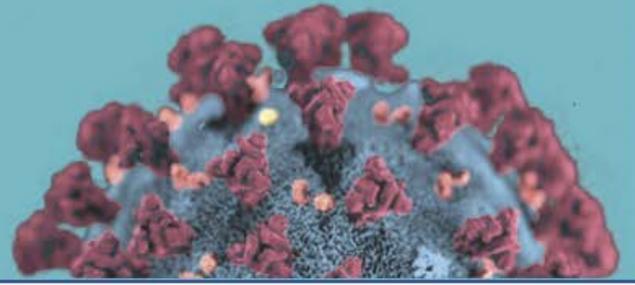


COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



May 18, 2020

Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

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

COVID-19

- May 20 @ 2:00pm: [COVID-19 SHIP Mortgage Assistance Implementation](#)
- May 21 @ 1:30pm: [COVID-19 Response for Housing and Homelessness in Florida](#)

SHIP

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

Weekly Hurricane Member Update

- May 22 @ 1:30pm: [Disaster Housing Recovery](#)

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](#). Sign up for our next Update webinar on Thursday, May 21 @ 1:30pm [here](#).

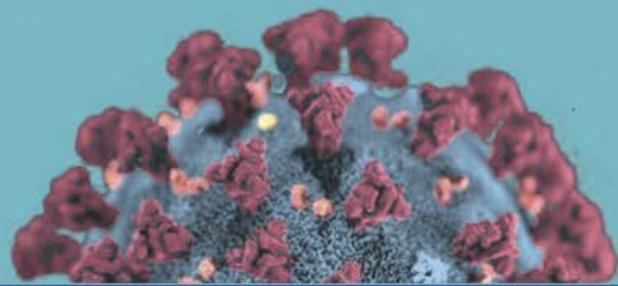
Amanda Rosado, FHC Ending Homelessness Team Director, shared the new [changes to Coordinated Entry](#) from HUD, including prioritizing people experiencing homelessness who are most medically vulnerable to COVID-19. Coordinated Entry remains a requirement of CoC Program and ESG funded projects. Amanda also reviewed the new guidance HUD [to help providers with landlord engagement](#) communication, recruitment, and retention for housing providers working to get their clients rehoused. Patti Grogan, Director of Economic Self-Sufficiency Programs and Policy at the Department of Children and Families, provided an update on the DCF response to COVID-19. Patti highlighted the expansion of SNAP benefits and more flexibility with Medicaid. Patti also described the three processes involved in getting the ESG-CV allocations deployed: 1) Obtaining budget authority; 2) Development of an allocation method; and 3) the Substantial amendment process.

Kody Glazer, FHC Legal Director, gave an update on Gov. DeSantis' [extension of the eviction and foreclosure moratorium through June 2](#). Kody also provided an overview of the HEROES Act, which was passed by the U.S.



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House of Representatives last week, and gave updates on the status of Coronavirus Relief Fund and CDBG-CV expenditures. Shahzard Emami of Legal Services of Greater Miami concluded the webinar by sharing her experience working with tenants and landlords during the crisis and provided an overview of a [COVID-19 Pro Bono Legal Project](#) offered in partnership between the [Florida Community Development Legal Project](#) and [Lawyers for Good Government](#).

May 21 Weekly Webinar

Join us this Thursday as we provide the latest update on the housing and homelessness response to COVID-19 in Florida. Joining us this week is Antoinette Hayes-Triplett from the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative (THHI). THHI serves as the homeless Continuum of Care Lead Agency and has been spearheading the COVID-19 response for homelessness in Tampa/Hillsborough. Additionally, Rob Dearduff from Florida Housing Finance Corporation will join us to give the latest updates on SHIP funding and assistance.

Kody Glazer and Amanda Rosado of the Florida Housing Coalition will provide updates on new federal, state, and local news, guidance, and best practices. [Register here](#).

National Updates

Congress

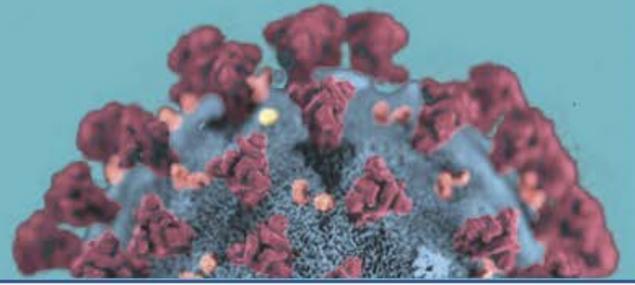
On Friday, May 15, the [U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act](#) by a 208-199 vote. The \$3 trillion bill aimed at providing COVID-19 relief [contains \\$200 billion](#) for housing and homelessness. The HEROES Act includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, \$75 billion in homeownership assistance, \$4 billion for tenant-based rental assistance (including \$1 billion in new temporary vouchers), \$5 billion for CDBG, \$11.5 billion for ESG, \$15 million for HOPWA, and more. The HEROES Act also includes an eviction moratorium for all dwelling units for 12 months. A breakdown of the proposed funding for housing and homelessness provisions can be found [here](#).

Although the House passed the HEROES Act, that does not mean this money will be appropriated – the bill still must pass the Senate. However, we may see some or all of this funding in a future relief package as the two chambers of Congress continue to negotiate. Both the White House and Senate Republicans have called the bill [“dead on arrival”](#) and it remains to be seen how a follow-up relief package will be appropriated.



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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. CPD Grantees can find the most updated published guidance below:

- [Notice CPD-20-05: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Implementation Instructions and Related Flexibilities for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program](#) (May 8, 2020)
- [Availability of a Waiver and Alternate Requirement for the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report \(Performance Report\) for CPD Grant Programs in Response to the Spread of Coronavirus](#) (May 7, 2020)
- [CARES Act Flexibilities for ESG and HOPWA Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response and Plan Amendment Waiver & Instructions](#) (May 4, 2020)

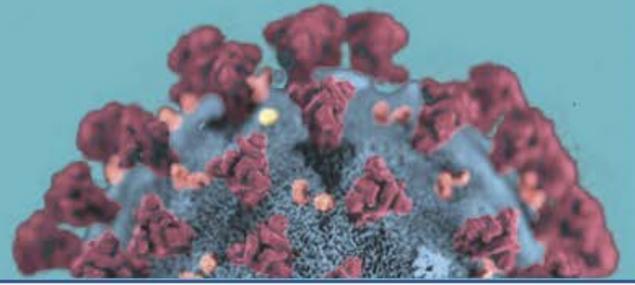
HUD CDBG Grantees can find the latest resources and fact sheets [here](#).

HUD HOME Participating Jurisdictions can find the memoranda to provide guidance, necessary statutory suspensions, and regulatory waivers [here](#).



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Federal Housing Finance Administration

FHFA announced on May 14 that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are [extending their moratorium on foreclosures and evictions until at least June 30, 2020](#). The foreclosure moratorium applies to single-family, Enterprise-backed mortgages only.

FHFA also announced on May 13 that [Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are offering payment deferral](#) as a new repayment option for homeowners in COVID-19 forbearance plans. This option would allow homeowners to take the missed monthly mortgage payments in forbearance and puts them into a payment due at the sale, or refinancing of the home, or the end of the loan. This is coupled with the guidance that [no lump sum is required](#) at the end of forbearance.

Fannie Mae has offered guidance for homeowners navigating forbearance [here](#). Fannie Mae also released a [letter to single-family servicers](#) on payment deferral.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA [encourages hurricane preparedness](#) now in the COVID-19 environment. Florida is already beginning to prepare for hurricane season and make plans for evacuation and shelter to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines and screening.

National & State Housing News

Florida Eviction & Foreclosure Moratorium Extended

Last week, Governor DeSantis [extended the state's eviction and foreclosure moratorium through June 2](#). 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.

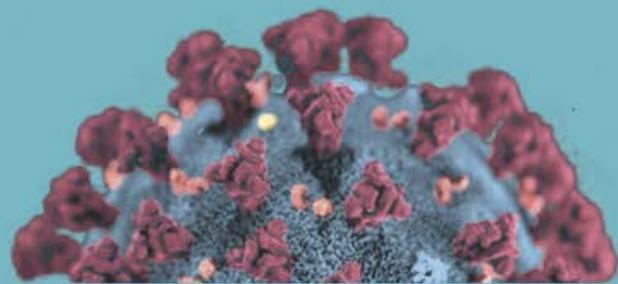
Florida Housing Finance Corporation

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 during the Public Health Emergency will receive preferences in funding opportunities throughout the emergency and for one year after Florida is no longer under the emergency declaration.



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

DEO Reemployment Assistance Claim Dashboard

DEO [reports the number of unemployment claims](#) submitted and the number of claims processed. As of May 15, of the 1,565,916 unique claims submitted, 1,215,535 (77.7%) have been processed and 779,404 (49.8%) claimants have been paid. \$1,919,103,176 has been paid.

Department of Children and Families

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

Analysis on Unemployment Projects 40-45% Increase in Homelessness this Year

Columbia University economics professor Dr. Brendan O'Flaherty [projects an increase in homelessness by 40-45%](#) this year over January 2019, an addition of nearly 250,000 people, if homelessness follows unemployment the way it has done so in the earlier part of the 21st century.

Local News

Miami Beach

Last week, the City Commission approved the use of [\\$549,111 in federal and state funds for rent assistance](#). The North Miami Beach CRA earmarked \$1 million in property tax revenue for rental assistance for renters who live within the limits of the CRA.

Port St. Lucie

Beginning on May 18 at 8 am, the [City of Port St. Lucie](#) will put online its rent and mortgage assistance program. Applicants who experienced a loss in income due to COVID-19 may be eligible to receive a one-time grant not to exceed \$3,000 per household and limited to 2 months of rent or mortgage expenses. Notably, applicants seeking mortgage assistance must first attempt to receive mortgage forbearance from their lender.

Continuums of Care

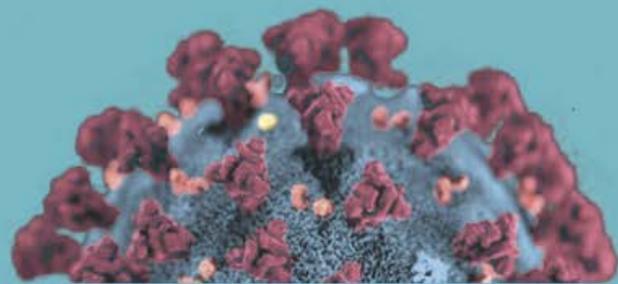
The HUD SNAPS Office is continuing to host [weekly Office Hours](#) to answer questions related to COVID-19 and programs and funding serving people experiencing homelessness.

The CDC updated their [interim guidance](#) on unsheltered homelessness. This guidance is for homeless service providers and local officials. The revisions on 5/10/20 include revisions to the organization of the document for



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clarity, description of “whole community” approach, clarification of outreach staff guidance, and clarification of encampment guidance.

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless [has a website](#) with Street Health Outreach and COVID-19 guidance. They published specific guidance describing the [four essential street outreach activities](#) during COVID-19.

Los Angeles County [published an infographic](#) demonstrating social distancing and bed positions for residential and congregate settings. The pictures, along with clear instructions, provide information on positioning beds whether 6 feet of distance is available or not.

Renters and Homeowners

[Evictions and foreclosures](#) remain suspended in Florida through June 2. 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.

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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