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Innovative Uses of CARES Act Funding

February 23, 2021



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Agenda

- Eligible Public Housing and Voucher CARES Act Expenses
- Eligible Indian Housing Block Grant Expenses
- CARES in Action
- Study on Impact of COVID on Residents Living in Federally-Assisted Housing



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Presenters

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Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Housing Choice Vouchers- Supplemental Housing Assistance Payments (HAP)

PIH Notices: 2020-17

- Made available \$400M of Supplemental HAP funding.
- Available to Public Housing Agencies that either
 - (1) Experience a significant increase in voucher PUC due to extraordinary circumstances, or
 - (2) Despite taking reasonable cost saving measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding (“Shortfall Funds”)



Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)–Administrative Fees

PIH Notices: 2020-08, 2020-18

- Made available \$850M of CARES Act Supplemental Administrative Fees Funding
- Eligible Uses:
 - (1) Any currently eligible HCV administrative costs, including necessary upgrades to:
 - Information Technology (I.T)
 - Enhance telework capacities
 - Overtime pay for PHA staff to carry-out HCV Program responsibilities
 - (2) “New” COVID-19 related activities, to support or maintain the health and safety of assisted individuals and families
 - (3) Costs related to the retention and support of participating owners



Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)–Administrative Fees Eligible Uses

PIH Notices: 2020-08, 2020-18

- Procuring cleaning supplies and/or services to maintain safe and sanitary HCV
- One-time utility deposits to assist families in securing units
- Costs associated with the delivery of goods, including food and medical supplies that comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requirements, to program participants
- Costs to retain or increase owner participation in the HCV Program,
 - Example: The PHA offers Landlord an incentive payment to participate in the program in recognition of added difficulties of making units available



Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)–Administrative Fees Eligible Uses

- Relocation of PHA staff and participating families to health units or other designated units for testing, vaccination, hospitalization, or quarantine.
- Costs for providing childcare for the children of PHA staff that would not have otherwise been incurred
- Public health-related security costs to enforce orders to shelter-in-place, stay-at-home orders, or visitor-restriction policies for PHA owned PBV projects.
- Hiring of temporary employees to maintain program operations due to coronavirus.
- Costs related to office improvements, including improved systems for teleworking and/or rental of additional space, to ensure social distancing and other CDC recommended measures.



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Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)–Administrative Fees Eligible Uses

UPDATES and NEW USES

The list of COVID-19 related activities eligible to be paid with HCV CARES Act Administrative Fee funds is updated periodically and can be found on the HCV Website at:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv



Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Operating Fund

[Notice PIH-2020-07](#)

Basic Need Coordination

- Food service preparation and delivery.
 - Other funds must be used to cover the cost of food.
- Coordinating health care services.
 - Health-related supplies (e.g., masks and cleaning supplies).
 - Telehealth.
 - Transportation expenses for medical appointments.
- Childcare costs for working residents.



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Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Operating Fund

[Notice PIH-2020-07](#)

General Coordination

- Resident Services/Service Coordination staff.
- Administrative expenses for Resident Services (shares of rent/utilities/computers/phones; copies; mailing; texting software; etc.).
- Case Management Records Systems.
- Temporary staff to convert from paper to electronic systems (***Eligible under HCV Admin Fee***).
- Training for Resident Services staff on remote coaching/case management; trauma-informed program design, etc. (***Eligible under HCV Admin Fee***).



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Eligible Supportive Services Under the CARES Act: Operating Fund

[Notice PIH-2020-07](#)

Employment /Financial Capability

- Hiring residents--can set hiring preference for residents/Resident-owned businesses (e.g., computer lab monitors, community health workers).
- Paying partners for job training/skills/basic education/ESL/Financial Empowerment etc. services they provide & residents need (***Eligible under HCV Admin Fee***).

Connectivity

- Devices, in-unit Internet connectivity, and infrastructure costs that support in-unit connectivity (***limited eligibility under HCV Admin Fee***).



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Eligible Supportive Service Under Indian Housing Block Grant-CARES

[Notice PIH-2020-06](#)

- Providing essential housing services to shelter residents including childcare, education services, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, and transportation.
- Purchasing Telehealth equipment to allow assisted residents access to health care providers from home.
- Purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies.
- Purchasing and distribution of water, groceries, prescriptions, and other items for quarantined families, Elders, Veterans, at-risk populations, or disabled households.



CARES Act Funding In Action

Housing Authority of St. Louis

- Funding will be used to purchase a proprietary system from Gaia Green Earth to create a Public/Private wi-fi network to 1,200 units.

Pasco County Housing Authority

- Created food pantry for seniors and used CARES Act funding to buy a freezer.

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

- Purchasing equipment (cooling tents, outdoor hand washing stations, PPE, signage) and additional janitorial services to assist youth/recreation center program operators to begin limited in-person camps and day care.
- Funding multiple Community Health Worker (CHW) positions to connect residents with health resources addressing the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).



CARES Act Funding In Action

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

- Expanded the scope of contracts to provide enhanced supports for residents.
 - Including eviction prevention, mental health support, crisis/ trauma/ grief counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and other supportive services for families.
- Making Comcast Internet Essentials available to public housing households at no cost.
 - Purchase of Android tablets for residents participating in the housing authority's resident self-sufficiency programs, including but not limited to Section 3, FSS, and ROSS. This allows residents to connect virtually to programs and services.



CARES Act Funding In Action

Muckleshoot Housing Authority

- Upgrade housing office systems to “the cloud” to facilitate staff’s ability to telework.

Housing Authority of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

- Obtain the services of a consultant to write emergency policies to deal with a pandemic and provide staff training.

Kootenai Tribe

- The Housing Department will install sanitation stations in common areas of housing-related public facilities and other public spaces such as playgrounds, administration office, and gymnasium.

Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

- Construct six single family units for homeless and/or veterans impacted by COVID-19.



Impact of COVID on Residents Living in Federally-Assisted Housing

American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC) and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Survey Demographics

- Over 1,400 respondents from 49 states across the U.S.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) work at HUD Assisted Properties with over 80% serving seniors.

Key Findings

- **Limited uptake of video calls**--Limited by residents lacking reliable internet and the appropriate technology. Poor technology literacy further limits their uptake.
- **Over a quarter service coordinators report cases of COVID-19 in their buildings**--Barriers remain to social distancing and many residents do not have masks.
- **Many residents have avoided needed medical care**--Difficulties in obtaining medicines and obtaining help with activities of daily living have increased.
- **Psychological distress due to COVID-19 is high among residents**—Residents' express symptoms of loneliness and anxiety.
- **Majority of residences provide assistance with access to food**--Most service coordinators have facilitated food delivery or meal distribution.