

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

Housing Solutions Committee
Meeting Summary

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Conference Call

Meeting Participants:

Polly Donaldson, DHCD, Co-Chair	Melissa Millar, Community of Hope
Chapman Todd, Jaydot, Co-Chair	Nechama Masliansky, SOME
Kristy Greenwalt, ICH	Sabiha Zainulbhai, CNHED
Lindsay Curtin, ICH	Shellon Fraser, CSH
Kimberly Waller, ICH	Sarra Mohamed, William C Smith Co.
Sarah Malala, Jaydot	Tracy Cecil, Dantes Partners
Adam Maier, Pathways to Housing	Hammere Gebreyes, DCHA
Dexter Price, TCP	Ishan Heru, Community Connections
Sara Cartmill, Community of Hope	Kate Coventry, DCFPI
Reginald Black, People for Fairness	Lara Pukatch, Miriam’s Kitchen
Aoife Maher	Amanda Chesney, Catholic Charities
Colleen Connor, Housing Up	Bruce Finland, MED Developers
Danillo Pelletiere, DHCD	David Fitzgerald Gardner
Emily Near, Legal Aid	Ana VanBalen, DHCD
Erin Wilson, DHCD	Aaron Ford, ICH
Ana Fogel, DHS	Andrea Wise, DHCD
Tynisha Owens, DHS	Holly Denniston-Chase, LIIF

Agenda:

1. D.C. Government Agency and Budget Updates
2. Updates on Committee Task Groups

Meeting Summary:

1. DC Government Agency Updates

DHCD

- DC eviction moratorium extended– earliest possible eviction March 1, 2021
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA): intended to assist w/ payment (both arrears and payments forward) for rent of low-income renters impacted by COVID-19 as of May 11, 2020
 - Administered by two of DHCD’s partner CBOs: Housing Counseling Services and Latino Economic Development Center
 - Targets households at 60% MFI or below

- Targets housing developments of 50 units or less
- Since May, reviewed 251 applications for buildings, several applications per building; awarded 100 buildings and 195 applications
- 195 awardees, most in Ward 4 and at 30% MFI or below
- Average monthly award \$750; awarded funds: \$851,987.00; \$240,002 in pending payments and \$1,091,989 committed in total
- Lead inspection part of application; working on troubleshooting with those deemed ineligible because of failed lead inspection
- COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP): assists w/ payment of rent arrears for low-income renters impacted by COVID-19 as of June 16, 2020
 - Administered by three of DHCD partner CBOs: Greater Washington Urban League, Housing Counseling Services, United Planning Organization
 - 964 total portal applications; most applicants coming from Ward 8 and most are at 30% MFI or below
 - Average CHAP award \$3,175.01; 129 awardees, total awarded funds: \$409,576
 - HUD, VASH, and other federal voucher holders are ineligible; all who are receiving federal income-based rental assistance are encouraged to contact their management office / DCHA / VA Case worker (for VASH) if they have a change in income so that their portion of the rent is adjusted as needed

DHS

- In FY20, Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) approved 1,565 applications and expended all available funding; did not see an increase in applications despite pandemic
- In FY21, ERAP budget increased to \$14M
- ERAP Emergency Legislation: amends eligibility criteria, including adjusting income limits from 125% FPL to 40% AMI; increases maximum allowable payment; grants DHS authority to waive restriction on number of months funds may cover rent arrearages during public health emergency; all households (individuals and families) are eligible to apply; DHS working on rulemaking to clarify implementation details

DCHA

- Those receiving rental assistance (via voucher or public housing) can do interim income certification to adjust rental portion to offset loss of income due to pandemic
- Property management operations continuing, as well as routine cleaning and completion of emergency work orders at DCHA properties; staff monitoring routine requests and addressing them where possible
- Customer Solutions Center created at DCHA Headquarters (1133 N Capitol St NE) where public will be able to receive services onsite; blend of self-service kiosk w/ staff interactions for customers who need assistance
- DCHA is also seeking opportunities to support access to educational needs for students living in public housing, including Wi-Fi and virtual learning hubs

2. Updates on Committee Task Groups

- Developer Special Project Team: more detailed update for feedback next month; group will expand from there
- United Way: Project Community Connect, October 19 – 23 (flier included in attachments)

Next meeting: Monday, November 16 at 2 PM