COVID-19

Idaho Balance of State Continuum of Care
Friday, March 27, 2020
Webinar Information

- All participants lines are muted
- Use the chat box to submit questions
- This webinar will be posted on IHFA’s website
- This webinar is being recorded and slides will be made available
Agenda

• COVID-19 and Homelessness
• CDC and HUD guidance
• What Idaho BoS CoC is doing
• Resources
• FAQ’s
COVID-19

COVID-19 is the disease caused by the new coronavirus. Symptoms include cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Persons experiencing homelessness may be at higher risk for infection during an outbreak of COVID-19.
COVID-19

An outbreak of COVID-19 in your community could cause illness among people experiencing homelessness, contribute to an increase in emergency shelter usage, and/or lead to illness and absenteeism among homeless service provider staff.
Agenda

• COVID and Homelessness
• CDC and HUD Guidance
• What Idaho BoSCoC is doing
• Resources
• FAQ’s
Establish ongoing communication with your local public health department to facilitate access to relevant information before and during an outbreak.

https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/Default.aspx
Idaho Public Health Districts

For information about services in your community, when on this website, click on your district on the map to go to that public health district's website.
HUD and CDC Guidance

MAKE A PLAN:

Determine what to do if cases of COVID-19 are suspected or confirmed in your facility,

Identify if alternate care sites are available for clients with confirmed COVID-19 or have a plan to isolate/quarantine cases within facility.
HUD and CDC Guidance

Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting

HUD and CDC Guidance

Require disposable gloves when handling resident possessions. Make sure staff is properly trained.

https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/training/index.html
HUD and CDC Guidance

Communicate and implement prevention strategies

HUD and CDC Guidance

Congregate Facilities

- Beds in sleeping areas should be at least 6 feet part
- Residents sleep head-to-toe or toe-to-toe
- Identify possible area(s) for isolation or quarantine
- Partner with local public health to identify other options, as needed, such as hotels
HUD and CDC Guidance

Manage Staffing and Service Provision

- Cancel public meetings/services in your buildings
- Develop plans for staff shortages
- Train staff on prevention strategies and all new operations protocol (ESG and CoC eligible expense)
- Require hourly handwashing

https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/training/index.html
 Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

[Table with categories such as Supplies, Furnishings, Equipment, Transportation, Street Outreach, and Expanded Staffing. Each category lists eligible costs like cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, transportation tokens, etc.]
# HUD and CDC Guidance

Using Continuum of Care Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

![Image of a table with grant types and activity descriptions](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Using-CoC-Program-Funds-for-Infectious-Disease-Preparedness-and-Response.pdf)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Grant</td>
<td>Establishing partnerships with public health departments and local public works to ensure their services support safe and sanitary environments where homeless people present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinated Entry System Grant(s)</td>
<td>Reviewing and modifying workflow, intake, assessment and service approaches that may impact participant program access to services and housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS Grant(s)</td>
<td>Customizing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) workflows and assessments to track exposure, diagnosis, and clearance in shelters and housing programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Grant Types: Supportive Services</td>
<td>Helping households in supportive housing acquire essential supplies (food, water, medications, transportation, information) during crises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Grant Types (except PH/RH): Operations</td>
<td>Essential furnishings, maintenance, and equipment that support operating housing during crises.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[See the full document here](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Using-CoC-Program-Funds-for-Infectious-Disease-Preparedness-and-Response.pdf)
HUD and CDC Guidance

Manage Entries into Congregate Facilities

• Screen prospective residents for symptoms and possible interaction with people with the infection

• Use HMIS to record COVID-19 status
  ✓ Assessment will be added to HMIS
Manage Entries into Congregate Facilities (cont.)

• If a possible COVID-19 case is identified, follow the plan you already established with local public health
  ✓ Report it as appropriate
  ✓ Refer to hospital, if that is the local plan
  ✓ Connect person to isolation/quarantine space
  ✓ Do NOT deny assistance to someone you suspect may have COVID-19
HUD and CDC Guidance

Additional Considerations for Congregate Facilities

• Develop responses to keep vulnerable residents safe, if COVID-19 cases are occurring locally
  ✓ E.g., Move elderly residents, those with underlying medical conditions to hotels temporarily
  ✓ Temporarily prioritize RRH assistance for vulnerable shelter residents regardless of past homeless history
HUD and CDC Guidance

Additional Considerations for Congregate Facilities

- Consider staggering meal times to allow for more social distancing between residents
- Restrict visitors at the facility. Only residents and staff permitted, except for medical or public health personnel
- Consider relocating healthy persons to another facility
HUD and CDC Guidance

Additional Considerations for Scattered-Site Projects

• Conduct case management meetings via phone, not in-person
• Check in with elderly and medically vulnerable clients – past and present – to ensure they have sufficient supplies of food and hygiene products
Agenda

- COVID-19 and Homelessness
- CDC and HUD Guidance
- What Idaho BoSCoC is doing
- Resources
- FAQ’s
What Idaho BoS CoC is Doing

• Posting COVID-19 resources for service providers
• Provide technical support COVID-19 questions
• Provide COVID-19 HMIS support for all users
• Advocate on behalf of providers
• Reallocate funds to meet needs
• Monitor and implement new funding sources as they become available
Agenda

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COVID-19 Prevention and Response for Homeless Providers: Daily Resource Digest

March 27, 2020

The recent emergence of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) calls for enhanced cooperation between public health authorities, homeless service providers, and other partners at the local level. To support these partnerships and the vulnerable households served, relevant federal agencies are issuing guidance and subject matter experts on lessons learned from previous response efforts to infectious diseases.

Below is a comprehensive list of new and existing resources from HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) and their federal, state, and local partners. SNAPS will share daily updates highlighting new COVID-19 prevention and response resources targeted to homeless providers.

HUD SNAPS Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author and Website</th>
<th>Description and Key Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAPS COVID-19 Infectious Disease Prevention &amp; Response</td>
<td>Check the HUD Exchange page for frequent updates and resources from HUD. In Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Resources:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HUD SNAPS

Infectious Disease Preparedness Guidance for Homeless Assistance Providers
Resources to support people experiencing homelessness

Plan, prepare, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019

- Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters
- Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations
- People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
USICH

Guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
**Best Practices – Non-congregate approaches to sheltering for COVID-19 Homeless Response**

**NON-CONGREGATE APPROACHES TO SHELTERING FOR COVID-19 HOMELESS RESPONSE**

Continuum of Care considering non-congregate approaches to sheltering people who are homeless that are symptomatic or in high risk categories, such as seniors or people with chronic illness, should consider the following guidance when designing local approaches. Coordination with public health partners is essential in design, resource investment and staffing considerations.

<table>
<thead>
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<td>• Individuals who are symptomatic after screening at shelter has been implemented</td>
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<td>• Individuals who are confirmed to be COVID-19 positive who do not need to be hospitalized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Individuals who are pending testing or are close contacts of confirmed cases</td>
<td>• Individuals who are confirmed to be COVID-19 positive who do not need to be hospitalized as long as all individuals in the space are COVID-19 positive</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Individuals who are high risk with or without symptoms</td>
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**Target Population**

- Individual bedroom (walls on all sides and a door)
- Individual bathroom
- Personal cleaning supplies for an ill person’s room and bathroom
- Onsite healthcare
- Transportation plan for closest

**Set-up**

- Individual bedroom (walls on all sides and a door)
- If no existing walls, makeshift walls that are floor to ceiling should be created to create 6ft separation
- Limited shared bathroom with cleaning regimen
- Bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected after each use by an ill person
- Dedicate an entrance(s) or passageway(s) for infectious individuals when feasible.

**Filing**

- Identifying dedicated staff to care for COVID-19 patients.
- Identifying dedicated staff to care for COVID-19 patients.
A note to our customers about the coronavirus outbreak

Updated March 26, 2020

As you know, the spread of the coronavirus has touched just about every aspect of our daily lives—from our families and schools to our places of work and worship.

We understand the uncertainty during this unprecedented time and want to let you know about some of the proactive measures Idaho Housing and Finance Association and HomeLoanServ have in place to continue to support and serve our customers, clients and partners.

Please stay safe and healthy during this unprecedented time.

- HomeLoanServ borrowers
- Housing Choice Voucher clients and applicants
- Resources for homeless services providers

Best practices
- Centers for Disease Control interim guidance for homelessness service providers
- National Healthcare for the Homeless Council advice for providers
- HUD Exchange resources for homelessness providers
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Guidance for Service Providers
- HUD’s daily resource digest

Program-specific guidance
- Using Continuum of Care program funds for infectious disease preparedness and response
- Flexible ESF Program costs for infectious disease preparedness
- HUD’s disaster policy to fund infectious diseases preparedness and response with ESF
Agenda

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FAQ’s
FAQ’s

HQS Inspections- can these be postponed due to concerns over doing physical/in-person inspections right now?

HUD has stated on multiple webinars that keeping staff and clients safe as well as complying with local public health department and CDC guidance is the top priority. They have also stated that they are working on waivers and additional guidance around inspections; those inspections can currently be postponed in order to preserve the health and safety of your staff and clients. Please well-document in client files any inspections that are being postponed and that the postponement is due to the coronavirus outbreak.
FAQ’s

Is paid time off and sick leave for staff covered under my grant?

Paid time off and sick leave for staff is covered under your COC, ESG, grants. You can continue to pay these staff benefits if you have employees out sick and be reimbursed for it under your grant.
Will we see delays in getting reimbursed for draws?

Though much of the IHFA staff is working from home, you shouldn’t see any significant delays in getting reimbursed for your draws. HUD does not currently foresee any delay’s in CoC and ESG funding streams.
Communicate Your Needs

What additional resources and supports are needed to develop and implement your COVID-19 responses?

- Do you need funding to pay for more staff to outreach to people who are unsheltered at risk?
- Do you need access to resources to help you move highly vulnerable people out of your congregate shelter and into independent housing?
- Do you need funding to help you update and improve sanitary conditions of your facilities?
Contact

• Communicate with your CoC Lead/IHFA
  • homelessprograms@ihfa.org
  • snap@ihfa.org
  • hmis@ihfa.org
Resource Links

https://www.idahohousing.com/covid-19/


https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/infectious-disease-preparedness-for-homeless-assistance-providers-and-their-partners/
Resource Links


https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/Default.aspx