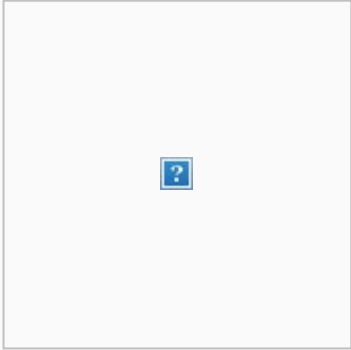


From: [MSHDA-HS](#)
Subject: MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 10/6/2021
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 4:20:21 PM

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From the Office of Homeless Solutions

- *ESG-CV Quarterly CAPER: October Deadline*
- *MSHDA ESG Policy Release and Webinar*
- *New and Updated ESG Forms*
- *GoSection8 Now Affordable Housing*
- *ESG and ESG-CV Waivers: Webinar and Materials Posted*
- *USICH: Delta Guidance for People Experiencing Homelessness*
- *Got a Question?*

ESG-CV Quarterly CAPER: October Deadline

As a reminder, MSHDA is submitting the quarterly ESG-CV CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) by October 29. The schedule of deadlines for all activities related to the CAPER submission can be found [here](#) and on our [MSHDA ESG website](#).

Please be sure to contact [Michelle Edwards](#) if you have any questions regarding the activities and deadlines

MSHDA ESG Policy Release & Webinar

Over the past two years, MSHDA has thoroughly reviewed its existing Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) policy in order to update language and direction to ensure alignment with HUD requirements and best practices. [This policy](#) is now available for review and application, and will be posted to the [MSHDA ESG website](#).

MSHDA will host a series of webinars to support ESG-funded agencies in their implementation of policy guidance and to field feedback and questions on the policy. The first webinar will focus on Sections I-IV of the policy document (Purpose, Guiding Principles, Federal and MSHDA Funding Requirements, and MSHDA ESG Components and Participant Eligibility). All webinars will be recorded and materials made available following each session.

MSHDA ESG Policy Webinar Series:

Session 1 - Sections I-IV

Tuesday, October 19 at 1pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please contact [Homeless Solutions](#) or your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist with any questions or comments.

[Jen Leaf](#) - Regions 1, 2, & 3

[Nicole Beagle](#) - Regions 4 & 9

[Stephanie Oles](#) - Regions 5, 7, & 8

[Michelle Edwards](#) - Regions 6 & 10

New and Updated ESG Forms

The following items are new or updated ESG forms. Each form is linked below and will be posted to the MSHDA ESG website as indicated.

- **NEW:** [ESG Emergency Shelter Repair and Maintenance Guide](#) - This document outlines eligible costs for repair or maintenance for congregate shelters under ESG and ESG-CV funding. With this guidance and the update MSHDA ESG Policy, grantees must obtain prior MSHDA approval for expenses over \$1,000. This guide will be added to the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Policy and Procedures.
- **NEW:** [ESG Emergency Shelter Minimum Habitability Standards Inspection Checklist](#) - This checklist will be a quarterly requirement for any ESG-funded emergency shelters as part of the updated MSHDA ESG Policy. MSHDA will provide further guidance on this checklist within the ESG Policy webinar series and other training materials. This checklist will be added to the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Policy and Procedures.
- **UPDATED:** [ESG Minimum Standards for Emergency Shelter](#) - These standards are updated to align with the updated MSHDA ESG Policy and will be on the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Policy and Procedures.
- **UPDATED:** [ESG and ESG-CV Fair Market Rent \(FMR\) Charts](#) - These charts are updated for FMR effective 10/1/2021. As a reminder, ESG allows for 100% of FMR and ESG-CV allows for 120% of FMR. These forms will be updated on the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Policy and Procedures.
- **UPDATED:** [ESG Income Eligibility Worksheet](#) - This form is updated to align with updated FMR charts (100% FMR for ESG and 120% FMR for ESG-CV). This form will be updated

on the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Participant File Forms.

- **CORRECTED:** [ESG Homelessness Prevention Certification](#)
- This form is corrected to note that households must be re-evaluated for service at three (3) months (incorrectly noted previously as six [6] months). This form will be updated on the [MSHDA ESG website](#) under Participant File Forms.

Please contact [MSHDA Homeless Solutions](#) or your assigned [Homeless Assistance Specialist](#) with any questions.

GoSection8 Now AffordableHousing.Com

In September, GoSection8.Com changed its name to AffordableHousing.Com. For any agencies using this website to complete rent reasonableness, the link automatically transfers to AffordableHousing.Com. Agency information was also carried over to the new site for ease of access.

Please contact [MSHDA ESGHelp](#) or your assigned [Homeless Assistance Specialist](#) with any questions regarding rent reasonableness or AffordableHousing.Com.

ESG and ESG-CV Waivers & Webinar: Materials Available

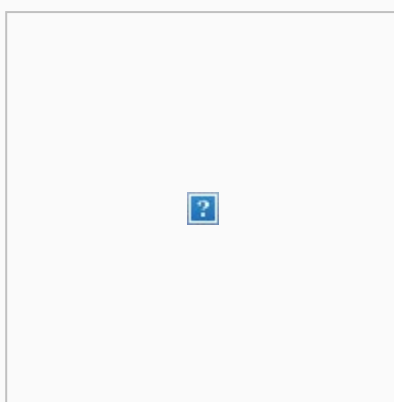
In the recent HUD notice ([ESG-CV CDP 21-08](#)), several waivers

were made available that impact ESG-CV funding and provide an array of additional eligible expenses. MSHDA has reviewed these waivers and released an [updated waiver document](#) that details both HUD and MSHDA waivers provided under ESG-CV and annual ESG funding. This waiver document supersedes previous versions of MSHDA waivers. The waiver document and [webinar recording link](#) are available on the [MSHDA ESG website](#).

CoCs and LPBs need to consider which waivers they will implement and must submit their choices to MSHDA to incorporate in current grant budgets and future monitoring activities. **The [ESG and ESG-CV Waivers Confirmation Form](#) is due by October 31 and must be submitted by ESG fiduciaries to the assigned [Homeless Assistance Specialist](#).**

We recognize this is an evolving opportunity, so MSHDA continues to track and review supplemental guidance as issued by HUD for these waivers.

Please contact [MSHDA Homeless Solutions](#) or your assigned [Homeless Assistance Specialist](#) with any questions.



[USICH Releases Delta Guidance for Protecting People Experiencing](#)

Homelessness

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released [new CDC-informed guidance](#) to help communities minimize the spread and impact of the Delta variant of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness. **The Delta variant is spreading rapidly**, particularly in places with low vaccination rates and among unvaccinated people; and people experiencing homelessness, especially those living in encampments or shelters, are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases.

“These recommendations should be implemented immediately to save lives,” said USICH Interim Executive Director Anthony Love. “It’s our duty, and in the public’s best interest, to protect vulnerable people. There’s perhaps nothing more vulnerable than not having a home to consider a safe space from an airborne disease that’s killed more than 600,000 Americans in roughly a year and become a leading cause of death.”

The new guidance, "[The Delta Variant: 5 Ways Communities Can Protect People Experiencing Homelessness](#)," was informed by CDC guidance and developed in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC), and the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). It offers the following **recommendations**:

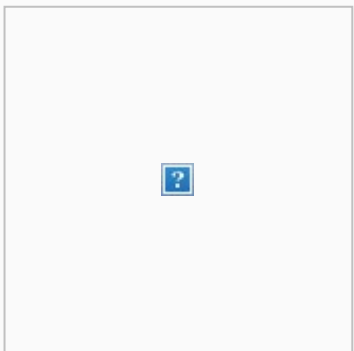
1. **Encourage and support vaccinations.**
2. **Strengthen routine testing, especially in congregate facilities.**
3. **Continue to use COVID-specific non-congregate shelter (NCS) for people who test positive, were exposed, or are at high risk of severe illness or death.**
4. **Maintain or re-institute COVID-19 mitigation protocols.**
5. **Continue to rehouse as many people as possible.**

While it’s important for all homeless services staff, volunteers, and clients to get vaccinated as soon as possible, USICH stresses that **being fully vaccinated should *not* be treated as a prerequisite to receive shelter, housing, or**

services; and regardless of vaccination status, all homeless services staff, volunteers, and clients should continue wearing masks and physically distancing.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides many ways to fund these recommendations. To learn how to leverage those resources, read USICH's recently-released [guide to the ARP funding that impacts people experiencing homelessness](#). In recent weeks, for instance, HHS announced that it would use the American Rescue Plan to [invest an additional \\$80 million](#) in state and local testing and mitigation for homeless encampments and shelters.

For more COVID guidance and resources, [click here](#).



Got a Question?

We want to hear from you! Send us an [email](#) with questions you have about Homeless Solutions and we'll follow up. If we receive a lot emails with the same question, we'll share the question and response in the next newsletter.

Our mailing address is:

735 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48909
