

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

Housing Solutions Committee Meeting Summary

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Conference Call

Agenda:

1. D.C. Government Agency Updates
2. Report-out From Work Groups

Meeting Summary:

1. DC Government Agency Updates

DHS

- DHS programs will continue modified operations in Phase 2; different metrics are used to re-open congregate spaces like shelters
 - Street outreach was reduced due to COVID; returning to full staffing July 1; will be able to devote more time to housing focused work
- Will talk more about re-opening plan (including COVID testing at emergency shelters) during partner call Friday, June 26 at 2pm
- Focusing on Pandemic Emergency Program for Highly Vulnerable Populations (PEPV) sites and other programs in hotels; looking to speed up housing matches
- Awarded \$23 million in ESG funding from HUD; much will go to addressing spending pressures

DHCD

- All programs operating; will continue with agency-wide telework
- Budget hearing last week; \$100 million investment in Housing Production Trust Fund remains
 - Markup will be Wednesday, June 24 at 12pm
- Advocating for more federal resources; several pending national legislations that address additional COVID recovery funds, including fund for rental assistance and new infrastructure bill w/ significant housing component
- \$11.3 million dollars in CARES act; most going to rental assistance, DHCD stepping up two rental assistance programs
- Friday announcement of the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), a \$6.2 million program for low-income renters that can provide up to three months of rent arrears since April 2020

- Program income limits go up to 80% MFI
- DHCD will direct approximately \$2 million to Housing Counseling Services, Greater Washington Urban League and United Planning Organization
- Will be complementary to the DHS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
- Worked with John Wall Family Foundation to set up housing assistance for Ward 8 residents; raised \$600K and being administered by Lydia's House and Housing Counseling Services
- Continued small business assistance in Wards 7 and 8
- Set aside \$2 million for non-profits capacity support program; grants program for non-profits engaged in housing or community development, looking to help those impacted by COVID with increased expenses
- PSH pipeline report is being updated and will be circulated to the Committee

DCHA

- DC Phase 2 does not introduce many modifications for DCHA operations
 - Still teleworking, handling emergency work orders and continuing initial and emergency inspections
- Will be launching customer service center at headquarters
- Continuing with re-certifications; changes in income must be reported to Housing Authority

2. Discussion of the Updated Housing Solutions Committee 2020 Work Plan, including Work Groups and Special Project Teams

- Focus on Projects deemed priorities for the year
- Draft Dated June 19, 2020 is the final version and will guide the work of the Committee Work Groups and Special Project Teams for the remainder of 2020 and into the first half of 2021

Next Meeting – Tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 20 at 2 PM. Calendar invite to follow.