

NYC CoC Newsletter

August 3, 2020

Issue No. 18

NYC Continuum
CoC of Care



COVID-19 Updated Guidance, Rental Resources, City Updates, and Stakeholders' Action

CoC Updates

Save the date!

FY 2019 CoC Award Summary Reports Now Available:

The CoC Award Summary Reports by Program Type are now available on the HUD Exchange for the FY 2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program awards. [Please click here to view the NYC CoC Award Summary Report.](#)

For each state and CoC, the reports identify the number of projects and the total award amount by program type: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), Joint TH – RRH, Supportive Services Only (SSO), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), CoC Planning, and Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Costs. The data further identifies whether the projects are new, expansion, renewal, or Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) renewal projects. The CoC reports also contain project-level award information.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not released information on the 2020 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The NYC CoC will inform the community once more information becomes available.

COVID-19 Updated Guidance:

Our national and local stakeholders have published updated COVID-19 related guidance on isolation,

Upcoming Virtual NYC CoC Open Public Meeting

Thursday, September 10
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Please note: this Open Public Meeting will be held **virtually**. There will be **no** in-person attendance. Meeting details will be announced soon.

New Website Postings:

[June Steering Committee Meeting Summary](#)

CAPS Webinar: *HRA Redesign of Application System for Coordinated Entry*, Presented on June 30, 2020:

To view the recorded webinar presentation, [please visit the Webex here.](#)

homeless shelters and encampments, non-congregate shelters, re-opening, and more — see links below.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- [When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)
- [Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19](#)
- [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Daily Life Coping: Errands and Going Out](#)
- [Interim Considerations for Health Departments for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Homeless Shelters and Encampments](#)

The Supportive Housing Network of New York (the Network):

- [Re-Opening Support: COVID-19 Safety Plan Recommendations](#)
- [Visit the Network's website](#) for more information on isolation hotel rooms, loans, grants, and more.

NYC Health + Hospitals:

- [Test and Trace Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Locations of testing sites can be [found here](#) or by texting “COVID TEST” to **855-48**. Learn more about how New York City is here to help with testing and tracing at www.testandtrace.nyc.

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- [Supporting Individuals Exiting Isolation or Quarantine](#)
- Non-Congregate Sheltering: [Approaches for COVID-19 Homeless Response and Recommendations for Requests for Assistance](#)

Rental Information & Resources:

New York State Rent Relief Program Deadline Extended:

The COVID Rent Relief Program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household’s landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. The Covid Rent Relief Program is not first come, first served. Applications will be accepted throughout the two-week application period. The New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) agency will prioritize eligible households with “greatest economic and social need” accounting for income, rent burden, percent of income lost and risk of homelessness.

The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household’s rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden for the months the households is applying for assistance. Households can apply for up to four months in rental assistance.

To view the PowerPoint slides, [please click here](#).

Job Openings related to the NYC CoC

Jericho Project

New positions posted - [view current job listings by clicking here](#).

Covenant House New York

Multiple positions offered- [view current job listings by clicking here](#).

Services for the Underserved

Multiple positions offered [view current job listing by clicking here](#).

Please send job postings your organization has to nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov if you would like to appear on the CoC monthly newsletter.



Share



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Please click the icons below to learn more:



[Please visit HCR's website](#) for more information on the Rental Relief Program and to apply.

Enterprise Data Warehouse Report for Housing Advocates:

The Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) created a streamlined process for obtaining client and case information to assist in Housing Court cases. EDW will produce a consolidated report providing all relevant client and case information to assist advocates in Housing Court cases. This report replaces the numerous screens and print-outs from the Welfare Management System (WMS) that the HRA Landlord Ombudsman Service Unit (LOSU) was collecting and providing upon request. Housing Advocates can submit requests to LOSU using the newly created Housing Court Report Request Form (HPA-106) [available here](#).

Eviction Moratorium, Legal Assistance, and Rent Arrears:

The following is in accordance with the June 18, 2020 Order of Chief Administrative Judge Marks, as modified recently:

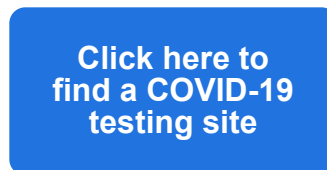
All pending evictions orders are suspended until further notice, as ordered by Chief Administrative Judge Marks on March 16, 2020 and June 18, 2020, and no tenant may be evicted at this time and until there is a change to the order of the court.

NYC Housing Court began accepting new eviction filings effective June 20, 2020. Landlords will only be permitted to file new eviction cases by mail or electronic filing.

All new eviction petitions are required to include a notice to tenants that they do not have to visit the courthouse to respond to their eviction case. The notice includes information about how a tenant can respond to the petition by phone, and it will include information about access to free legal help, including the legal services phone number operated by the nonprofit Housing Court Answers - 718.557.1379 - in partnership with HRA's Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) and the Office of Court Administration. Housing Court Answers provides callers with basic legal information and connection with HRA's free legal services. Given the impacts on health and stability faced by many New Yorkers since the start of the pandemic, the court will not be defaulting tenants who fail to respond to an eviction petition.

Until further notice, all eviction proceedings, including new cases filed since June 20, are stayed for the time being, except for certain cases in which both the tenant and the landlord are represented by counsel:

- The court is scheduling settlement conferences in previously pending eviction cases in which both sides are represented by counsel.
- The court plans to start scheduling trials in some number of cases that were ready for trial before the



The deadline to be counted in the 2020 Census is coming up soon!



Providers, please encourage and assist tenants in completing the Census online or on paper forms. Click the icon above to start the Census questionnaire.

March closure in which both sides are represented by counsel.

The Department of Investigations has issued a notice to all NYC marshals concerning continuation of the eviction moratorium and stating that notices of eviction dated prior to March 16, 2020 are now stale, which is located [here](#).

If the court's administrative order changes in the future to permit evictions to proceed, HRA's OCJ will work with City-funded legal services providers and the court to assign attorneys through the NYC right-to-counsel law to any unrepresented tenant who appears in court in response to a warrant of eviction. OCJ will be prioritizing the assignment of these cases since they are at risk of eviction.

HRA is ready to receive applications for emergency rental assistance for those in need and in most cases the entire process can be done without a visit to a local HRA office. To learn more about HRA assistance and information, [please visit the HRA website](#).

Rent, Economic, and Eviction Trackers:

- [Explore the Eviction Lab's website](#) to view its Eviction Tracker, Map, and Reports.
- [Visit the National Multifamily Housing Council's website](#) to view their Rent Payment Tracker.
- [Explore the Opportunity Insights' website](#) to view its Economic Tracker along with public health, employment, education, and business data and information.
- [The U.S. Census Bureau began collecting data for its Household Pulse Survey](#) on April 23, which measures how people's lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Resources & Updates:

Funds Available to Help Veterans Behind on Rent:

[Please share the attached flyer](#) for **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Eviction Prevention** resources in NYC for any of your tenants or participants who are veterans. Under the Stafford and CARES Acts, the four SSVF grantees in NYC have enhanced funding and capacity to serve veterans who are at risk of eviction. Low-income veterans who find themselves in rental arrears do not have to wait for housing court cases or eviction proceedings to qualify for SSVF funds.

The SSVF providers would be happy to screen any veteran with rental arrears for assistance, and also will navigate those households who do not qualify for SSVF to an appropriate service if needed.

Please share widely within your agencies, property management teams, colleagues, and tenants; we want to

make sure we reach as many veterans in need of this assistance as possible.

SNAP and Cash Assistance Recertification Waiver:

We have been granted a six-month extension of the recertification period for NYC clients whose SNAP cases will expire on July 31, 2020, on the condition that we will resume re-certifications for clients with SNAP cases expiring on August 31, 2020. The same will apply to CA cases expiring in August.

As of July 1, clients have been receiving State recertification notices for SNAP cases expiring on August 31, 2020 (the recertification period for cases expiring on August 31 begins on July 1). All recertifications should be submitted through [ACCESS HRA](#). There is no need for any SNAP client to come into an office to recertify. In accordance with our SNAP interview waiver from the USDA only some SNAP cases will require an interview. Those clients who do require an interview will receive a telephone call from HRA staff. As a reminder, based on the USDA waiver, we can issue SNAP benefits without an interview, provided that both of the following conditions have been met:

- The applicant's identity has been verified; and,
- All other mandatory information and verification has been provided and is valid:
 - Identity
 - Social Security number (as already required by federal law)
 - Residency
 - Gross non-exempt income (earned and unearned)
 - Disability
 - "Alien eligibility" (as already required by federal law)

No in-person interviews or other in-person appointments are required at this time. Clients do not need to call or come in to a Center. As a reminder, clients with a SNAP or CA case expiring in March – July have already been granted a six-month extension on re-certification.

Homeless Outreach and Security:

The NYPD will no longer be involved in homeless outreach and the management of security services in DHS shelters. These changes have been effectuated in the FY2021 budget which includes \$4.5M in funds that have been shifted from the NYPD to DHS to support services for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. A portion of this reallocated funding will cover nurse staffing for the DHS outreach program and staffing for DHS's takeover of shelter security management. The staff of the NYPD Homeless Outreach Unit has been reassigned to other patrols and the NYPD will no longer participate in DHS's Street Homelessness Joint Command Center.

Street and subway homeless outreach will continue to be conducted by DHS and contracted social service providers, including the new DHS street outreach nurses and DHS Street Medicine contracted providers, which will enhance the ability of DHS and outreach teams to respond to clients' medical or behavioral health needs.

HRA Office of Domestic Violence:

The Safe Horizon Domestic Violence Hotline continues to operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. HRA's No Violence Again (NoVA) social workers are serving clients remotely who are referred by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) when they apply for shelter or are clients who experience domestic violence (DV) in DHS shelter. The social workers assist DV survivors in accessing DV residential programs; provide crisis intervention and counseling; and provide referrals to non-residential DV programs. In addition, we are continuing to make referrals remotely to HRA's Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVLs) who provide DV assessments and crisis intervention so that DV survivors can safely apply for Cash Assistance and secure child support and work requirement waivers.

*For anyone affected by abuse and needing support, call the 24-hour hotline at **1-800-621-HOPE (4673)**. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.*

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):

The HEAP cooling season runs through August 31, 2020. The following partial waivers have been granted from the State OTDA:

- Applicant households who reside in government subsidized housing with heat included in their shelter costs are now eligible to receive a Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) benefit, if all other eligibility criteria are met.
- If an applicant is unable to obtain medical documentation for a CAC application due to COVID-19, this requirement may be waived.

Applicants who have been previously denied a CAC benefit because they reside in government-subsidized housing with heat included in the shelter costs or because of lack of medical documentation due to COVID-19 may reapply for benefits. Qualifications for HEAP cooling assistance include:

- Household received a HEAP benefit during the current HEAP program year OR
- Currently receiving Cash Assistance (CA) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Household member must have a medical condition that is exacerbated by heat.
- Did not receive a cooling benefit/Air Conditioner in the last five years.

If a client received a HEAP benefit during the current HEAP program year, eligibility for a cooling benefit will be based on the information used to determine the HEAP benefit and the information submitted on the application. If

a client did not receive a benefit during the current HEAP program year, but is currently receiving CA or SNAP benefits, eligibility for a cooling benefit will be based on the information in the CA or SNAP case and information on the application.

The regular and emergency HEAP benefit components have been extended, and the HEAP program is accepting applications until August 31, 2020 or until funds are exhausted. [HEAP cooling applications are available here](#). Completed applications can be mailed or emailed to the addresses below:

Applications can be emailed to: SerranoL@hra.nyc.gov

Or mailed to:
Home Energy Assistance Program/HEAP
P.O. Box 1401
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008

For clients who cannot mail in their HEAP application, they can be dropped off at those [Job](#) and [SNAP](#) Center locations that remain open.

For more information about HEAP eligibility visit the [NYS OTDA website](#).

Stakeholders' Action & Resources:

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC):

See different ways you can get involved with the [NLIHC here](#), and specifically with [housing stability](#).

National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH):

Enroll in New Center for Learning Course: The Alliance is launching a new course via its Center for Learning, a comprehensive online resource of information, learning tools, and technical assistance for frontline service providers, stakeholders, and system leaders.

Advancing the Role of Emergency Shelter in Ending Homelessness To learn more or register for the course, [please visit the Center's website](#).

Enrollment open now, and is capped for the first 150 enrollments

Course begins September 7, 2020

Cost \$300

A five-part series on advancing the role of emergency shelter in ending homelessness will include live webcasts that provide an in-depth review of the five-key element of effective shelter, and how to begin implementing change. Along with weekly live webcasts, this course includes weekly office hours with Alliance staff, assignments, quizzes, discussion, optional reading, and supplemental resources.

See different ways you can get involved with

the [NAEH here](#), and specifically with [COVID relief funds for housing](#).

Send Us Your Feedback!

The NYC CoC is committed to providing useful information to the community. We want to hear from community members like you. Follow us at nychomeless.com and let us know what you think about our messaging. Your feedback makes us better.

Thank you.
NYC CoC

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