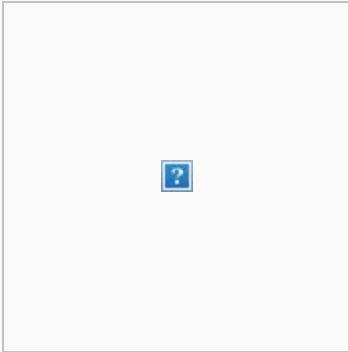


**From:** [MSHDA-HS](#)  
**Subject:** MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 3/17/2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:14:27 PM

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## From the Office of Homeless Solutions

- *Message to all ESG Grantees*
- *MCAH Update: ROIs*
- *ESG Forms Update: Travel Rates and Utility Allowance*
- *Update: BMCC*
- *Got a Question?*

### **Message to All ESG Grantees**

This is a critical time for all of our communities and that means the services each of you provide are more important than ever. This is especially true for HARAs and emergency shelters. Many of you are making decisions this week about how best to continue these services. **Please consider the following:**

Remain open and accessible to those most in need: This is the time to think creatively about providing services in ways that reduce unnecessary contact. Consider technology where feasible (phone, web-based), mailing documents or using secured, physical drop-boxes for receiving documents, etc.

Take steps to ensure safety for everyone: Follow CDC guidance on social distancing, frequent cleaning of spaces and items,

lessening congestion in public spaces, and remote work where feasible. You can find this information and more on the [State of Michigan website](#).

Review ESG budgets and consider any changes your CoC or LPB may need: HUD provided guidance on eligible purchases through approved budget lines. You can view this guidance [here](#). If your CoC or LPB would like to adjust budget line items to complete these purchases, please contact your MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialist.

**Specific HARA Request:**

Please submit HARA operation plans to your MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialist as soon as possible. Specifically, any changes to operations during this time and how community members can still access services (i.e. phone assessments, physical drop-box for documents, etc).

**ESG and Rental Unit Inspections:**

For participants moving into new, vacant rental units (either through homeless prevention or rapid re-housing), it is still necessary to complete a Habitability Standards Inspection. These units are typically empty and can be inspected safely with appropriate social distancing. Inspections of occupied units can be postponed until the unit can be safely accessed.

**HCV Homeless Preference - ROIs and Recertifications:**

HARAs can secure verbal ROIs for HCV Homeless Preference at this time. Please note the use of verbal ROI on the HCV ROI document. Recertifications of homelessness can be acquired by phone or email contact but information of current homeless location must be detailed and descriptive.

Thank you all so much for your continued service. MSHDA staff

remain accessible to answer questions and provide support during this time. We are currently working with staff from MDHHS and MCAH to provide additional information for all partners on the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness website and we will notify everyone as soon as this is available.

In the meantime, stay connected to the latest updates with [HUD](#), the [State of Michigan](#), and the [CDC](#). Also, please send any ESG questions to the [Homeless Solutions email](#) and we'll work with you as quickly as possible.



## **Oral ROI for COVID-19 Intakes in HMIS**

MCAH received a critical ask from agencies about how to handle client intakes in cases where agencies are conducting phone only interviews due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The following is an oral release of information document that your agencies can use in lieu of getting a signed paper ROI. Of note, this oral ROI was developed specifically for the COVID-19 emergency and should only be used during the pandemic itself. Agencies should revert back to their standard release protocols when they resume normal operations.

[HMIS COVID-19 Oral Release of Information Guidance Document](#)

If you have any questions, please submit them to the [MCAH Help Desk](#).

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## ESG: Updated Travel Rates and Utility Allowance

Updated travel rates and utility allowance documents are available on the [MSHDA ESG website](#). These rates became effective January 1, 2020. Please contact [MSHDA Homeless Solutions](#) with any questions.

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In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan

Department of Health and Human Services' [recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), **the Building Michigan Communities Conference scheduled for April 28 – 29 has been canceled.**

The state is taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in reducing the risk of coronavirus to Michigan residents.

**For current and up-to-date information regarding the Coronavirus visit <http://www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus> or <http://www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus>.**

We are working to process refunds and expect to have that completed by the end of the week.



## **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.

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**Our mailing address is:**  
735 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48909