding to COVID-19 Surges](#): a 2021 HOPWA Program Resource Guide”



Housing Security: Top Priority!

Be aware that increased numbers of HOPWA households may not be able to pay for rent and other expenses. Ensure that households at risk are quickly identified and connected to all possible resources. Some suggested responses include:

- Assess client households more frequently
- Target STRMU (CARES, waiver, regular) to those at risk of eviction or foreclosure
- Use hotel/motel vouchers for emergency housing when needed
- Access emergency rental assistance through ESG-CV, CDBG-CV, Ryan White, EHV
- If budgets allow, add eligible households to TBRA or Master Leasing
- Quickly process recertifications when clients have income losses
- Use PHP for placement in new housing when needed

Remember that the availability of eviction moratoriums does not mean rental assistance should be delayed!



Increase Outreach & Engagement

As the pandemic continues and surges, outreach and engagement becomes increasingly important. Look at ways to identify issues quickly, including:

- Use remote methods to engage clients on a regular basis
- Check in about housing, finances, food access, ability to reach medical appointment, ability to pay for rent/utilities and on emotional well-being
- You may adapt and use this [Wellness Checklist](#) as a guide for outreach
- Include wellness checks during regular case management
- Also reach out to client who do not regularly interact with program staff



Safety Education and PPE

Lack of access to protective equipment and cleaning supplies can greatly increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Make sure that clients receive updated information about infection risks and that they have access to PPE supplies. Remember that PPE can be purchased for client households as outlined in previous HOPWA/COVID-19 webinars and guidance:

[HOPWA-COVID-19 Supportive Services Q&A](#)

[Webinar and Slides-HOPWA Supportive Services as COVID-19 Response](#)

[HOPWA COVID-19 Activity Eligibility Chart](#)



Vaccinations: Education & Access

Access to COVID-19 vaccinations is important to everyone at this time, and especially those who are immune-compromised. Program staff should become familiar with vaccine information and local plans for vaccine roll-outs:

- Expect vaccine hesitancy and provide information on importance of COVID-19 vaccines
- Review resources such as [Answering Patient Questions](#) (CDC) and [Multicultural Vaccine Confidence Guidance](#) (ISDA), [FAQ - COVID-19 Vaccines and People with HIV](#) (HIVMA)
- **Follow HUD's COVID-19 Homeless System Response:** [Vaccine Planning and Distribution](#) page on the HUD Exchange for updates on preparing staff and clients, interaction with public health authorities and vaccine access
- Learn about your state's plan for vaccinations: [State Vaccination Plans](#)



HOPWA/COVID-19 UPDATED RESPONSE PLANNING 2021



HOPWA/COVID-19 Response Planning 2021

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

COVID-19 in 2021 is a rapidly evolving situation. As a result, HOPWA programs cannot remain static, but must make adjustments based on local factors that impact the safety and stability of HOPWA-eligible households. Questions to consider:

1. What are the current, local **health/safety recommendations**? Is this information being shared with staff and clients?
2. Is our approach to **sharing information** with HOPWA-eligible households (on safety, vaccines, services) comprehensive and equitable?
3. Have the **priority housing needs** for HOPWA changed? Is there a need to shift funds to meet the highest needs? To leverage other resources?
4. Are we **spending HOPWA/CARES funding** at the needed pace? If not, what are the roadblocks?



HOPWA/COVID-19 Response Planning 2021

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

- Address any roadblocks to spending HOPWA CARES funding and delivering critical housing and service activities
- Make budget changes as funds decrease and/or priority needs change – move \$ to activities most needed
- **Ensure complete spend-down of CARES Act \$** before use of FY20 COVID-designated funds
- Amend FY20 AAP to designate additional funds to COVID-19 response if needed



HOPWA/CV Funds – Status Update

The following shows the status of HOPWA/CV funds across all grantees as of July 15, 2021

Cares Act grants contracted	97.6%
CARES Act grantee have made their 1 st drawdown of funds	82.0%
CARES Act Formula funds disbursed \$17,402,665.66	32.6%
CARES Act Competitive funds disbursed \$3,032,328.73	31.5%
Grantees that have spent 100% of their CARES Act funds	4 Formula 3 Competitive



AAQ and TA Requests

GET ANSWERS!

GET ASSISTANCE!

Answers:

Grantee and Sponsors may ask program, policy and COVID-related questions through the HOPWA AAQ:

[HOPWA Ask A Question - AAQ - Portal](#)

Technical Assistance:

HUD is making additional technical assistance (TA) available to grantees to support HOPWA/COVID-19 planning, program development, problem-solving. Those needing TA assistance in managing COVID-19-related program issues may submit an online request through the HUD Exchange at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/technical-assistance/>



Stay Informed

Updates on HOPWA guidance and resources for COVID-19 are available on the HUD Exchange and at HUD.gov:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hopwa/covid-19/#resources-and-guidance>
- <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>

QUESTIONS!

