**To:** Gatekeepers
**From:** Homeless Services Section Staff
**Date:** 4/14/2020

**Please distribute to:** ☒Executive Directors ☐Fiscal Staff ☒Homeless Services Program Staff ☒Rental Assistance Program Staff

**Category:** Program Informational

**Update For: COVID-19 Homeless Prevention Planning tool**
☒Training: Resources

**Message:**

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## COVID-19 Homeless Prevention Planning Assistance Tools

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The crisis of COVID-19 presents all of us with a great number of unforeseen circumstances and challenges, to which we must now respond. As Community Action Agencies, you play a critical role in responding to this crisis and providing critical assistance to the people in your communities. While homeless prevention services have always been an essential element of the array of services provided by CAAs, in the months ahead it is likely that homeless prevention assistance will become a significant piece of responding to this crisis. In recognizing the enormity of the situation and the challenges and additional work load that the CAAs are, and will be, experiencing the OHCS Homeless Services Section is committed to assisting you through this crisis, and supporting you in your ability to respond to the needs of your communities. This will be an ongoing process and we will be working to bring you information and tools as quickly, and reliably as possible.

Thus, the Homeless Services Section in collaboration with the OHCS Research Team are presenting these Excel tools to assist you with thinking about the potential range of need for homeless prevention assistance, and different scenarios for how you might be able to respond. As we do not and cannot know what all of the factors that will influence the need are, and how they will change, the purpose of these tools is not to identify a precise number of people or dollar amount in terms of homeless prevention assistance. Rather these tools will enable you to consider broadly a range of different scenarios and think about the ways that various factors can influence one another. Additionally, you can utilize the information that you have about those you serve in your community and how you serve them, to start to think about and plan your response in a strategic fashion.

The Planning tool utilizes publicly available data sets from:

- State of Oregon Employment Department: Number of unemployment claims and number of unemployment claims by industry, by county. For 3/1/2020 – 4/4/2020
- HUD: 2020 FMRs by housing unit size, by county.

- US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS): 2018 5-year estimates for housing unit size distribution (Studio – 4 bedroom) by county.

Homeless Services will be offering two webinars to provide further assistance and direction with the use of these tools; these webinars will cover the same information but provides two opportunities to meet different scheduling needs. These webinars will be held on 4/15/2020. at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm & 4/16/2020 8:30 am – 9:30 am. You are welcome to ask questions at that time. Please see the webinar information.

**For More Information Contact:**
**Name:**    Shawnn Hartley
**Phone:**   503-986-6859
**Email:**   Shawnn.hartley@oregon.gov