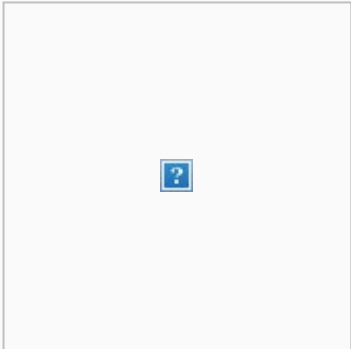


**From:** [MSHDA-HS](#)  
**Subject:** MSHDA Homeless Solutions Newsletter 4/13/2020  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2020 4:47:50 PM

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## From the Office of Homeless Solutions

- *Update on CARES Act and ESG Funds*
- *Ongoing Reminders to ESG Grantees*
- *MSHDA HARA Webinars: Update*
- *COVID-19 Resource Page on Campaign Website*
- *Where to Direct COVID-19 Questions*
- *Got a Question?*

## **CARES Act and ESG Funds: What We Know Now**

**MSHDA ESG funded agencies are encouraged to review [this link](#) (updated for 4/13/20) and referenced [PDF](#) for an update regarding the ESG portion of the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), its impact and relationship to current MSHDA ESG funds, and the waiver requests in process under MSHDA ESG.**

During this time, all Continua of Care (CoCs) and Local Planning Bodies (LPBs) are encouraged to develop plans for use of the CARES Act MSHDA ESG funding, as soon as it becomes

available. Plans should take into consideration the following:

- **How CARES Act ESG funds can work in coordination with other available funding streams**
- **Engaging local landlords during this crisis and beyond to quickly and effectively continue housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness**
- **Balancing any immediate needs such as emergency shelter with longer range planning around homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing**

*There will be periodic updates as new information becomes available. Please be sure to contact your MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialist if you have any questions.*

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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.

### **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.**

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## **MSHDA ESG HARA Peer-to-Peer Webinars: Updates**

Based on the feedback from the March 26th peer-to-peer webinars for HARAs, MSHDA will host a second round for HARAs on Thursday, April 16th. Please use the links below to register.

**Rural HARA Peer-to-Peer:** [Thursday, April 16 at 1pm](#)

**Urban HARA Peer-to-Peer:** [Thursday, April 16 at 3pm](#)

Thank you to everyone who was able to join last week's webinars. The notes and recordings from each webinar are shared below.

March 26th Rural HARA Peer-to-Peer:

[Notes](#) and [Webinar Recording](#)

March 26th Urban HARA Peer-to-Peer:

[Notes](#) and [Webinar Recording](#)

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## 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](mailto:MDHHS-homeless@michigan.gov).

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### 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](mailto: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

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## 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

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