

To: Gatekeepers
From: Homeless Services Section Staff
Date: 5/1/2020

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

Category: Funding Informational

Update For: COVID FUNDING

Message:

As many of you know, last Thursday the Joint Emergency Board convened to determine and prioritize the need for new COVID 19 resources. A number of investments were made, notably **there are new state resources coming down the pike**, applicable to this group the new resources are as follows:

- \$12 million in total is allocated to OHCS; \$8.5 million towards safe sheltering and rental assistance (targeting 50% AMI) and \$3.5 million specifically for farmworkers and those experiencing homelessness
- You can learn more about Emergency Board investments [here](#)

What's next for the \$8.5 million portion of this funding?

- The funds will be disbursed formulaically, using the EHA needs based formula as a foundation
- COVID 19 data may be incorporated; as many of you 'hardest hit' communities is not solely defined by number of cases—this is particularly important for our rural communities and want to ensure due diligence with our process
- The target population is 50% AMI; OHCS will draft guidance and expectations regarding operating rental assistance under this new environment as well as considerations for eligibility/prioritization schemas
- Funds will go out via the MGA—our goal is to have funds out the door in the next weeks

What's next for the \$3.5 million portion of this funding?

- We are excited to have a carve out of funds for our farmworkers; an essential and often unprotected population, recent OHA data highlights that Oregon's Latino population are disproportionately impacted by COVID 19. Learn more [here](#)
- OHCS will be working directly with culturally specific agencies to learn more about the needs of Oregon farmworkers and to help drive authentic and optimal use of funds

Other updates

- This week's HSC meeting (audio only) will include a broad overview of 21-23 legislative planning ideas, please participate if you are able to
- I append a broad overview of our COVID 19 strategy---this is not exhaustive but rather provides a lay of the land

- **Next week we will hold stakeholder outreach regarding Housing Stabilization's agenda**, here is the information to participate:
Date: Tuesday, May 5th
Time: 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM
(see original email)
- We received a formal request from a few agency leaders and other stakeholders regarding **Categorical Eligibility**, I know this in front and center for a lot of you—*please know that I hear you loud and clear and more dialogue is to come very soon*
- ESG: not date as of yet when funds will arrive, our engagement efforts are being formed and will fill you in on details on a soon to be scheduled call
- CSBG: a special THANK YOU to leaders of the floor agencies for your honest feedback during our CSBG call, while we are not changing the formula at this time (to come in the near future) will be making a portion of the admin./discretionary funds available
- Housing Stabilization is actively in process simulation so that we can continue to move swiftly and expeditiously in getting both federal and state dollars out

Regarding COVID 19 ESG, I am providing you with allocation **estimates** (see original email). Here are some things to know as you review this as a preparation tool:

1. This is based on the COVID 19 ESG award letter citing an award of \$6.7 m to OHCS – no funds have been received yet
2. The formulaic methodology is not new, **estimate figures** are based on an existing formula
3. These are **pure estimates**—there will be variance between our estimates and actuals

As we navigate the way forward, we are entering into a rebuild and recover phase which will undoubtedly be a marathon versus a sprint. Please keep me in the loop with how your feeling, what you need any concerns you may have. The human experience is about overcoming adversity by being resilient—which is so much easier said (or typed) than done. We remain committed to leading with grantee/partner and community care. After all, *we are in this together*.

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