

From: [MSHDA-HS](#)
Subject: MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 3/31/2020
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From the Office of Homeless Solutions

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Reminder: ESG Grantee Updates

Please see the list below of MSHDA ESG temporary policy updates shared in March 2020. These policy updates will remain in place until further notice:

Signatures for ESG Forms:

ESG grantees can accept verbal "signatures" on ESG forms during this time.

- Notate as "verbal signature" for each form completed.
- Provide staff initials and date when collecting the verbal signature.
- Track verbal signatures and plan to secure actual signatures on ESG forms when feasible and safe to do so.

Specific HARA Request:

Please continue to submit updated HARA operation plans to your MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialist as they happen. Specifically, please include any changes to operations during this time and how community members can still access services (i.e. phone assessments, etc).

HCV Homeless Preference:

- HARAs can secure verbal ROIs for HCV Homeless Preference at this time. Please note the use of verbal ROI on the HCV ROI document.
- Effective 3/20/20, deadlines for re-certifications of homelessness for all current applications will be extended an additional 60 days during the period of the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. New applications completed during this time will still be subject to the 120-day re-certification deadline and all re-certifications will still need to be completed within the 30-day window prior to the deadline.
- The timeline to complete HCV Homeless Preference applications is extended from **5 days to 30 business days** until further notice.

ESG and Rental Unit Inspections:

- If your agency helps households move into new rental units during the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, it is still necessary to complete a Habitability Standards Inspection.
 - Inspections can be completed virtually as long as the Habitability Standards can be checked and completed in real time. For example, landlords could use Facetime or other platforms to engage directly with agency staff and walk through the unit to demonstrate each requirement and standard of the inspection checklist.
 - Inspections of occupied units can be postponed until the unit can be safely accessed.
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Rapid Re-Housing - Extension of Rental Assistance Cap:

MSHDA ESG's six (6) month cap for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) rental assistance is currently extended to nine (9) months, as needed. Please be aware that without direction from HUD, we cannot extend the rental assistance cap for households accessing homelessness prevention rental assistance.

Thank you all so much for your continued service. MSHDA staff remain accessible to answer questions and provide support during this time.

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.**

MSHDA ESG HARA Peer-to-Peer Webinar: Notes, Recordings, and Upcoming Webinars

Thank you to everyone who was able to join the peer-to-peer webinars hosted by MSHDA for rural and urban HARAs - and special thanks to all the HARAs that provided examples of their current operations in these unprecedented times. The notes and recordings from each webinar are shared below.

Rural HARA Peer-to-Peer: [Notes](#) and [Webinar Recording](#)
Urban HARA Peer-to-Peer: [Notes](#) and [Webinar Recording](#)

Based on feedback from these webinars, MSHDA will work on scheduling additional peer-to-peer webinar opportunities for HARAs over the next several weeks. A separate communication on this will be

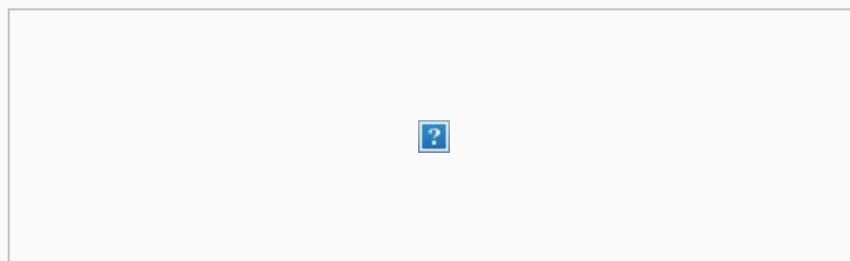
shared soon. Thank you again for all you continue to do for your communities!

COVID-19 Resource Page on the Campaign Website

The Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness website has a [new page](#) dedicated to homeless service providers to access information regarding COVID-19 from state partners and other national resources.

View the page [here!](#)

This page will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. Please continue to send questions regarding homeless services and COVID-19 to MDHHS-homeless@michigan.gov.



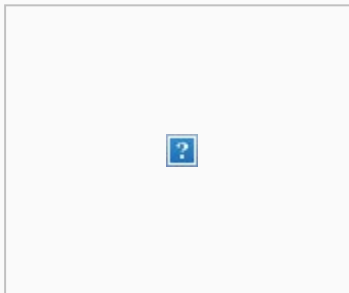
Homeless Providers: Where to Direct COVID-19 Questions

In order to best assist homeless providers through this difficult crisis, we want to encourage you to **send any questions you have about the Coronavirus outbreak *and* providing services during this time**

to MDHHS-homeless@michigan.gov. MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services will be working with our state partners to get you the answers you need as quickly as possible.

In addition, we will be routinely sharing frequently asked questions and answers to help broadly share information.

Thank you for all your efforts,
The MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services team



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](#).



MCAH, Coronavirus, and You

We are in uncertain times in Michigan. The coronavirus and the disease it causes, COVID-19, is spreading through our communities. Our government has taken action to try to contain it and many communities are working independently to find ways to protect some of our most vulnerable members.

We all know that individuals experiencing homelessness are going to be some of the hardest people to protect and serve right now.

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) is working with our partners from the [Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness](#), including MDHHS and MSHDA, to coordinate and inform our communities as they work through this unique situation. Things are changing rapidly, and will continue to do so for a long time to come. **We hope in the following days to be able to share resources and information with you and to continue to be your partner throughout this entire public health emergency.**

In the meantime, we are asking that you help us understand how the coronavirus is affecting your community and what you need to best address the challenges you're facing. **We know it's a busy time, but please take a few minutes to answer these short questions [here](#).**

This information will help us and our state partners understand what we can be doing with our advocacy, coordination, and more to best help Michigan communities.

As we all fight to provide the best care for the people we serve, we at MCAH want to pause to say thank you. Right now you are all making hard decisions and working in difficult circumstances. We are grateful for you and all that you are doing. Thank you.

Stay healthy,

The MCAH team

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.

Our mailing address is:

735 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48909

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