



Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Committee



February 9, 2021

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Call to Order
- II. Items for Approval
 - ❖ Update to ICH Bylaws
- III. Discussion Items
 - ❖ Eviction Prevention/Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)
 - ❖ COVID Vaccinations
 - ❖ Shelter Capital Improvements Update
 - ❖ Regional Coordination Update (if time allows)
- IV. Updates/Announcements
 - ❖ Launch of *Public Awareness/Education and Racial Equity & Inclusion* Work Groups
- v. Adjournment

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Bylaws Update



- ❖ Reflects governance decisions made by Executive Committee over the last two months:
 - Standing Committee Chairs can be any stakeholder with relevant expertise, not just a current full Council appointee.
 - All Work Group Chairs will have voting seat on Executive Committee.
 - Clarified how Work Group Co-Chairs are selected.
 - Clarified difference between Work Group and Special Project Team.
- ❖ Purpose today is not to redeliberate decisions but rather ensure decisions are accurately reflected in bylaws.

Bylaws Update, Cont.



- ❖ Per our usual process, we will use a WebEx poll to determine if we have consensus among all participants; if not, we will move to a virtual rollcall vote immediately following the meeting.
- ❖ Question before the committee:
 - Do you approve of the updated bylaws?
 - ✓ Yes, I approve.
 - ✓ No, I do not approve.

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Eviction Prevention Brief

**Department of Human Services- ICH
Executive Committee
February 9, 2021**

Eviction Prevention

The District has been allocated \$200 million of the \$25 billion emergency rental assistance federal administered by Treasury.

Use of Funds

- At least 90% must be used to provide rent and utility or other housing assistance (as defined by the Secretary).
- Up to 10% of funds can be used for administration and case management and “other services” to help keep households stably housed.
- Assistance can be provided for twelve (12) months, though an additional three (3) months can be provided to ensure housing stability.
- Payments are expected to go to landlords or utility companies on behalf of renters but can go to renters if landlords are unresponsive within 21 days.
- Landlords explicitly allowed to assist tenants in applying but tenants must sign the form and receive notice of the application.

Eligibility

- Eligible if one or more individuals: (1) has qualified for unemployment benefits or (2) can attest in writing that he or she has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic;
- Must demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, (rent and utility arrears are themselves sufficient)

Rental Assistance

- **Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program**
 - We estimate households will need on average \$5,000 each to address rental arrears.
 - Under the leadership of DMPED with close collaboration with our partners at DHCD we are assessing different options to build the infrastructure to administer it and have a single point of entry where residents can apply for Rental Assistance and other eligible utilities.

Timeline

- DHS anticipates having the necessary structures in place to begin accepting rental assistance applications by mid-end of March 2021.
- DC will need to obligate 65 percent of the amount originally allocated, by September 30, 2021.
- DHS anticipates having a more detailed plan to share during the next Partners call scheduled for 02/19/2021.

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)

Who's Eligible for CHAP?

Household Size	80% MFI per Month
1	\$4,645.83
2	\$5,308.33
3	\$5,970.83
4	\$6,633.33
5	\$7,166.67
6	\$7,695.83
7	\$8,229.17
8	\$8,758.33

- The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) provides rental assistance to low-income renters who are in arrears due to the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **Update:** Starting immediately, housing providers may apply to CHAP on behalf of eligible tenants
- Renters and housing providers can apply online via the Department of Housing and Urban Development portal, or via three community CHAP providers:

Organization	Phone	Email
Greater Washington Urban League	202-524-8175	covidrent@gwul.org
Housing Counseling Services	202-667-7713	chap@housingetc.org
United Planning Organization	(202) 231-7910 or (202) 231-7922	housingservices@upo.org

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Regional Coordination Update



- ❖ Councilmember Brianne Nadeau chairing Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWWCOG) Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC).
 - Agreed to chair with express intent of making regional coordination around homelessness a focus of her term.
- ❖ HSPC requested Homeless Services Planning and Coordination Committee to help inform a set of tangible activities/projects the jurisdictions could work on together.
- ❖ These formed the basis of Resolution R12-2021, adopted by the HSPC on January 13.

Key Elements of Resolution R12-2021



- ❖ Expand Data Sharing Agreement beyond District, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County to include other jurisdictions in the region.
- ❖ Develop Regional Dashboard to enable consistent reporting of key metrics to demonstrate the true regional need for housing resources.
- ❖ Regional By-Name Tracking & Case Coordination: develop regional protocol to better serve individuals accessing service in multiple jurisdictions.
- ❖ Residency Requirements: Align residency requirements across jurisdictions in the region.
- ❖ Racial Equity: With the assistance of outside consultants, prepare a region-wide homeless systems audit to ensure that efforts to prevent and end homelessness are grounded in racial equity.

Regional Racial Equity Systems Audit



- ❖ Funded via cost sharing arrangement among CoCs in the region, plus additional funding from Greater Washington Community Foundation.
- ❖ MWCOG issued RFP last fall; six organizations applied.
- ❖ Technical review panel reviewed/scored proposals in December.
 - Thank you to Reginal Black and Michael Ferrell, who represented the District on the panel.
- ❖ Consultant has been selected; we anticipate a spring launch.

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Racial Equity & Inclusion WG



Purpose

- ❖ Advance ICH Vision, as stated in *HDC 2.0*, to eliminate racial inequities in the homeless services system and create systemic fair treatment for all people
- ❖ Responsible for establishing a racial equity framework to guide our work; WG will develop and implement strategies to identify and address racial disparities across our organizations, programs, and system as a whole.

Goals

- ❖ **Identify and support the elimination** of racial inequities within the District's homeless service system to ensure individuals and families experiencing homelessness receive equitable services and programming.
- ❖ **Strengthen** outreach to, engagement with, and access to services for communities of color.
- ❖ **Collaborate** with agencies and institutions to eliminate racial inequity in all areas, including housing, workforce, education, criminal justice, and health.
- ❖ **Serve** as the District's liaison for regional racial equity system analysis being conducted via MWCOG Homeless Services Committee.

Racial Equity & Inclusion WG (cont.)



Composition

- ❖ Diverse group of representatives from government agencies, providers, consumer groups, and other partners in the District's homeless services system.
- ❖ Would like at least one representative of every ICH committee or work group to be designated to participate to ensure cross-fertilization of ideas and information

Key Deliverables (Examples)

- ❖ *Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool* (Homeward DC 2.0 Strategy 7.3.2)
- ❖ *Data Collection & Analysis Recommendations* (Homeward DC 2.0 Strategy 11.2.1)

Next Steps

- ❖ Identify a gov't and community partner to co-chair the Work Group.
- ❖ REI Kick-Off Meeting tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, March 4th at 10 am**
 - If you or someone on your team would like to attend, please email aaron.ford@dc.gov

Public Awareness WG



Purpose

- ❖ The Public Awareness Work Group will serve as a forum for the ICH and its partners to develop and implement strategies to:
 - Raise public awareness and shift the narrative about homelessness in the District
 - Help amplify messaging about available programs and services for individuals and families experiencing or at-risk for homelessness

Goals

- ❖ Establish Communication Plan, including key themes and topics, partners who can help amplify messages, and strategies for increasing our reach
- ❖ Aid other ICH committees and work groups to support their messaging needs
- ❖ Identify and engage stakeholders who are not associated with the ICH but have missions aligned with the ICH
- ❖ Develop metrics to measure impact of the group's efforts to determine if and how the group will move forward in the future

Composition

- ❖ Communications, social media, and public relations professionals from the ICHs partner agencies, and/or others with an interest in this topic

Public Awareness WG (cont.)



Key Deliverables

- ❖ **Communication Plan**, to include:
 - **Social Media Engagement Strategy** to increase social media presence and impact among ICH member agencies and partners to gain engaged followers and market positive storylines via social media
 - **Stakeholder Engagement Analysis** to identify the major players in the District to bring them on as “partners” that can help amplify messaging
 - **Messaging Protocol** for initiating and distributing planned and on-demand messaging
 - **Identification of Key Topics and Themes** to highlight for 2021

Next Steps

- ❖ Identification of co-chairs
 - Jennifer Olney from The Community Foundation will serve as the community co-chair
 - Gov’t partner co-chair position is vacant, if you are interested please reach out to Aaron or Kristy
- ❖ Kick-Off Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th at 3pm
 - If you or someone on your team would like to attend, please email aaron.ford@dc.gov

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