



Statewide Homeless Populations Task Force

Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF 6)

Mass Care Operations Team (MCOT)

Agenda

DATE: **Friday, May 8th , 2020**
TIME: 10:00am to 11:30am
Zoom URL: <https://zoom.us/j/7217534128>



Agenda Items and Discussion

Introductions, Welcome, and Taskforce Updates – 15 min

Zoom Meeting Housekeeping Notes

Connor McDonnell, Kimber Townsend

State Agency Updates – 30 min

- **Oregon Housing & Community Services Funding Update on “COVID -19 Rent Relief Program”**
- **Oregon Health Authority on Regional Emergency Coordinators**
- **Dept. of Human Services Updates**

Andrea Bell

Wes Rivers

Ashley Marshall

Regional Updates by Continuum of Care (CoC) Geographic Areas – 30 min

Local Designated Point-of-Contact

In Focus: League of Cities Introduction and Update – 15 minutes

Ariel Nelson

Adjourn

Questionnaire to follow

Meeting Summary and Notes

Connor McDonnell – Meeting Facilitator

If you want to capture any of the notable items you had briefed

Current OHCS Funding Updates: Sam Kenney

OHCS is working to dispersing COVID-19 relief funds to local partners. \$12 Million dollars have been allocated to OHCS through the federal funds; \$8.5 Million is allocated to rental assistance and \$3.5 Million in "Safe sheltering" that will be dedicated to Agriculture Farmworkers and others experiencing homelessness.

\$8.5M in Rent Relief Program will be dispersed to Community Action Agencies, using the existing Master Grant Agreement with a needs-based formula to properly allocate throughout the state. The major difference between these new Rent Relief funds is that there is an addition to include COVID-19 data, and help to target hardest hit communities.

\$3.5M for farmworkers and other experiencing homelessness. Latino communities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic so the intent with these new funds is to mitigate and reserves some of these disturbing trends. OHCS will be working directly with cultural specific organizations and continuum of care offices to learn more about the needs' of Oregon's farmworkers.

Federal CARES package: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) – no date as of yet, has been set for these funds to arrive. OHCS will be taking advantage of all COVID-19 waivers to optimize flexibility at the local level. When these funds are available there will be a public comment time, but it will be shortened to accommodate the urgency necessary and only for 5 days instead of the regular 30 days. When we have that information, we will make it available.

2019 Amendment is being finalized so we can receive these federal funds. We have not received word when that will be available but we are working hard internally to be prepared and ready to allocate those as well. Additional information about these breakdowns are available on the OHCS COVID-19 website. – End of Brief-

Q1-Connor: Reiterate that these funds are not in the community yet, unlike some reports being seen. These funds are still being worked down the system and have not reached the Community Action Agency level.

Q2- Sam: Specific details about the Needs Based Formula information comes directly from our Research division. The formula used was the same as other relief funds already in practice such as the Emergency Housing Assistance, what is different is taking into consideration about unemployment data.

Q3- Sam: Prequalifying and prepping at the local level to help expedite is a good compromise and Sam Kenney is available to speak more directly about that offline. Funds should be going out Friday or Monday (May 11th).

Q4- Sam: These funds will be accessible through Homelessness Prevention Rental Assistance or Rapid Rehousing Rental Assistance, so if you are set up to provide those resources these funds will be available. Program guidance that was issued yesterday includes rental assistance so that would be an allowable expense.

Q5-Sam: COVID-19 Rapid Refunding is going out after the implementation report is complete and approved. This was sent out Thursday May 7th and once MGM is amended those funds can be released.

Q6- Connor: FEMA funding match is being discussed and Connor is available offline to discuss this further. Each county and city is different and has filed those claims, FEMA makes the determination and available to be used as a reimbursement. There are a lot of uncertainty in this because it is not known how these reimbursements go and ongoing homelessness/ housing type of work.

Q7: Sam: \$3.5M allocations are beginning planned and coordinated for. Outreach began with cultural specific agency's to find out what needs and challenges Oregon communities are having. This data-driven process will also include a survey to the Continuums of Care centers to provide input about application and necessary funding alignment goals.

Shannon from Gov Office: The Governor's Office is working closely with OHCS to determine how those funds will be used and those plans will be disseminated shortly.

OHA Update: Wes Rivers

Oregon Health Authority is developing Regions Support Structures and provided an update that the OHA is utilizing regional support response efforts into 6 preexisting regions, these regions coordinated by Regional Health Care Teams help to plan and respond to emergency response systems. If you have questions for your Emergency Managers for support on how to access state funds, these are the resources to access locally.

Q1- Wes: Regional Coordinators are different that Emergency Managers are similar levers of the same system. Both of these groups are good to tap into for further information and resources. The Emergency Manager will probably have more information at a wider scope of view of these emergencies than some regional coordinators that do not received as many updates.

Department of Human Services Update: Ashley Marshall

Request: DHS District managers are echoing a concern about individuals sleeping in their lobbies, around their buildings, using their outlets for charging. These offices are still open but are not equipped to operate as homeless day drop-in center. They are asking about more local resources that can accommodate these needs. Please share any available resources via email with Ashley.

Regional Area Updates: Successes this week, and anticipated challenges.

- Clackamas: Abby – Continue to utilize hotel/ motel vouchers and have opened a COVID-19 Safe Shelter with 20 beds available but have no positive cases within the homeless community in this county. Working services on the ground and weekly CoC meetings.
- Lane: Danielle – Isolation and quarantine shelter is projected to open on May 19th. Challenges surrounding demobilization about not having alternatives ready. Current training and planning is for these cases to integrate into Rapid Rehousing program training pilot next week.
- Jackson: Connie – Has reach 2 weeks without a confirmed COVID-19 case. Providing services on ground are going well, hotel and motel vouchers are being utilized. Currently working on where to place homeless communities after the Stay Home order expires. Next few weeks there will be resource fairs to help bring housing resources to the community. Looking for another Navigation Center to better support the community.
- Deschutes/Crook/Jefferson: Molly- Shower and hygiene trucks are now posted and available. Information about these locations are up in the community to help get the word out. Currently working on expanding shower-truck schedules. Safe parking venue has been a success as well. Challenged has been with getting motel contract for isolation in place.
- Marion/Polk: Jane- Local health care providers have developed a mobile outreach in the homeless camps to help, and working with local clinics to help transport those in need has been a great success. Currently 113 hotel/motel vouchers being used. 150 on the waiting list. Day center is open and Youth Day Center has remained open. Challenge has been a hotspot on the North end of county and working to help vulnerable farmworker communities.
- Douglas: Kelly – More engagement for hotel/motel resources for unsheltered non-Covid positive cases that is helping others with health concerns. Increasing in food resources for community. Working on reinstating shower centers that were closed down. Concern is the general population concerns of being exposed to the unsheltered populations and the stigma around hygiene standards and not maintaining social distancing guidelines.

- Multnomah: Rachel- Homeless individuals receiving hotel/motel vouchers will be moving as the funding has been exhausted. We are looking for alternative funding sources and working to place some in PSH. Working to maximize hygiene trucks throughout the county.
- Hood River: Alisa- Available funding has been exhausted. Transferring residence starting next week, starting with the most vulnerable populations. 1 hotel will replace the existing 3 currently being used, there are no other shelter or places to house these folks exiting the Hood River program. Working on PSH vouchers or veteran services. No positive Covid cases in this community.
- Linn/Benton: Peggy- No identified positive Covid cases that are unhoused, drop-in centers and local outreach have been aiding in bring these resources to those in need; hygiene, food, and other necessities.
- WHAT County??Susie- Hotel/motel are still being utilized. Working with PSH options. Hygiene and food resources continue to be distributed in the community. Currently working on PSH options for those currently being housed in the hotel/motel program.

League of OR Cities Update: Ariel Nelson

There are weekly call with the LOC and city elected officials that represented all 241 cities in Oregon. Ariel is interested in having a housing update on this call. LOC is looking for more ways to connect Rent Assistant Workgroup with Rep Kenny Guyer, with a biweekly call with entitlement cities and those set to receive the Community Block Grant funding. They are looking for ways to better support non-con shelters to help overcome stigmas within cities. <https://www.orcities.org/>

Glossary:

Questions from Chat

From Pegge McGuire to Everyone: 10:12 AM

Please clarify that they are not at the CAAs yet. The Oregonian ran an article that they are available now.

From pam to Everyone: 10:18 AM

Any additional specifics about the deployment of ESG funding?

From Erin Skaar, CARE to Everyone: 10:19 AM

In areas where there is not a cultural specific agency but there are farmworkers how is the 3.5 going to be shared?

From Jan Calvin to Everyone: 10:23 AM

\$3.5 M funds are intended to be directly awarded by HCSD to organizations identified or informed by regional Continuums of Care.

How will you be working with CoC?

From Danielle to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Will there be relaxed criteria on eligibility documentation? (For example, obtaining 3rd party homelessness verification)

From Pegge McGuire to Everyone: 10:25 AM

This is rental assistance not rapid rehousing is what I heard?

From Christina Zamora, KLCAS to Everyone: 10:25 AM

my understanding is the COVID-19 rent relief funding is not going out until the Implementation Report is completed and approved. Is that incorrect?

From Abby Ahern (she/her) to Everyone: 10:25 AM

prevention vs RRH?

From asmith to Everyone: 10:27 AM

Hi Connor and Sam, Has there been any discussion on if & how the \$3.5 million allocated by the EBoard might be used for local 3:1 FEMA funding match?

From Jan Calvin to Everyone: 10:30 AM

\$3.5 M funds are intended to be directly awarded by HCSD to organizations identified or informed by regional Continuums of Care.

How will you be working with CoCs?

From Molly Wells Darling to Everyone: 10:50 AM

Who are we supposed to email the resources to?

From Abby Ahern (she/her) to Everyone: 10:50 AM

I missed the ask right there. Childcare plus webinar challenges.
can someone summarize the ask?

From Rosemary lavenditti to Everyone: 10:50 AM

Hi this is Rosemary lavenditti with DHS Child Welfare, I have information regarding former foster youth between the ages of 21 - 22 and accessing Chafee Housing funds.

From Ashley Marshall to Everyone: 10:51 AM

If there are resources for homeless individuals to rest/charge their phones during the day, could you please share them with me? Our DHS offices are having challenges with their lobbies being used as day centers.

ashley.marshall@dhsosha.state.or.us

From Alisa Fowler to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Mid-columbia Gorge region would love to be able to provide shower trucks/laundry trucks to our region. Can a provider in a neighboring community email me contact info for this type of resource?

alisa.fowler@gmail.com

From Molly Heiss to Everyone: 11:25 AM

I'll just send my updates here: shower truck and safe parking successes this week. Getting testing info out to encampment bulletin boards