



***Interagency Council on Homelessness
Emergency Response & Shelter
Operations Committee***



July 22, 2020

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome and Call to Order
- II. Discussion Items
 - I. Winter Plan
 - II. Stimulus Checks
 - III. Operations Check-In
- III. Partner Updates/Announcements
- IV. Adjournment

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Winter Plan Outstanding Issues



- ❖ Shelter Capacity Needs/Facilities
- ❖ Transportation

Shelter Capacity



Shelter Capacity Work Group Recommendations

- ❖ 1,297 beds for men
 - Represents an 18% increase over last year's average utilization and 7% increase over last year's highest utilization.

- ❖ 577 beds for women
 - Represents 29% increase over last year's average utilization and 20% increase over last year's highest utilization.

Shelter Capacity, Cont.



- ❖ Mayor has extended the public health emergency through October 9.
- ❖ Moratorium on evictions runs for 60 days following the end of the public health emergency.
- ❖ We have not seen a major change in our shelter census (yet) but will continue to track to key housing market indicators through the DC Economic Recovery Team (DERT).
- ❖ We have communicated to OCA that our existing facility needs/request do not contemplate COVID-related inflow and we will likely need additional support – though the amount and timing is unclear at this point.

PEP-V: Eligibility Criteria



Aligned with CDC list of conditions for higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- ❖ People 55 years and older
- ❖ People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart condition
 - People who are immunocompromised, including persons undergoing or recovering from cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - People with diabetes
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - People with liver disease
 - People with Sickle Cell Disease
 - People with cerebrovascular disease
 - People with neurologic disease (e.g. dementia)

Transportation



- ❖ Regular transportation routes have been suspended due to COVID.
- ❖ We are recommending that we continue in this posture throughout the winter.
- ❖ DHS and ICH looking for additional transportation resources to support clients working with case managers on housing, employment, or other essential activities.
 - What type of resources would be most helpful?

Winter Plan Next Steps



- ❖ Any other Winter Plan questions, concerns, suggestions?

Next Steps

- ❖ Incorporate information from today's meeting into plan narrative
- ❖ Update facility charts as information is finalized
- ❖ Circulate updated draft for Committee to review in late August
 - Please review prior to meeting; we will be seeking Committee approval in August.

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Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Check)



- ❖ Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), also called a COVID-19 stimulus check or stimulus payment, are one-time direct payments from the federal government authorized in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act.
 - Provides up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.
 - Distributed automatically to eligible tax-filers; non-filers are also eligible but must apply.

Stimulus Check Filing Support



- ❖ Phase I: Development/distribution of information and TA support to providers where clients have fixed mailing address and dedicated case management support
- ❖ Phase II: Development of process to support clients at low-barrier shelters

Stimulus Payment Volunteer Days



- ❖ ICH, in partnership with DHS & TCP, will schedule and coordinate volunteer days at low-barrier shelters in the District to support clients who need additional support in accessing stimulus payments.
- ❖ Hosted in partnership with the Catholic Charities Financial Stability Network, an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provider in the District.
 - Under the VITA program, Catholic Charities trains and manages a network of volunteers who assist individuals to file their taxes or complete other IRS processes – such as applying for stimulus checks.

Stimulus Payment Volunteer Days



- ❖ Two types of volunteers will be used:
 - Greeter/verifier (in-person)
 - Tax expert (off-site/following client information collection)

Stimulus Payment Volunteer Days



Prior to the Event

- ❖ Informational flyer distributed so clients can plan to be on site and have needed information ready.

Day of the Event

- ❖ Shelter staff will be asked to help manage flow of clients to outdoor volunteer stations.
- ❖ Shelter residents will be supported by in-person volunteers who will gather and verify the client's information to send to tax experts; tax experts will file the necessary IRS forms on behalf of the clients.
- ❖ ICH/DHS/TCP will provide tent, tables, chairs, Plexiglass,

Information Needed to File



- ❖ To file, client must have two things:
 - Photo Identification showing full name and date of birth
 - Social Security Card or other formal document showing SSN

- ❖ Client may have funds direct deposited (if they have a bank account).
 - Client must have bank routing number and bank account type and number available if they wish to use direct deposit.

- ❖ If client is not banked, he/she should pre-determine a mailing address they would like to use.
 - We recommend clients use mailing address of a trusted friend/family if available to them.
 - Alternately, clients will be able to use their shelter address.

What Can Shelter Staff Do to Prepare?



- ❖ Ensure you are working with clients on obtaining an ID and SSN (if they don't already have one).
 - For modified/virtual processes under COVID, please see:
https://dhs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dhs/page_content/attachments/DMV%20COVID-19%20Protocol%20for%20Persons%20Experiencing%20Homelessness%20Updated%2005.1....pdf
- ❖ Revisit your mail collection/storage/distribution protocols.
- ❖ Think through how you will help manage the flow of clients on the day of the event at your shelter.

Volunteering as a Greeter/Verifier



- ❖ If you are interested in volunteering, you can e-mail ICH Staff at ich.dmhhs@dc.gov
- ❖ All volunteers will be required to complete an online IRS Vita certification training - <https://www.linklearncertification.com/d/>
- ❖ We will circulate the schedule of events (date/time/location) for volunteers to sign up

Next Steps



- ❖ Schedule and plan test run at a single location
 - Hope to hold in August; weather may be a factor
- ❖ Debrief with partners what worked and did not work
- ❖ Schedule/plan/host remaining events
 - Hope to conduct majority of events in September or first week of October.

Discussion



- ❖ Are there other third-party sites clients can have mail sent?
 - Where can unsheltered clients have mail sent?
- ❖ What is the best time of day to host the events to reach the maximum number of clients?
- ❖ Do people have suggestions to manage the flow of clients on the day of the event? (advance sign-up sheet? Day-of sign up sheet? Organize by dorms?)
- ❖ What other questions or recommendations do people have?

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Next Meeting: August 26

