COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Recording:**

**Topic:** COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)

**Date:** Apr 22, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
April 22nd Agenda

City of Austin / Austin Public Health

ECHO – Local Operations

Agency Updates

Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, April 24th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA/ APH – Laura Foss


- 1233 COVID-19 cases in Travis County, 25 deaths and 331 people recovered
  - At least 32 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 2 that have recovered
    - The count of cases among people experiencing homelessness is likely an undercount due to private labs and providers not necessarily recording each person’s housing status when they test
  - Demographic information on cases available at http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19
- Integral Care behavioral health teams are providing remote services at IsoFac and ProLodge sites
- New order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating everyone must wear a fabric mask when outside the home or in public
  - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals in still in affect
- Working to set up additional protective lodging site, ProLodge 3
- Austin City Council approved allocating $15 million from their emergency reserve fund, RISE (Relief in a State of Emergency)
  - Funding will go towards improving food access, case management, and assistance with rent/mortgage, utilities, and medical and childcare expenses
  - More info at http://www.austintexas.gov/rise
Food access for people experiencing homelessness
- Prepared meal distribution beginning today
  - Contract signed with Revolution Foods
- Zach Shlachter is acting as the volunteer coordinator for people who would like to help with food distribution
  - Zach can be reached at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
  - City is looking for community partners/volunteers to assist with distributing prepared meals on the weekends
- Wes Bickham is the contact at to access the shelf-stable food bags being distributed out of the convention center
  - For information on availability and how to access food bags, call Wes at 512-492-5826
- In final stages of creating a web-based food distribution survey that will collect data on the number of food bags, meals, and water distributed to specific sites.

Communications
- Setting up an “Incident Command” through EOC specifically for homelessness
  - Will help provide more access to personal and integrate command operations, planning, and logistics
- Contact Lara Foss to have updates added to the City’s COVID-19 homelessness information page
  - lara.foss@austintexas.gov

DACC
- Continues to offer walk in case management triage services, 8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday
- Served 471 individuals total

Motel Conversion Strategy
- City closed on purchasing Rodeway Inn
  - Will be starting renovations soon

Over the next year, the City of Austin expects to receive approx. $20.8 million in federal funding through 4 different HUD formula grants
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- This includes funding the City is expecting through the CARES act (COVID-19 relief)
- Information on HUD grants: https://www.austintexas.gov/fy2020-21-action-plan
- Public input on HUD grants: https://www.speakupaustin.org/housing-and-urban-development-spending-plan

ECHO Updates – Laura Evanoff
- ECHO is hosting a Permanent Housing virtual meeting tomorrow, 4/23/20, from 10 – 11:30am
  - Will be reviewing guidance for CoC programs that have applied for HUD grant waivers including record keeping standards and how to request amendments for grants
  - Updated information on evictions will also be discussed

Agency Updates
- No updates

Chat Box
From larafoss to Everyone: 09:01 AM
http://austintexas.gov/covid19
FUNDING WEBSITE: http://www.austintexas.gov/ri
e All RISE funding questions should be sent to: RISEFunding@AustinTexas.gov
Volunteer for Food Access - Zach Shlachter can be reached at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
austintexas.gov/homelessness If you have updates you can email Lara Foss at
lara.foss@austintexas.gov
Information on HUD grants: https://www.austintexas.gov/fy2020-21-action-plan
Public input on HUD grants: https://www.speakupaustin.org/housing-and-urban-development-spending-plan

From Laura Evanoff to Everyone: 09:01 AM
Thanks Lara!

From Me to Everyone: 09:01 AM
HUD Office Hours are every Friday: https://www.hudexchange.info/news/office-hours-covid-19-planning-response-for-homeless-assistance-providers-fridays/
Permanent Housing Program Meeting - tomorrow from 10 - 11:30.
https://zoom.us/j/96000641696 Meeting ID: 960 0064 1696

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:05 AM
I got a bunch of RISE questions answered yesterday. happy to share what I learned with any agencies here. if anyone else has received more information about this funding opportunity I’d love to hear from you.
DylanS@hacanet.org

From larafoss to Everyone: 09:07 AM
Wes Bickham is the contact at the Convention Center for shelf stable bags you can contact him for information and availability at 512-492-5826

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:09 AM
I wouldn’t say all of them...

From kaleigh to Everyone: 09:09 AM
Thanks Laura!