

COVID-19

Homeless System Response: Federal Rehousing Resources

There is an extensive set of federal resources available to help communities prevent, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic among people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. While most of the resources outlined are newly available funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, communities should consider how they can combine existing and new funding streams to fund programs and activities in their rehousing strategy. These resources provide communities with the opportunity to strategically align funds to design a comprehensive rehousing plan that assists households most impacted by the pandemic.

Funding Resource	Overview	Federal Allocation	Eligible Activities
Coronavirus Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)	CDBG-CV may be used to address housing and community development needs created by the coronavirus, including supporting special populations at high risk for contracting the virus such as individuals and families who are homeless.	Allocation Amount: \$5 billion CDBG-CV funds will be provided in three allocation rounds. On April 2, HUD allocated \$2 billion to communities based on the same formula used for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 CDBG allocations. The second allocation round distributed \$1 billion to states and insular areas on May 11, 2020. The remaining \$1.998 billion will be allocated on a rolling basis according to criteria established by the Secretary which includes: higher risk of coronavirus transmission, higher risk of eviction and level of economic and housing market disruption. View the FY 2020 CARES Act supplemental funding by grantee .	Eligible Activities: buildings and improvements (including public facilities), assistance to businesses (including special economic development assistance), provision of new or quantifiably increased public services, as well as planning, capacity building, and technical assistance. CDBG-CV activities and additional activities can be found on the HUD Exchange. CDBG-CV Notice: On August 10, HUD published the CDBG-CV Notice which describes the program rules, statutory and regulatory waivers, and alternative requirements applicable to CDBG funds.
Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)	CRF may be used to cover necessary expenses related to addressing the pandemic. They are flexible dollars that can be leveraged to enhance your community's rehousing response or undertake new activities that may not be covered under other funding streams.	Allocation Amount: \$150 billion The Department of Treasury allocated CRF to states and local governments with populations over 500,000. States have awarded resources to smaller units of local government. For more information on awards made by states, check with the state department that received CRF. CRF can be used on expenses incurred after March 1, 2020 but may not be spent on expenses that were already accounted for in the most recent local budget. All	Eligible Activities: capital projects (converting leased hotels/motels into permanent housing or developing new supportive housing), direct payments (compensation to affordable or supportive housing property managers to compensate for loss of rent income, rental assistance or eviction prevention funds, supportive housing operating subsidies, and rental assistance for people in shelters or other temporary housing), and services. More information about CRF can be found here .

		funds must be drawn down by December 30, 2020.	
Coronavirus Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG-CV)	ESG-CV resources provide communities with the opportunity to strategically invest funds to limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing and maintaining housing solutions for people experiencing and at risk of homelessness.	Allocation Amount: \$3.96 billion The first ESG-CV allocation, announced in April 2020, totaled \$1 billion and was distributed to communities based on HUD's FY 2020 formula allocation. On June 9, 2020, HUD announced the second allocation of ESG-CV funds totaling \$2.96 billion. In accordance with the CARES Act, HUD developed a new formula for the second allocation targeted towards communities with high populations of people experiencing homelessness. View all ESG-CV awards and more information about HUD's methodology for the second allocation .	Eligible Activities: street outreach, emergency shelter (including temporary emergency shelter), homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and HMIS. See the overview of ESG eligible costs by activity type . ESG-CV Notice: On September 1, HUD published the ESG-CV Notice which describes the program rules, statutory and regulatory waivers, and alternative requirements applicable to ESG and ESG-CV funds.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	HOME provides grants to states and localities to implement housing strategies designed to increase homeownership and affordable housing opportunities for low- and very-low income households, including providing direct rental assistance.	Allocation Amount: HOME did not receive CARES Act funding, but pairs well with CARES Act funding streams to provide permanent housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness. Annual HOME allocations can be found here .	Eligible Activities: tenant-based rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, assistance to homebuyers, new construction of housing as well as site acquisition, site improvements, demolition, relocation, and other necessary and reasonable activities related to the development of non-luxury housing. Waivers: HUD published two memos in April 2020 containing statutory suspensions and regulatory waivers to make HOME funds more accessible and useful for the COVID-19 response. In addition, HUD published a memo specific to HOME TBRA to facilitate use of this resource. This memo allows participating jurisdictions to use HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.
Coronavirus Housing Opportunities for	HOPWA-CV can be used to maintain operations and for	Allocation Amount: \$65 million	Eligible Activities: operations, short-term rental, mortgage and utility assistance, hotel and

<p>Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV)</p>	<p>rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.</p>	<p>\$53.7 million in HOPWA-CV funds were allocated to formula grantees using the same data elements from the statutory allocation formula used to determine FY 2020 HOPWA formula allocations. \$10 million in additional one-time, non-renewable funding was allocated to HOPWA permanent supportive housing competitive grantees that were initially funded with appropriated funds from FY 2010 or earlier and are currently administering grant awards. The remaining \$1.3 million was awarded to existing HOPWA technical assistance providers to provide an immediate increase in capacity building. More information about HOPWA-CV allocations can be found here.</p>	<p>motel stays, and supportive services (assessment and case management, nutritional services, placement assistance, etc.).</p> <p>HOPWA-CV Notice: On May 8, 2020, HUD published the HOPWA-CV Notice which provides an overview of program rules, statutory and regulatory waivers, and alternative requirements.</p>
<p>Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program</p>	<p>SSVF funds can be used to provide housing-focused services and rental assistance to eligible veterans experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness to help obtain or sustain housing.</p>	<p>Allocation Amount: \$601.5 million</p> <p>In May 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded funding to SSVF grantees in May 2020. An additional \$400 million will be awarded to SSVF grantees in FY 2021.</p>	<p>Eligible Activities: short-term rental assistance through homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing programs for veterans and supportive services. General program information can be found here.</p> <p>Waivers: SSVF has also made policy and regulatory changes to help grantees respond to the pandemic.</p>

Lead with Equity

This crisis presents cities, counties, and states with an opportunity to transform our homeless response systems into systems that ensure all the populations we serve have a safe, stable home from which to thrive. Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ-identified people, and other marginalized groups are overrepresented in homelessness and housing instability. COVID-19 has amplified the historic and current inequities embedded in our systems, processes and practices. As communities plan for the use of existing and newly available funds, HUD expects communities [to lead with equity](#). Present inequities should inform plans being made so that community investment strategies address and do not perpetuate disparities.

Meaningfully Engage a Diverse Range of Stakeholders. To ensure resource allocation decisions are centered in equity, communities must partner with stakeholders that reflect the populations we serve—particularly stakeholders with lived experience. Center the voices of those most impacted by the pandemic by prioritizing feedback from people with lived experience when making program funding decisions.

Resources and Examples

- [Untapped Expertise: Strategies for Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement When Developing Your Coordinated Investment Plan](#)
- [Engaging Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Your COVID-19 Response](#)

Further Equity Goals through Implementation. Communities should conduct a [Racial Equity Impact Assessment](#) to determine where program adjustments are needed. When making program adjustments, consider external risk factors and inequities that contribute to BIPOC and LGBTQ-identified people experiencing homelessness at higher rates and target those risk factors in program design and funding allocations. To ensure program services are delivered by organizations best equipped to meet the needs of marginalized populations, communities should reduce barriers in their procurement process to expand contract awards to culturally responsive organizations who are seen as trusted resources.

Work with the Continuum of Care to revisit coordinated entry (CE) to remove systemic barriers present at each stage of the CE process. Specifically, adjust your prioritization and referral processes to address discriminatory practices that limit movement through the homeless system to permanent housing. Communities should also provide racial equity training to current providers to expand the capacity of leadership and staff to ensure equitable access and improve outcomes for people who traditionally have been underserved by the homeless system.

Resources and Examples

- [Disaster Response Rehousing: Equity Page](#)
- [Increasing Equity in the Homeless Response System through Expanding Procurement](#)
- [King County Equity Impact Review Tool and Community Engagement Worksheet](#)
- [San Antonio Budget Equity Tool](#)