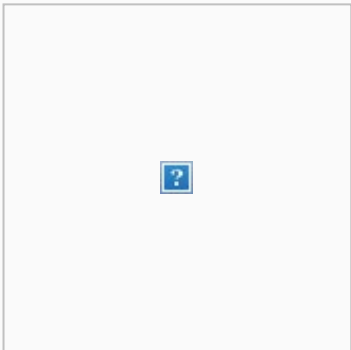


From: [MSHDA-HS](#)
Subject: MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 5/10/2021
Date: Monday, May 10, 2021 2:20:04 PM

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From the Office of Homeless Solutions

- *HUD Huddle: American Rescue Plan*
- *Update: ESG Application FY21-22*
- *AmeriCorps Host Sites: Applications Due*
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HUD Huddle: American Rescue Plan

Tuesday, May 11 at 11am

HUD Technical Assistance has been organizing huddles for ESG-CV recipients, subrecipients, and Continuums of Care to come together on a regional level and discuss hot topics impacting our work. Below is information on the upcoming huddle on **Tuesday, May 11th at 11am-**

11:45am ET. This is a regional huddle with Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Please feel free to share this information within your local networks.

New resources made available through the American Rescue Plan will provide significant financial resources to house those experiencing homelessness. This huddle will talk through the details of these new resources with a specific focus on HOME-ARP and Emergency Housing Vouchers. The discussion will help communities consider how to best to work with partners to use these funds quickly and strategically to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Meeting Information:

Date: Tuesday, May 11th

Time: 11:00-11:45 ET

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Join Zoom Meeting at [this link](#)

ESG FY2021-2022: Application Update

MSHDA is preparing the application for the next Emergency Solutions Grant (fiscal year 2021-2022).

- ***Anticipated Release: Early June***
- ***Anticipated Submission Deadline: Early August***

As a reminder, MSHDA will not provide additional funding under Pay for Performance as part of the FY21-22 funding round but CoCs and LPBs are still required to review and

submit their measures as part of the funding application.

MSHDA will hold a webinar in June to review the application and all required documents. More information to come!

AmeriCorps Host Sites:

Applications Due Friday, May 28

Are you interested in using national service to increase services and capacity? Consider hosting an AmeriCorps member through one of MCAH's AmeriCorps Programs!

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness AmeriCorps Program is a direct-service based program that places members with housing and homeless service agencies in order to provide direct, targeted services to individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. **Applications are due Friday, May 28th and the RFP can be downloaded at bit.ly/2021AmeriCorpsRFP.**

The Capacity Building to End Homelessness AmeriCorps VISTA Program is a capacity-building focused program, placing members with housing and homeless service agencies wanting to expand their scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness in order to provide services and eliminate poverty. *Applications are due Friday, May 14th and the RFP can be downloaded at bit.ly/2021VISTARFP.*

For inquiries, please contact Kelli Beavers
at kbeavers@mihomeless.org.

Don't forget: MSHDA can help HARAs

with 50% of the match requirement for any AmeriCorps position!

Go Section 8 Reminder

For participants receiving Homelessness Prevention (HP) or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) rental assistance, household rent must comply with HUD's standard of rent reasonableness, meaning that the rent charged for a unit:

- Must be reasonable in relation to rents currently being charged for comparable units in the private unassisted market; and
- Must not be in excess of rents currently being charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units.

Grantees and subgrantees are required to use Go Section 8 to ensure this guideline has been met. As most of you are aware, Go Section 8 has made the rent reasonableness process better and easier to manage, but there is still room for improvement.

In an effort to make this more efficient, 6 survey units will now be used to establish comparability instead of 3. The reason for this change is that the more units that are used for comparability, the more likely it is to find units to make the contract unit comparable. However, with this change, you may see more duplicate units. MSHDA's ESG policy requires 3 comparable units, so at least 3 of the units must be unique (not duplicate units).

Friendly Reminder: Rent reasonableness requirements **do not** apply when a program participant receives only financial assistance or services under HUD's Housing Stabilization and Relocation Services. This includes housing search and placement, housing stability case

management, mediation, legal services, rental application fees, security deposits, utility payments/deposits, and/or moving costs.

Additional Go Section 8 information can be found on the [MSHDA ESG website](#).

Updated Forms and Guidance for ESG and ESG-CV

MSHDA has updated the following forms and posted them on the [MSHDA ESG website](#). **Unless otherwise noted, all forms are effective 1/1/2021.**

- **Update - [Translated Forms](#)**: All required and optional MSHDA ESG forms are now available with Spanish and Arabic translations.
- **Update - [Income Charts](#)**: These charts are updated and effective 5/1/2021.
- **Update - [ESG and ESG-CV Waivers](#)**: This document outlines all currently available waivers for ESG and/or ESG-CV funds. This document replaces all previous documents referencing waivers due to COVID-19 and is located under [Policies and Procedures](#) on the MSHDA ESG website.
- **Update - [Waiver of SER Denial](#)**: This participant form is updated to include new eligibilities for waiver related to imminent loss of housing.
- **Update - [Rental Assistance Agreement](#)**: This participant form is updated to include the new signing bonus landlord incentive, eligible only under ESG-CV.
- **Update - [Utility Allowance Schedule](#) and [Travel Rates](#)**

Schedule: These schedules are updated to reflect figures for 2021.

- **Update** - Participant File Checklist: This participant form is updated to denote that documentation of identification is optional.
- **New** - ESG-CV Landlord Incentive for Repair and Maintenance: This participant form must be used in conjunction with documented eligible costs for payment or reimbursement to the landlord of a household under ESG-CV only.

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

HCV Homeless Preference: Updated Policy & Webinar

MSHDA Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) include a preference within the application waitlist for those experiencing homelessness. Often, this is the only means by which a household can be added to the waitlist. HARAs are the only agencies permitted to add households to the waitlist via this preference.

Now more than ever, it is critical that communities ensure anyone

who is not currently on the waitlist but is experiencing homelessness is added to the HCV waitlist right away. MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialists will provide updates on the waitlist each month to better inform CoC and Local Planning Body discussions.

The [policy](#) outlining the parameters and requirements for this process has been updated and is available on the [MSHDA ESG website](#). A link to last month's recorded webinar with MSHDA on this topic can be [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

ESG Homelessness Prevention and the Eviction Moratorium

During the [eviction moratorium](#), homelessness prevention services can still be administered under ESG and ESG-CV funding. There are additional factors and circumstances beyond eviction under which a household may seek homelessness prevention assistance. These are detailed in the [Homelessness Prevention Certification form](#) on the [MSHDA ESG website](#).

Additionally, [HUD has confirmed](#) that if a landlord proceeds with

an eviction in violation of the eviction moratorium, the household would still qualify for ESG homelessness prevention assistance. In these situations, providers are encouraged to pursue other options first, such as explaining the terms of the applicable eviction moratorium to the landlord or enlisting legal services.

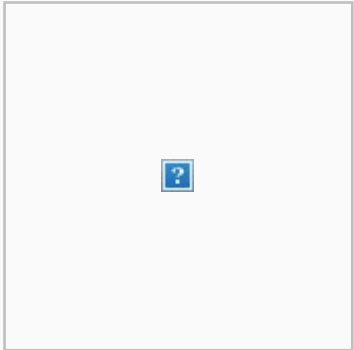
Please contact your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist if you have any questions.

Master Leasing: Initial Overview from MSHDA

Several communities and ESG-funded partners have asked for more information and guidance regarding master leasing as an additional approach to Rapid Re-Housing. [This initial overview](#) provides some framework and recommendations when considering master leasing. This guidance will be posted to the [MSHDA ESG website](#).

Additionally, ESG-funded partners are encouraged to consider any viable opportunities for shared housing. More information regarding shared housing models can be found through the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) and [HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research](#).

MSHDA is interested in hearing from any communities with current or previous master leasing and/or shared housing experience to assist in developing additional, future guidance on these topics. Please feel free to reach out to your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist or our [MSHDA-HS email](#).



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
