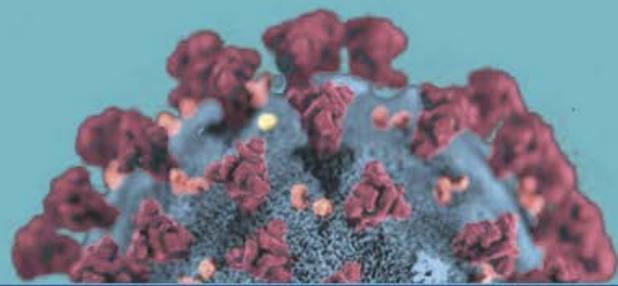


# COVID-19 WEEKLY DIGEST



May 4, 2020

## Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

[Visit our Training Calendar](#) to see all upcoming training opportunities. Starting on May 13, we will have three training Webinars specially focused on COVID-19 rental and mortgage assistance.

### SHIP

- May 4 @ 2:00pm: [Pre- and Post-Disaster Recovery with SHIP](#)
- May 5 @ 2:00pm: [Using SHIP to Address Homelessness](#)

### COVID-19

- May 7 @ 1:30pm: [COVID-19 Response for Housing and Homelessness](#)
- May 13 @ 10:00am: [Implementing Effective Rental Assistance Programs with Federal and State Resources](#)
- 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 8 @ 1:30pm: [Hurricane Member Update](#)

## COVID-19 Weekly Webinar Update

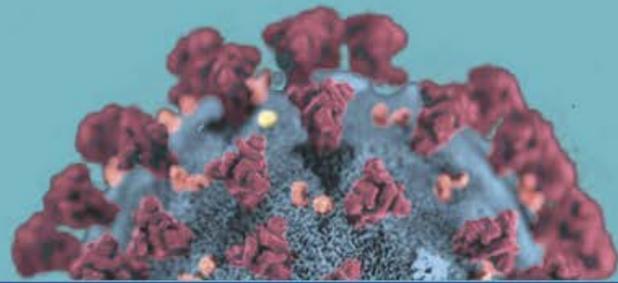
Thank you to everyone who joined our Thursday webinar on Housing and Homelessness in Florida. Hundreds of local government staff, housing providers, and advocates joined the webinar. We always record our webinars so you can catch up or revisit. The links for the recording, PowerPoint, and handouts are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

Amanda Rosado, FHC Ending Homelessness Team Director, shared a recent [CDC publication](#) reviewing asymptomatic spread in congregate settings, including emergency shelters and the implications for universal testing in settings serving people experiencing homelessness. Amanda also provided an update on HUD's efforts to ensure communities are making smart investments with new funding, leading with equity, and creating clear pathways to permanent housing. We were pleased to have Martha Are, Executive Director of [Homeless Services Network of Central Florida](#), join us to share the response to COVID-19 in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties for people experiencing homelessness. Martha provided information on how the CoC is working with the local



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governments to provide non-congregate shelter and services to people experiencing homelessness who need a safe place to isolate and quarantine. She also shared their efforts to continue to rapidly rehouse households during this time.

Kody Glazer, FHC Legal Director, gave an update on Florida's eviction and foreclosure moratorium and the continued need for education and tenant and homeowner protections. Kody also provided an update on local rent assistance programs and gave a brief overview on how local governments can partner with a nonprofit organization to administer a rental assistance program. He advised nonprofit organizations that they can now apply for an SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan through the [Florida Community Loan Fund](#). Bill Lazar of St. Johns Housing Partnership concluded the webinar by sharing his experience as both an employer and nonprofit housing provider as his organization navigates COVID-19. Bill shared how the [St. Johns Housing Partnership](#) is working to keep its employees and residents safe, how they are conducting repairs and inspections, and how they are maintaining effective communication.

Joining us on the May 7 Weekly Webinar are Shawn Wilson of Blue Sky Communities and Nikki Barfield of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Wilson is a 25+ year affordable housing veteran and currently serves as the President and CEO of Blue Sky Communities, working with non-profit organizations to develop new and rehabilitate existing multifamily affordable housing communities. Ms. Barfield is the VISN 8 Network Homeless Coordinator working with homeless veteran programs in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Mayor Pro Tem Dianne Williams-Cox of Tallahassee will be also be joining the webinar. Dianne has been, for years, a leading advocate for enhanced women's rights, including equal pay and eradicating workplace harassment, among others. She is currently leading efforts in Tallahassee to address inequities amplified by COVID-19. Coalition staff Kody Glazer and Amanda Rosado will provide the latest updates on the housing and homelessness response in Florida during COVID-19.

## National Updates

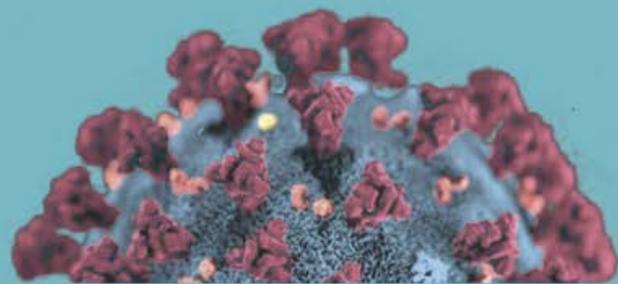
### Congress

The Senate is scheduled to [return to session this week](#) as they consider further relief packages to respond to COVID-19. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Representatives Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Denny Heck (D-WA) plan to introduce legislation this week to provide \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance. The [National Low](#)



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[Income Housing Coalition](#) is leading federal advocacy efforts to ensure housing and homelessness are adequately funded in the next federal relief package. We urge our members to contact their Congressional representatives to ensure that Congress appropriates additional funds for widespread rental assistance, mortgage assistance, sheltering services, local government financial relief, and other items.

## Department of Housing and Urban Development

The second tranche of CDBG funding under the CARES Act is to be distributed by May 11. Under this tranche, HUD will distribute \$1 billion in total to state and insular areas. HUD and the state of Florida has not yet released guidance as to the timing of these funds and how the state plans to use and allocate these funds. Unlike the traditional state CDBG allocation, this tranche can be used in both non-entitlement and entitlement communities.

## 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. On Monday, April 27, the HUD SNAPS Office hosted a special Office Hours for ESG recipients. Access the [recording and slides here](#). HUD is hosting another [Office Hours for ESG State recipients](#). For the most recent guidance on ESG-CV visit their [Homeless ESG COVID-19 Grantee Guidance](#) page.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

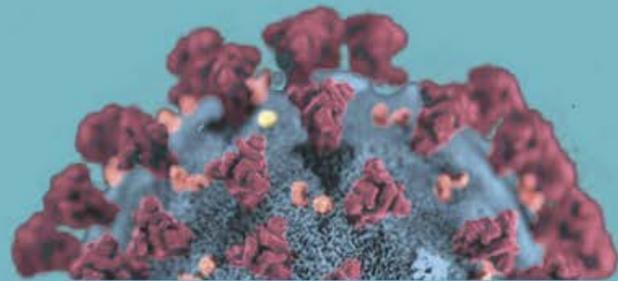
FEMA announced it will [conduct remote home inspections](#) for disaster survivors until further notice.

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



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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 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

Last week, 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](#).

### DEO Reemployment Assistance Claim Dashboard

DEO [reports the number of unemployment claims](#) submitted and the number of claims processed. As of May 2, of the 1,025,657 unique claims submitted, 731,182 (71.3%) have been processed and 452,526 (44.1%) claimants have been paid. \$700,261,670 has been paid.

### Department of Children and Families

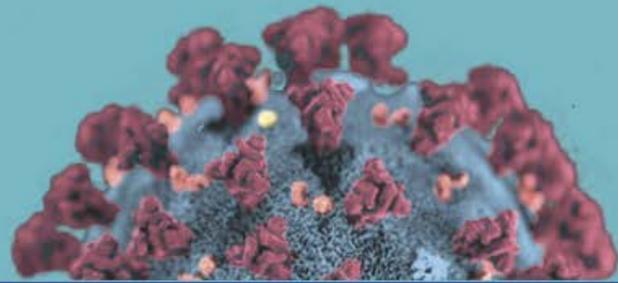
The DCF State Office on Homelessness is working to develop an allocation method to award the State of Florida ESG-CV nonentitlement allocation to CoCs throughout the State. The State was awarded over \$20 million in ESG-CV funding.

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



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## 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.

## 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.

## 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

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"](#).

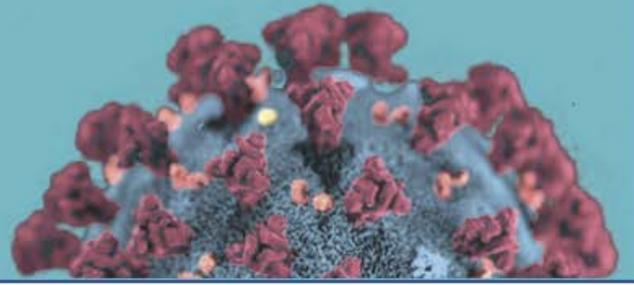
## Renters and Homeowners

[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.



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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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