



National Housing Conference
Solutions for Affordable Housing
– A Renewed Agenda to End
Homelessness

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CCH's Philosophy of Service

We believe all people have the right to adequate housing and healthcare. We work to remove the barriers that restrict access to these rights. Society benefits when adequate housing and healthcare are available to everyone.

We create lasting solutions to homelessness by:

- **Honoring the inherent dignity** of those we serve, affirming their capabilities and fostering their hope that a better life is possible
- Building strong, caring **and trauma-informed** communities through the integration of housing, healthcare and supportive services
- Advocating for social **and racial equity, inclusivity and diversity** and challenging the status quo **in partnership with our workforce members and those we serve**
- Achieving excellence through continuous quality assurance, innovation and professional development
- Using resources judiciously and effectively

CO Homelessness In COVID-19 World



Being Homeless is incompatible with Public Health Guidelines

- Unhoused people can't "stay home"
- No places for people to isolate, quarantine, and recover in
- Congregate settings are not ideal in a public health crisis with an aerosolized virus
- Social/physical distancing impossible in congregate settings
- Shelters are for emergencies – We have let them become the "solution"
- Lack of access to sanitation facilities and PPE

Strategies

- De-densification (loss of capacity)
- Isolate/quarantine (hotels)
- Symptom screening
- Surveillance testing (asymptomatic)
- Encampments – CDC Guidance v Camping Bans

COVID's Lessons on Homelessness Response and Housing

The Gaps

- Housing
- Recovery/recuperative space
- Obvious link between housing and health
- Inadequate supportive services
- Shelter not meant to be long-term solution
- Lack of connection between public health system and homelessness response system
- Misunderstanding of homelessness response system
- Failure to see shelter providers as front-line/first responders
- Conundrum of sanctioned encampments



Time-Limited Funds

FEDERAL

FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- 75% Reimbursement of costs incurred / 25% to be covered locally
- Disaster/Emergency declaration -30 Day Approval
- Can only be used to respond to disaster not resolve current crisis
- Must be coordinated through local emergency operations centers – homelessness not a priority for each locality

CARES ACT FUNDS

Emergency Solutions Grant Funds

- 24+ months rental assistance for homeless prevention & RRH
- Services, outreach, shelter

Community Block Grants Funds

- 3 months rental assistance as public service (not a housing activity) and housing counseling

STATE

Executive Orders: Rental/Mortgage Assistance

- **State of Colorado Disaster Relief Fund**
 - \$3 million
- Governor's Exec Order 70 - DATE
 - \$10m
- New Funds by Governor – Special Session - ~\$50m

House Bill 1410: Rental Assistance

- ~\$20 million in CARES Act Funds
- Rental and mortgage assistance / Housing counseling/navigation
- Priority populations including people experiencing homelessness at risk of contracting COVID-19

Ongoing Response Needs

Housing and Shelter Needs

- Need the Senate to ACT on SOMETHING for rental assistance and more ESG funding
 - HEROES Act / Public Health Emergency Shelter Act
- Suspension of NOFA for renewals
- Measure for Renters / Landlords
 - Comprehensive Eviction Moratorium – with rent freeze
 - Mortgage forbearance for Landlords
 - Mandatory rental repayment plans with extended notice requirements
 - Extended unemployment benefits

Public Health Needs

- Testing
 - Symptom Screening
 - Surveillance Testing for Asymptomatic
- Treatment / Isolation Locations
 - To prevent hospitals from getting overwhelmed
- Vaccine
 - Prioritization for people in congregate settings and staff
- Mental Health Needs due to ongoing trauma





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