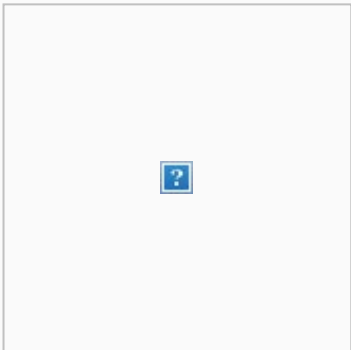


From: [MSHDA-HS](#)
Subject: MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 8/26/2021
Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021 1:59:00 PM

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From the Office of Homeless Solutions

- *Annual ESG CAPER: September Deadline*
- *ESG FY21-22 Grants: Update*
- *Forthcoming ESG and ESG-CV Waiver Document & Webinar*
- *USICH: Delta Guidance for People Experiencing Homelessness*
- *Maintaining Access & Inclusion: Benefits of Virtual Options*
- *MDHHS: COVID-19 Updates*
- *Got a Question?*

Annual ESG CAPER: **September Deadline**

This week, MSHDA notified leadership from Continuums of Care (CoCs), Local Planning Bodies (LPBs), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) fiduciaries that the **initial submission of the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for annual ESG funds is due to the assigned [Homeless Assistance Specialist](#) by Friday, September 3 at 5pm.** Initial submissions will be reviewed by the Specialists and additional instructions provided to submit the final CAPER in Sage.

All final CAPERs are due in Sage by Friday, September 24 at 5pm.

If you are one of the points of contact listed above and you did not receive this information from your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist, please contact them and/or Michelle Edwards for assistance.

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

ESG FY2021-2022 Grants: Update

MSHDA is reviewing all submitted applications and will send out grant agreements in early September. MSHDA will accept electronically signed grant documents to execute grants. Original signatures are still required by mail but will be accepted late as long as electronically signed documents are submitted on time.

Please note: No costs can be incurred for these grants without signed grant documents submitted to MSHDA prior to the grant start date (10/1/2021). Fiduciaries, CoCs, and LPBs are encouraged to prepare their signature processes now to ensure that electronic signatures are completed and returned before 10/1/2021.

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

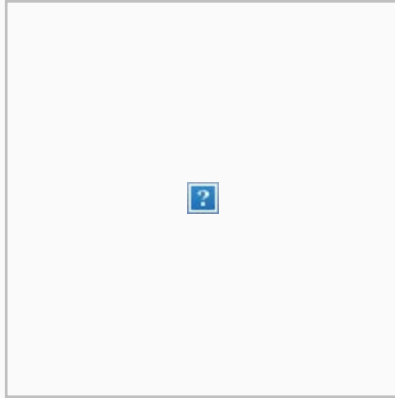
Forthcoming ESG and ESG-CV Waiver Document and Webinar

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 will release an updated waiver document that details both HUD and MSHDA waivers provided under ESG-CV and annual ESG funding. This waiver document will supersede previous versions of MSHDA waivers. Following release of the document, CoCs and LPBs will be asked to consider which waivers they plan to implement and will submit their choices to MSHDA to incorporate in current grant budgets and future monitoring activities. We recognize this is an evolving opportunity, so MSHDA continues to track and review supplemental guidance as issued by HUD for these waivers.

MSHDA will host a webinar to review the new waiver document on Thursday, September 16 at 3:30pm. This webinar will be recorded and posted to the MSHDA ESG website.

[Register Here](#)

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](#).

Maintaining Access & Inclusion: Benefits of Virtual Options

Starting in July, State of Michigan staff returned to office sites in some measure and are allowed to travel in the field. We recognize this step as important progress in Michigan's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As each CoC and LPB considers their strategies for meetings and work moving forward, it's important to acknowledge how virtual options have increased accessibility for all partners - both state and local - and increased inclusiveness. **Here are some ideas for incorporating virtual options to support long-term collaborative work:**

- Secure a service (like Zoom, Google, or GoTo Meeting) to host meetings via internet or by phone.*
- Choose a hybrid meeting model where face to face and virtual participation are both available options.
- Consider a rotating schedule that alternates face to face meetings with virtual meetings to maintain some level of inclusive participation.

**LPBs: The Balance of State CoC has funding available to help pay these costs! Contact [Jessica Mays](#), CoC Coordinator, for more information.*

As your CoC/LPB determines meeting structures moving forward, please be sure to notify your assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist of any changes.

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

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

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

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



COVID-19 Updates

With the number of positive COVID cases up in Michigan and across the country, we are encouraging all our providers to please continue to follow guidance from your local health department on masks and social distancing. If you have questions, please reach out to us at MDHHS-homeless@michigan.gov

Don't forget! **Schedule a visit from one of our mobile vaccine teams today!** They can come to your location or work with you to visit multiple sites! MDHHS-Homeless@michigan.gov

Testing is still available! The Honu testing teams can deliver regular on-site testing at your location AND your organization can get trained and approved to deliver rapid COVID-19 tests at your convenience. Contact us at MDHHS-Homeless@michigan.gov for more information.

Have a question about COVID-19 or ongoing efforts to respond to COVID-19? Please reach out to us: MDHHS-homeless@michigan.gov



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