COVID-19
Response for Housing and Homelessness in Florida
Housing is Healthcare

April 9, 2020
The Florida Housing Coalition

• Statewide nonprofit provider of training and technical assistance
• From ending homelessness to first time homeownership
• See www.flhousing.org

Jaimie Ross,
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Thank you.

Sponsored by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation
Webinar Logistics

- Participants are muted
- Enter your questions in the box in your webinar panel
- Handouts are available with this webinar
- This PPT is included as a handout
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available on our COVID-19 Resource Page along with the attached handouts and all the questions and answers
- A survey will immediately follow the webinar; please complete it! Thanks!
Hosts

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Guests

Thaddeus Hammond,  
Economic Development Specialist  
Small Business Administration

Marilyn Drayton,  
Senior VP/Community Development Manager  
Wells Fargo

Rulon Washington,  
VP/East Region Market Leader  
Wells Fargo
Guests

Jeff Branch,
Legislative Advocate
Florida League of Cities

Brian Snow,
Chief Program Officer
Sulzbacher Center
Agenda

• Homelessness & Housing Response Update
• SBA Program Information
• Wells Fargo Response
• Local Government Actions
• Crisis Response System Report
CARES* Act Update

• 4/2: HUD released the first batch of allocations
  • $2B: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  • $1B: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
  • Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
    • $53.7M Formula
    • $10M: Competitive

• 3/31: HUD Memorandum Mega Waiver
  • More waivers and guidance to come

*Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
Coronavirus Relief Fund

- CARES Act - $150 billion for the Coronavirus Relief Fund
- Congressional Research Service estimates that Florida will receive over $8.3 billion from this Fund.
- 12 Large counties in Florida (over 500,000 population) can apply directly to the US Treasury Department.
- Local governments below 500,000 will need to apply to the State – application process TBD.
CARES Act 2.0?

• There have been public talks this week about the next Congressional relief package.
• We will likely see additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
• We need widespread rental assistance and more ESG Funds.
• Contact your Congressional Representatives and urge them to appropriate additional funding for housing and homelessness.
Thaddeus Hammond,
Economic Development Specialist
Small Business Administration - N. Florida District Office

Applying to the Paycheck Protection Program & Economic Injury Disaster Loan
Small Business Administration Funding Opportunities
Updates from Wells Fargo

Marilyn Drayton, Senior VP/Community Development Manager
Wells Fargo

Rulon Washington, VP/East Region Market Leader
Wells Fargo
Jeff Branch,
Legislative Advocate
Florida League of Cities

Local Government Response
Planning for the CARES Act Funds
Brian Snow,
Chief Program Officer
Sulzbacher Center
COVID-19 Response

April 9, 2020
Overview

* Emergency Shelter Operations
* Federally Qualified Health Center
* Reverse Isolation Dorm
* Social Distancing and Cleaning
* Day Care and Day Camp Staff
* COVID-19 Employee Bonus Plan
Full Case Management Services remain available for current program participants.
- Our case management teams have been deemed essential.
- Program participants will still receive comprehensive case management services.
- Case Management teams also provide additional support with as needed (i.e., working with FQHC to screen, etc.)

Meal Service continues for both program participants and non-program community members.
- We provide 2 lunch and 2 dinner times and limit the amount of individuals on property via color coded lanyards to ensure proper social distancing.
- We allow no more that 75 individuals on property at any given time.
- We rearranged and removed congregate seating to encourage proper social distancing.
- Meals are prepared in a pick up style to-go container to reduce contact and interaction.
- Congregate dining areas are thoroughly sanitized before and after each meal service.

Program Participant Volunteers
- Due to the suspension of our volunteer group services, program participants have volunteered to help us prepare meals, sanitize dorm and congregate living areas, and help support our in-house janitorial team.
- Program participant volunteers are provided with appropriate PPE.
- Program participant volunteers are provided with incentives as tokens of appreciation.
Clinic providers are completing prescreening assessments for all individuals entering campus. Screenings include CDC questionnaires and temperature checks.

When appropriate tele-health appointments are completed.

Pharmacy staff are positioned at the campus entry for clinic patients to retrieve medications and to reduce the amount of individuals on campus.

We will be receiving 25 tests kits for providers to utilize based on symptom severity.
Refurbishing a vacant portable office building, we were able to quickly create a third space for highly acute and vulnerable program participants.

Utilizing the existing offices, we were able to create semi-private living accommodations as recommended by the CDC.

Currently, there are 18 program participants living in this area.

Meals, Social Services, and other facilities access is scheduled to reduce the amount of interaction between all program participants.

Extensive sanitizing is completed weekly, supplemented by daily cleaning.
In an effort to provide guidance and social distancing, multiple posters have been posted around key entry and congregate areas. These signs include proper hand-washing techniques, social distancing guidelines, and clearly defined service schedules. Internally, similar signage has been posted in staff work areas and in each dorm.

- We’ve installed additional hand washing stations around campus to encourage hand-washing.
- A formal cleaning protocol has been established to disinfect congregate dining areas prior to and after each group utilizes the restroom/shower areas.
- Routine disinfecting of all high traffic areas including door handles, rails, phones, and other heavily used surfaces.
Due to school closures and subsequent childcare needs, our organization chose to utilize our internal Early Learning and Children’s Program to provide child care for essential employees.

- The Early Learning Center services employee children ages birth to 5.
- The Children’s Program services employee children ages 6 and up.
  - For school-aged children, internet and computer access are provided for students to complete online coursework.
Due to complexity of our organizational structure, our teams are comprised of both hourly and salaried staff, as well as essentially and nonessential employees. As an example:

- Nonessential (work from home):
  - Administrative/Business Office
  - Development
  - CoC PSH Housing Program Staff

- Essential (work at campus)
  - Clinical Staff
  - Emergency Shelter Case Management Staff
  - Veteran Program Staff and Outreach (SSVF)
  - Food Service Staff
  - Front Line Dorm Staff

- Essential non-exempt hourly employees receive time and a half while working.
- Essential non-exempt salaried employees receive monthly bonuses.
- Since some staff have the ability to work from home, or for those who have chosen to self isolate or otherwise work from home for personal reasons, our organization felt that those employees working on campus should be compensated at an additional pandemic pay rate.
Federal Updates

1) CDC: Screening Clients at Entry to Homeless Shelters (March 31)


3) Non-Congregate Approaches to Sheltering for COVID-19 Homeless Response HUD/CDC (March 26) – ONLY ONE PAGE!

4) New Special COVID-19 Planning & Response Office Hours: Mega-Waiver and CARES Act (April 14)
Florida Housing Coalition
April 8, 2020 – Click Below for Recording

Assisting Homeless and Special Needs Populations through COVID-19
Upcoming COVID-19 Trainings

1. Helping Homeowners with COVID-19 SHIP Emergency Assistance
   • April 14 @ 10:00am
   • https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/378763470108283403

2. Virtual SHIP: Moving Your Government Functions Online
   • Link Coming Soon! Check our Training Calendar
Next Webinar – April 16 @ 1:30pm

Continue to get updates on COVID-19 response and hear from housing professionals and advocates across the state.

**Topic: Planning for CARES Act Funding at the Local Level**

Panelists:*  
• Armando Fana, City of West Palm Beach  
• Joe Savage, US Interagency Council on Homelessness  
• Tonnette Graham, Florida Association of Counties

*panelists subject to change
Contact Us

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