

Eastern PA Continuum of Care Governing Board Meeting

April 28, 2020 (1:00PM – 2:30PM)

[Join Skype Meeting](#) or Call-in: +1 (267) 332-8737, 790202075#

AGENDA

- Review anticipated funding
- Review/ discuss results of survey on unmet COVID-19 related needs
- Review/ discuss options for prioritizing use of available funding
- Finalize prioritization for each funding source
- Discuss plan for making funding available (e.g. request form, RFP, etc.)

Anticipated funding

- 2020 Home4Good = \$519,001 (\$468,751)
 - Adjusting for 5% admin to CoC (\$20,250) and funding to support the CoC Staff Position (\$30k), balance = \$468,751.
- PHARE Home2020 = \$199,748 (\$189,760)
 - Adjusting for 5% admin to United Way for allocating grant funds and submitting reports, balance = \$189,760
- Total available for award from both funding sources = \$658,511

Needs identified by CoC membership

See attached document for summary of needs reported through online survey.

Options for prioritization of available funding

1. Prioritize across the entire CoC based on county population, as compared to CoC population:
 - a. % of total population
 - b. % of total confirmed COVID-19 cases
 - c. % of total confirmed COVID-19 deaths
 - d. % of homeless population (would need to determine date/time period)
 - e. % of total of unemployment claims submitted
2. Even funding distribution:
 - a. Allocate both funding sources evenly across all 33 counties to address most pressing unmet needs (\$19,955/ county)
 - b. Allocate both funding sources evenly across each of the 5 RHABs to address most pressing unmet needs (\$131,702/ RHAB)

- c. Allocate PHARE Home2020 evenly across all 33 counties to address most pressing unmet needs (\$5,750/ county)
 - d. Allocate PHARE Home2020 evenly across each of the 5 RHABs to address most pressing unmet needs (\$37,952/ RHAB)
3. Prioritize the PHARE Home2020 funding to address COVID-19 needs in communities with the greatest needs until DCED has awarded ESG-CV funding (2+ months).
4. Allocate the 2020 Home4Good funding based on RFP process, which could include gaps related to COVID-19 or otherwise.
5. Prioritize PHARE Home2020 funding to accomplish specific priorities, such as those listed below. 2020 Home4Good can be allocated after ESG-CV funds and remaining gaps are identified.
 - a. Move all unsheltered households into hotel/motels
 - b. Move all households living in congregate shelters who are high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 from shelters to hotels/motels
6. OTHERS???

Discuss plan for making funding available (e.g. request form, RFP, etc.)

- Need to discuss details with United Way of PA, as the funding will be awarded to them and they will need to distribute the funds based on direction from the Eastern PA CoC Governing Board
- Unless funding is allocated based on an even distribution to each county or RHAB, the projects funded will need to be selected by the Funding Committee
- Does the Board want these funds to be awarded based on a simple request form, or based on a more competitive RFP?
 - Do we want to know if other funding sources have been pursued first?

Eastern PA CoC Board Meeting

April 28, 2020 1:00PM – 2:30PM

Call in Number: 1-267-332-8737; Access Code 469752568

BOARD ATTENDEES

Leslie Perryman, Vice President
Mae-Ling Kranz, Treasurer
Craig Newcomer, Secretary
Sergio Carmona
Rob Nicolella
Alisa Baratta
Melissa Margargle
Randi Bannon
Jeannette Triano Sinn
Debbie Reihart
Beth Ellis
Angela Susten, DCED
Brendan Auman, DCED
Leigh Howard, DMA
Lauren Whiteleigh, DMA

NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Jeffrey Rich, President
Jeff Poch

In Jeff's absence, Leslie presided over the meeting.

Leigh kicked the meeting off with an overview of the following information about the funding streams the Board was making decisions about.

Anticipated funding

- 2020 Home4Good = estimated award of \$519,001 (\$468,751)
 - Adjusting for 5% admin to CoC (\$20,250) and funding to support the CoC Staff Position (\$30k), balance = \$468,751.
- PHARE Home2020 = \$199,748 (\$189,760)
 - Adjusting for 5% admin to United Way for allocating grant funds and submitting reports, balance = \$189,760
- Estimate Total available for award from both funding sources = \$658,511

Needs identified by the CoC membership via the Unmet Needs Survey

Lauren reviewed the themes of the Unmet Needs Survey responses. The raw data was shared with the Board in advance of this call. 10 additional responses were received the morning of 4/28, and revised data was emailed to the Board 30 minutes prior to the call.

- Received 34 responses across the CoC: 7 representing counties, 29 representing organizations, and 2 representing RHABs
- Mixed responses of Yes and No to the question “Does everyone in the community have access to shelter?”
 - Narrative responses described general lack of emergency shelter capacity and funding for hotel stays, either because there was a lack of capacity to begin with, programs have reduced their capacity to achieve social distancing, programs aren’t accepting new clients for fear of accepting someone with COVID-19, people aren’t moving off the queue as quickly as before, etc.
- Most respondents reported having unsheltered in their community. It ranged from a handful of households in some communities to a couple dozen in others to 100 in Cumberland and Blair to 200 in Lehigh County.
 - Respondents noted as reasons people remained unsheltered: lack of shelter capacity, personal choice/ belief they are safer on the streets than in a congregate setting, screening criteria for some shelters such as sobriety, some shelters not being able to meet the mental health needs of folks
- Most respondents noted there is RRH funding in their community, with some noting a very limited supply or funds already being obligated because households are remaining in RRH longer due to loss of wages.
 - Respondents expressed many hurdles to moving people into RRH, including landlords not showing units, units in their community not passing inspection, participants and staff not have access to technology necessary to expedite the move-in process. This slowing of housing folks of course keeps the shelters full, which keeps people on the streets.
- Most communities have some prevention funding, but not nearly enough based on the number of calls they are already receiving and data on unemployment filings in PA.
- Less than half of respondents were ESG recipients. Current ESG recipients are the ones interested in applying for ESG-CV funding.
- In addition to the need for prevention, shelter, and RRH, folks are struggling to obtain technology needed, PPE, supplies, thermometers, transportation, food, toilet paper, etc.
- Finally, some are grappling with how to make long-term adjustments to their congregate programs to keep people safe.

Options for Prioritization of Available Funding

Leigh presented some allocation options for the Board to discuss:

1. Prioritize across the entire CoC based on county population, as compared to CoC population:

- a. % of total population
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Discussion

Beth shared with the Board that PA is not extending its eviction moratorium beyond April 30th. President Judges have the authority to issue county-wide eviction moratorium.

- Monroe County is pushing for it.
- Lehigh County is pushing for an extension to May 31st.
- Northampton is working to extend to May 11th.

Jeannette shared that much of the housing in CV-RHAB does not meet the housing quality standards necessary to access HUD funded homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance. Jeannette also noted that people who are already receiving subsidies don't qualify for such assistance.

Leslie asked DCED in light of the eviction moratorium being lifted and the PUC releasing moratoriums on utility shutoffs, which will result in folks in subsidized units losing their housing, if there is any way to get the ESG-CV funding out faster.

Angela advised that DCED wants to ensure allow new applicants who aren't familiar with ESG have adequate time to prepare their request. To expedite the process, DCED has truncated the

application and simplified the scoring tool they use to select applicants. Angela advised that DCED does not have an estimated timeline for making awards.

Sergio expressed support of Funding Allocation Option 2a: evenly funding across counties.

Alisa expressed opposition to Funding Allocation Option 2a because it doesn't take into account need, and counties like those Alisa represents have been hit much harder than other counties in the CoC, and Option 2a won't address COVID-19 related needs in those hard-hit places.

Leigh, echoing Alisa's comments, shared data on COVID-19 cases across the CoC. Of the 8900 cases across the CoC to date, 30% are in Lehigh, 21% are in Northampton, and 12% are in Monroe.

Rob seconded the recommendation that allocation be based on need related to COVID-19 because these funds are slated for COVID-19 response.

Jeannette agreed with the recommendation to base allocation on needs and recommended that allocation be split up into 2: 1 immediately and 1 to fill gaps after ESG funding allocated

Leslie added that we consider Governor Wolf's Map of Opening up and how places that are the hardest hit will be opening up last, adding to the economic distress in those areas.

Beth agreed that the number of cases in a county will equate to ongoing closures in that area. PA is pursuing a 30-day extension for FEMA funding for non-congregate sheltering.

Leigh added that hopefully those counties that are hardest hit can implement a county-wide eviction moratorium.

Leslie recommended that all the funding be allocated now.

Jeannette added that considering that some households can not access homelessness prevention through HUD funding because of lease and inspection requirements, it is important to get this funding out now rather than in separate allocations because it will be able to support people who otherwise won't be able to access HUD funded homelessness prevention.

Beth added that the state is considering investing more resources into housing.

Melissa recommended that both pots of funding be allocated now because shelters are full and if people can't access homelessness prevention, there is nowhere for them to go.

Craig recommended that the Board establish "what" these funds will be allocated for.

Leslie stated that based on the unmet needs data and what the Board has discussed thus far, the funding will be allocated toward the most pressing needs, which is emergency shelter in the form of hotel/ motel and homelessness prevention for both rental and utility arrears.

Craig shared that there is a current gap for post-test quarantining in Franklin County and that folks who are homeless, symptomatic, and are awaiting their test results have nowhere to self-isolate/ quarantine. Craig shared that the hotels he has reached out to expect him to buy out the entire hotel. Leslie clarified that the local EMA should be leading the effort and contracting with

hotels for this purpose. Lauren emailed Christine Heyser of DHS and Craig after the Board call to connect them to resolve this issue in Franklin County.

With the “what” established, the Board discussed the “how”

Given the recommendation that allocations be based on needs identified in counties, it was suggested that the application be a 2-week process, giving counties time to submit a simple notice of intent and time to prepare data to describe their need.

Alisa noted that a competition would have to involve the Funding Committee and suggested that given the current context and urgency, the Board not ask folks to engage in a competition at this time. Alternatively, Alisa proposed the following motion:

- 2020 Home4Good and PHARE Home2020 Funds will be allocated to counties for hotel/motel and homelessness prevention proportionally based on need prioritizing CES data, COVID-19 case data, and unemployment filing claims data.

The motion was moved by Rob and seconded by Sergio. The motion passed with all Board members present in favor.

Leigh advised DMA would get the allocation methodology to the Board by Wednesday or Thursday. Leigh requested support with obtaining unemployment filings. Beth and Angela offered to get Leigh info on how to obtain this information.

DRAFT