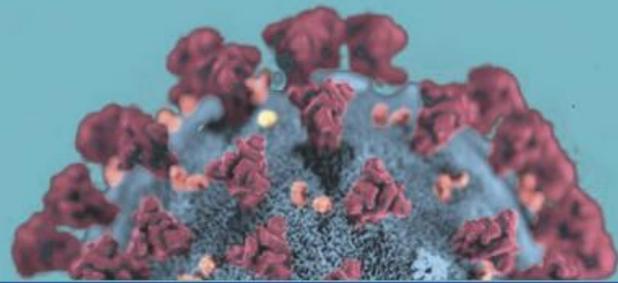


# COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



May 26, 2020

## Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

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

### COVID-19

- May 28 @ 1:30pm: [COVID-19 Response for Housing and Homelessness in Florida](#)

### SHIP

- May 27 @ 2:00pm: [Preparing for the SHIP Monitor: Part 3](#)
- June 2 @ 2:00pm: [Affordable Housing Funding Sources – Part 1](#)
- June 15 @ 2:00pm: [Affordable Housing Funding Sources – Part 2](#)

### Weekly Hurricane Member Update

- May 29 @ 1:30pm: [Disaster Housing Recovery](#)

## COVID-19 Weekly Webinar Update

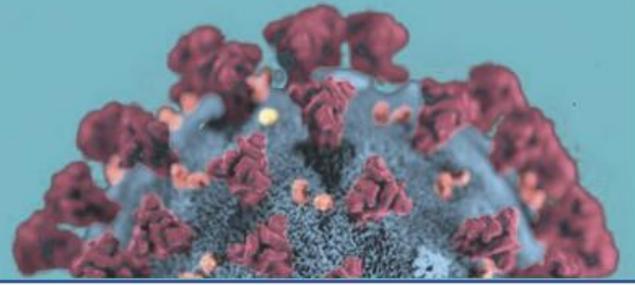
Thank you to everyone who joined our Thursday webinar on Housing and Homelessness in Florida. Hundreds of local government staff, housing providers, and advocates joined the webinar. We always record our webinars so you can catch up or revisit. The links for the recording, PowerPoint, and handouts are available on our [COVID-19 resource page](#). For quick access, view the recording [here](#). Sign up for our next Update webinar on Thursday, May 28 @ 1:30pm [here](#).

Robert Dearduff started off by sharing how SHIP offices can reprogram funds and use recently disbursed funds to respond to COVID-19. Florida Housing Finance Corporation has approved many amendments to help SHIP offices get money on the ground quickly. Next, Antoinette Hayes-Triplett, CEO of the CoC Lead Agency [Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative](#), detailed how they are responding to COVID-19 with daily and weekly calls, amending budgets for their agencies, coordinating testing, and working to expand non-congregate shelter options. Antoinette also talked about their 560 Strategic Plan on Homelessness to provide housing opportunities to 560 people in 560 days, including their most recent virtual speed leasing event. Amanda Rosado, FHC Ending Homelessness Team Director, shared strategies from the HUD May 14 Office Hours on [Engaging People with Lived Experience](#). Amanda also shared an [article from the Urban Institute](#) outlining state and local rent assistance data and lessons learned.



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Kody Glazer, FHC Legal Director, gave an update on the various federal and state eviction moratorium and provided the most recent data on mortgage forbearances. Kody also shared FHC's mortgage assistance policy of requiring applicants to be denied for forbearance before receiving assistance. Kody concluded the webinar by addressing some of the possible long-term effects COVID-19 will have on affordable housing.

## May 28 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 are:

- Kristi Schulenberg, Director of the Center for Capacity Building, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Mark Hendrickson, President, The Hendrickson Company
- Caleena Shirley, Construction and Development Liaison, St. Johns Housing Partnership

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

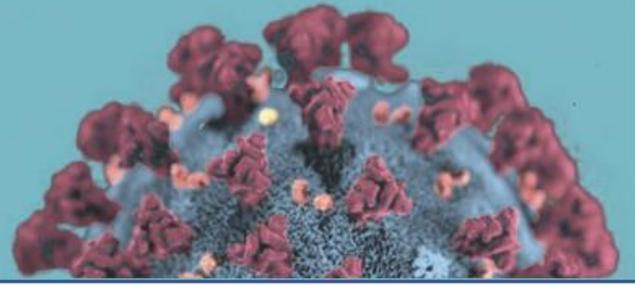
On Friday, May 15, the [U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act](#) by a 208-199 vote. The \$3 trillion bill aimed at providing COVID-19 relief [contains \\$200 billion](#) for housing and homelessness. The HEROES Act includes \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, \$75 billion in 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](#). There are also stand-alone bills in Congress ([S. 3685/H.R. 6820](#)) that provide \$100 billion in rental assistance sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown and Reps. Maxine Waters and Denny Heck. An analysis of those bills 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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## Federal Guidance

### Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD did not publish new guidance for CPD grantees this past week; however, HUD announced new waivers for ESG, CoC Program, and HOPWA funding in their [Office Hours on May 22](#). A formal Memorandum has not been published but is expected to come out this week. HUD also continues to update its [Office of Multifamily Housing Q&A](#). For the latest HUD guidance, please visit the links below.

HUD ESG Grantees can find the latest guidance and announcements [here](#).

HUD CDBG Grantees can find the latest resources and fact sheets [here](#). On Tuesday, May 26, HUD announced the release of a Q&A Document on [how the CARES Act eviction moratorium applies to CDBG, NSP, and CDBG-DR](#) assisted properties.

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

### 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. FHFA also announced guidance that [homeowners can refinance or purchase a new home three months after](#) their forbearance ends.

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

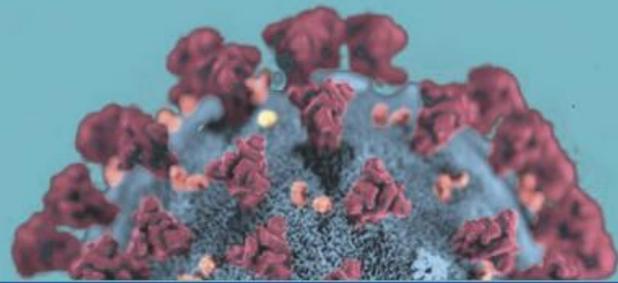
### Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA published [guidance for hurricane preparedness](#) in the COVID-19 environment. The guidance describes anticipated challenges, how FEMA plans to adapt their operations to the realities and risk of COVID-19 and allow



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emergency managers to prepare and plan accordingly. It also provides guidance, checklists, and resources for emergency managers in developing their own response and recovery plans.

## National & State Housing News

### Florida Eviction & Foreclosure Moratorium Expires June 2

Florida's eviction and foreclosure moratorium expires Tuesday, June 2. Governor DeSantis [extended the state's eviction and foreclosure moratorium through June 2](#) from its original May 17 date. 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. We urge the Governor to extend the eviction and foreclosure moratorium.

### 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.

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

### Department of Economic Opportunity

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.

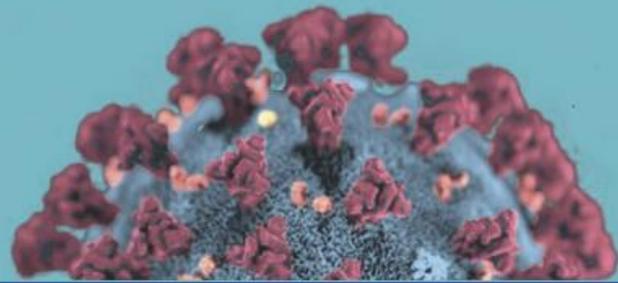
### Coronavirus Relief Fund

The State of Florida is to receive nearly [\\$6 billion through the Coronavirus Relief Fund](#). This money [can be used for rental and mortgage assistance](#). Twelve local governments that serve 500,000 or more persons received a direct allocation from Treasury as well. Local governments that did not receive an allocation will need to stay



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tuned for updates – there is no legal requirement that the state or the local governments that received a direct allocation transfer the dollars to smaller entities within its jurisdiction. A majority of the local governments that received the direct allocation are utilizing or planning to use the funding for rental and mortgage assistance. We are waiting to see how the state will use its funding.

## Department of Children and Families

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

## New Census Data on April 2020 Housing Starts

The U.S. Census released data that shows that [April 2020 housing starts were down 30 percent from March 2020 and nearly 30 percent from April 2019](#). These numbers suggest strongly that new home completions will be down through the remainder of the year – negatively contributing to the existing shortage of affordable housing units.

## 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. This past week HUD discussed new ESG, CoC Program, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, and HOPWA waivers. An official [Memorandum was published](#) today.

HUD released the "[Estimating the Prevalence and Probability of Homeless Youth NOFA](#)" on May 20.

HUD continues to update their [COVID-19 Resources Digest for Homeless Providers](#) daily. Check back regularly for new resources, including community examples.

## Renters and Homeowners

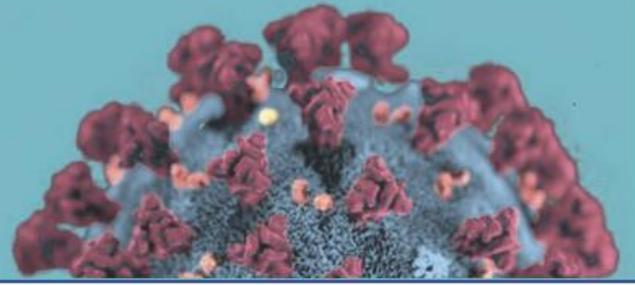
[Evictions and foreclosures](#) remain suspended in Florida through June 2. The CARES Act provides [additional eviction and foreclosure protections](#) for properties assisted by federal resources. The Shimberg Center's COVID-19 Data Application maps out the [properties in Florida that are protected 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.



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## 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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April 6, 2020