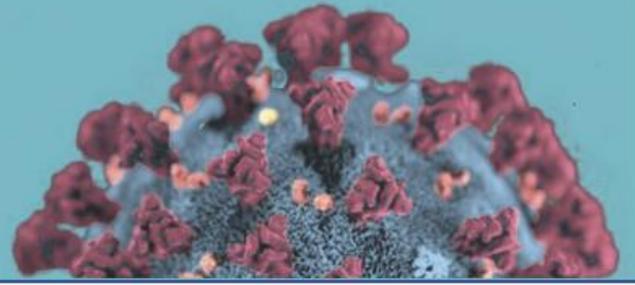


COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



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Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

[Visit our Training Calendar](#) to see all upcoming training opportunities.

SHIP

- May 19 @ 10:00am: [Tracking SHIP Funds, Set-Aside Compliance and Deadlines](#)
- May 21 @ 10:00am: [Preparing for the SHIP Monitor: PART 1](#)

COVID-19

- May 13 @ 10:00am: [Implementing Effective Rental Assistance Programs with Federal and State Resources](#)
- May 14 @ 1:30pm: [COVID-19 Response for Housing and Homelessness](#)
- May 18 @ 2:00pm: [COVID-19 SHIP Rent Assistance Implementation](#)
- May 20 @ 2:00pm: [COVID-19 SHIP Mortgage Assistance Implementation](#)

Weekly Hurricane Member Update

- May 15 @ 1:30pm: [Hurricane Member Update](#)

COVID-19 Weekly Webinar Update

Thank you to everyone who joined our Thursday webinar on Housing and Homelessness in Florida. Hundreds of local government staff, housing providers, and advocates joined the webinar. We always record our webinars so you can catch up or revisit. The links for the recording, PowerPoint, and handouts are available on our [COVID-19 resource page](#). For quick access, view the recording [here](#).

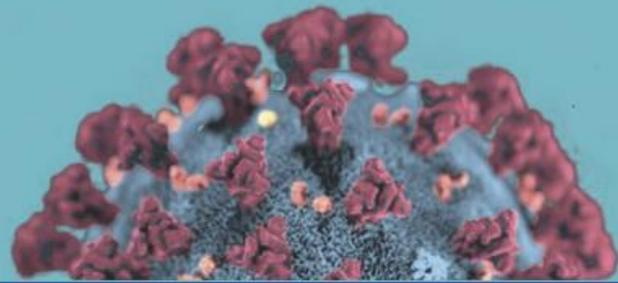
Kody Glazer, FHC Legal Director, shared information on the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's [emergency rule to discourage rent increases](#), gave an eviction and foreclosure update, and explained how to access CARES Act funding that is not distributed automatically to local governments. Kody urged housing professionals to advocate for using the CARES Act funds for rent and mortgage assistance. This includes the nearly \$6 billion the state will receive through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Next, [Tallahassee City Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox](#) shared her experience as a local elected official navigating COVID-19 with a focus on how the virus disproportionately impacts communities of color – both from a health standpoint and economically. Shawn Wilson, President and CEO of [Blue Sky Communities](#), explained



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how the affordable housing development industry is faring during this crisis and offered predictions of how the financing of projects will be affected going forward.

For the homelessness update, Nikki Barfield, VISN 8 Homeless Network Coordinator, of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs shared the VA's efforts to address homelessness through their Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), and Grant Per Diem (GPD) programs. The VA is working to ensure veterans have access to emergency shelter, temporary financial assistance, and permanent housing. The VA is also fulfilling its "Fourth Mission" to improve the Nation's [preparedness](#) for response to war, terrorism, national emergencies, and natural disasters by developing plans and taking actions to ensure continued service to veterans, as well as to support national, state, and local emergency management, public health, safety and homeland security efforts. Amanda Rosado, FHC Ending Homelessness Team Director, shared new resources from [HUD Exchange](#), including isolation and quarantine shelter resources by the Los Angeles Department of Health. Amanda also provided information on the new HUD Memorandum on CARES Act flexibilities, shared a [new publication](#) by the National Alliance to End Homelessness and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and answered some ESG FAQs.

[This Thursday's webinar](#) features Shahrzad Emami, Founder and Director, of the Florida Community Development Legal Project. Shahrzad's practice focuses on the representation of non-profit developers and other organizations that are developing or preserving affordable housing and community-based facilities. Patti Grogan of the Florida Department of Children and Families will also be joining us. Patti is the Director of Economic Self-Sufficiency Programs and Policy and oversees the State Office on Homelessness. Coalition staff Kody Glazer and Amanda Rosado will provide the latest updates from around the state on housing and homelessness.

National Updates

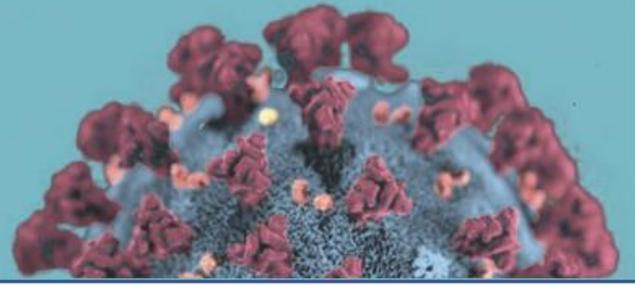
Congress

Last week, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Congressman Denny Heck (D-WA), and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced the introduction of the [Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act of 2020](#), which would create a \$100 billion emergency rental assistance fund. The fund would generally utilize the [framework of the Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\)](#) program by distributing 50% of the funds within 7 days of the bill's passage based on HUD's existing formula for ESG. States and communities that have already



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taken actions to provide emergency rental assistance would be permitted to use the funds the reimburse themselves for eligible activities under the bill.

In reference to a new Congressional relief package [in a letter to House Democrats](#), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote that “[d]irect payments, unemployment insurance, rental and mortgage help and student loan assistance are essential to relieve the fear that many families are facing.” Congressional Republicans and the White House have indicated they [are not in a rush to pass another financial rescue bill](#) and plan to wait to evaluate needs.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The second tranche of [CDBG funding under the CARES Act](#) was announced on Friday, May 8. The State of Florida will receive \$63,017,132 for the second tranche; this is in addition to the \$16.6 million the state received for the first batch of CDBG-CV funding. Unlike the first tranche, this second tranche can be used in both non-entitlement and entitlement communities. The [Department of Economic Opportunity \(DEO\)](#) is responsible for administering these funds. We are awaiting guidance from DEO as to how they plan to spend this money. Local governments should stay tuned for updates.

Small Business Administration Loans

An additional \$310 billion was appropriated for the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP). The PPP is a loan that [can be fully forgiven](#) if used for payroll costs, and most mortgage, interest, rent, and utility costs over the 8-week period after the loan is made. Another \$60 billion was authorized for the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program](#). Nonprofits and small businesses are encouraged to continue applying.

Federal Guidance

Department of Housing and Urban Development

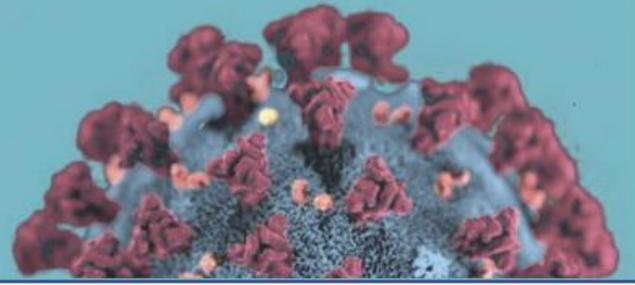
HUD created a [brochure for addressing tenant concerns](#) during COVID-19. The brochure educates on assistance with rent payments, navigating eviction moratoria, and other information. HUD continues to update its [Questions and Answers Document](#) for the Office of Multifamily Housing Stakeholders. HUD released guidance on how participating jurisdictions can set up, fund, and complete [HOME TBRA Activities in IDIS](#).

HUD [released a Memo](#) on May 4 to all grantees of ESG-CV, ESG Grants, and HOPWA-CV. The Memo encourages grantees to submit a substantial amendment to their most recent annual Action Plan, and discourages them from waiting until the next allocation of CV funds. HUD also [released a Notice](#) outlining CARES Act Implementation Instructions and Related Flexibilities for the HOPWA Program.



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA announced it will [conduct remote home inspections](#) for disaster survivors until further notice.

Florida communities are continuing to apply for and utilize [FEMA non-congregate shelter](#). Non-congregate shelter helps pay for shelter options such as hotel/motel rooms for high-risk individuals who are symptomatic or positive for COVID-19. Though non-congregate shelter is not specifically for people experiencing homelessness, it provides relief for emergency shelters who are at capacity and unable to accept more individuals and families due to social distancing guidance. It also provides opportunities to shelter unsheltered persons needing to isolate or quarantine. For more information on the requirements and application process for non-congregate shelter, [visit FEMA's website](#) or talk with your local emergency management.

Department of Veterans Affairs

The [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) announced on May 6](#) that it has expanded support services enabled by the CARES Act to address the immediate needs of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to the pandemic. Funding is provided for three VA programs: Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program, and Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program.

Department of Agriculture

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unveiled a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations, and individuals impacted by the COVID-19. The [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) is a resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic.

National & State Housing News

Florida Housing Finance Corporation

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) issued an [emergency rule to discourage rent increases](#). The rule provides that owners or developers of affordable housing that suspend any rent increases for existing tenants during the Public Health Emergency will receive preferences in funding opportunities until April 29, 2021.

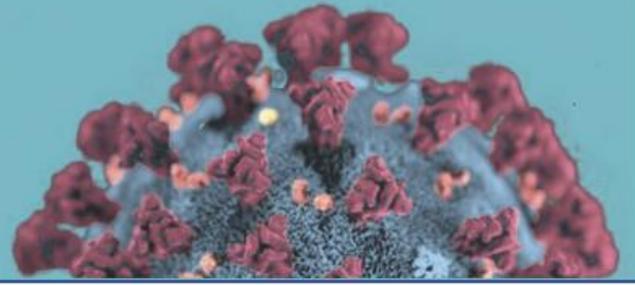
FHFC also announced the [disbursement of \\$5 million in SHIP-DR funds](#). These are funds held back by FHFC to use for disaster recovery. FHFC encouraged the use of these funds for activities to respond directly to COVID-19 including rent and mortgage assistance.

Find more information on Florida Housing's response to COVID-19 [here](#).



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DEO Reemployment Assistance Claim Dashboard

DEO [reports the number of unemployment claims](#) submitted and the number of claims processed. As of May 10, of the 1,346,177 unique claims submitted, 1,036,845 (77.0%) have been processed and 656,635 (48.8%) claimants have been paid. \$1,563,282,760 in total has been paid.

Coronavirus Relief Fund

The State of Florida is expected to receive around \$6 billion from the U.S. Treasury from the [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) as established in the CARES Act. This money [can be used for rent and mortgage assistance](#). Montana was the first state to announce it will be using [\\$50 million of its allocation for rental and mortgage assistance](#). The City of Jacksonville, Florida did the same.

Montana can prove to be a good model for the rest of the country. Montana is offering up to three months of rent and mortgage relief who have lost a job or experienced a substantial decrease in income. They require households to pay 30% of its income and housing with the state covering the rest of the amount. A household is ineligible if they have \$10,000 or more in readily available assets. Income limits range from \$75,000 to \$125,000 based on household size.

Department of Children and Families

The DCF State Office on Homelessness continues to work with the CoCs to develop an allocation method to award the State of Florida ESG-CV non-entitlement allocation to CoCs throughout the State. The State was awarded over \$20 million in ESG-CV funding.

Find more information on DCF's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

Local Government Financial Assistance Programs

The [Florida League of Cities](#) is keeping track of relief programs and initiatives Florida's cities and counties have created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

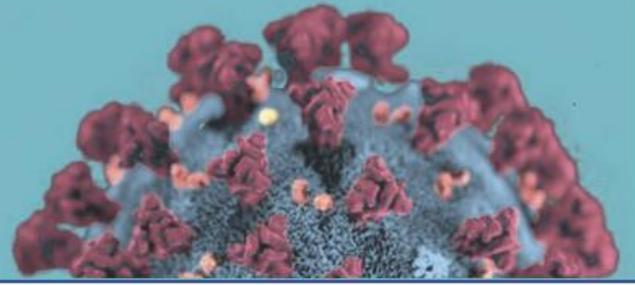
Eviction & Foreclosure Moratoria

[Evictions and foreclosures](#) are only suspended in Florida through May 17. The CARES Act provides [additional eviction and foreclosure protections](#) for properties assisted by federal resources. The Florida Housing Coalition supports extending the state's eviction and foreclosure moratorium for non-payment of rent to mimic the protection in the CARES Act. This would ease confusion about which properties qualify for protection and help ensure that tenants and homeowners are secure in their homes through the end of July.



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Framework for COVID-19 Homelessness Response

The National Alliance to End Homelessness released a [framework for COVID-19 homelessness response](#) for how homelessness systems can leverage the CARES Act and approval for other funding sources to simultaneously conduct emergency protective measures while planning for recovery-oriented uses.

National Low Income Housing Coalition

The [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) continues to produce great information for on-the-ground housing professionals. Their [latest publication](#) is on guidance for helping people experiencing homelessness access their economic impact payments.

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

The [Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) is a great resource for information on COVID-19 response as it relates to philanthropic giving. The Center hosts a series of webinars that provide comparisons to other disasters and how the philanthropic community is involved with relief.

Nonprofits and Small Business

With an additional injection of funding to the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), nonprofits and small businesses are encouraged to continue seeking funds. Several local governments are creating loan pools specifically for non-profits. [United Way of Florida and their affiliates](#) are providing direct assistance to individuals and doing great work raising funds for COVID-19 response.

Continuums of Care

HUD provided new a publication on changing [Coordinated Entry prioritization](#) to support and respond to COVID-19.

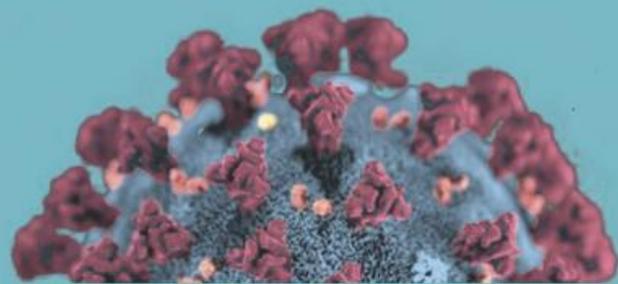
The HUD SNAPS Office is continuing to host [weekly Office Hours](#) to answer questions related to COVID-19 and programs and funding serving people experiencing homelessness.

The National Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Council has started a [Town Hall Series](#) discussing relevant topics each week on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1pm EDT. HCH also released a new resource: [“Comprehensive Testing & Services for People Experiencing Homelessness”](#).



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Renters and Homeowners

[Evictions and foreclosures](#) remain suspended in Florida through May 17. The CARES Act provides [additional eviction and foreclosure protections](#) for properties assisted by federal resources. The Shimberg Center's COVID-19 Data Application maps out the [properties in Florida that are protected by the CARES Act moratoria](#) to help tenants, homeowners, attorneys, and housing advocates protect people from eviction and foreclosure. Jacksonville Area Legal Aid has assembled a [helpful blog on tenant protections](#) and how to work with landlords. HUD released [guidance for CoC and ESG programs](#) on how the federal eviction moratorium impacts renters in their programs.

Regardless of the various moratoria, there are reports of landlords still [threatening to evict tenants](#) for non-payment of rent.

Contact Us

We are always just a call or email away. Let us know how we can support the incredible work you are doing.



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