Housing Action Team Meeting

January 26, 2021

Review LCCP and Housing Team Mission

Discussion on the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/emergency-rental-assistance-program)

* Funding is being made available to the states through the Department of Treasury
  + Based on COVID legislation passed and signed into law by Pres. Trump in Dec
  + Minimum amount per state is $200 million
  + Funding can cover rent and utilities
  + 90% of funds must be spent on rent and utilities; 10% can be spent on administration and case management
* Eligibility
  + An “eligible household” is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:
    - Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
    - Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
    - Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median.
* Discussion with Carol Wilson ([wilson@wyomingcda.com](mailto:wilson@wyomingcda.com)) from WCDA
  + Governor’s office has not made final decision on which agency will administer the funds
    - WCDA has begun to prepare for administering if they are selected
      * Developed applications, FAQs for landlords and applicants
    - Individuals are eligible for assistance back to March 13th, 2020 and can receive up to 3 months into the future
      * There is no cap on the amount of payment available to any family or individual
      * Payments cover full cost of rent and utilities
      * Utilities include – water, trash, electricity, gas, fuel (oil/propane)
        + Internet is not currently included but they are working on trying have this included
    - Individuals and family must be below 80% of area median income
      * Area will be defined as county so as to ensure that Sublette and Teton counties are appropriately covered
  + Large scale of funding
    - When discussing with public services commission, across the state they estimate that there are 20-40 million in unpaid utility bills; however, these funds won’t be able to cover the cost for homeowners, only renters
  + Question: How will be know when funding is available?
    - Communication with organizations like ours, advertisements on internet, tv, billboards
  + Question: How to help people experiencing homelessness?
    - Funds may be able to be used to help individuals and families find suitable housing; pay for a security deposit and three months of rent
    - Utility hook-ups and assistance may also be able to be covered
  + Comment: Work with legislature
    - It looks like the funding will have to go through the legislative process
    - There is a real need to document the need for these funds and housing assistance
    - If you or your agency have data or stories documenting the current housing needs in our community please send them to Sabrina Lane at [manager@wyoming211.org](mailto:manager@wyoming211.org)
  + Comment: Available funding through community action
    - Please contact community action if you have individuals with current needs, they have COVID funding available
  + Question: has WCDA considered subcontracting out the funding?
    - All ideas have been considered, no final decision made
    - If your agency is interested in subcontracting please contact Carol Wilson
    - The 10% of funds used for case management and administrative cost will likely be contracted out
      * One possible use could be legal aid services
  + Question: Landlords that don’t accept checks from programs make it difficult for tenants.
    - Response from Julie with the Cheyenne Landlords Association – often when landlords won’t take checks its due to other concerns and not simply non payment
  + Discussion: Community confusion on the moratorium on evictions
    - Moratorium is only available to those that are affected by COVID and are having payment issues
    - Does not include destruction of property, illicit activity, additional people in the unit, pets, etc.
    - Landlords Association working on PSA’s with local news channels about renters and landlords rights; if you have ideas or production help, please contact Julie Gliem ([dayandnightwyo@aol.com](mailto:dayandnightwyo@aol.com))

Low barrier shelter

* COMEA will be opening a low-barrier shelter starting February 1st.
  + Individuals can check-in between 8pm-10pm
  + Individuals do not need to be sober to participate
    - Laundry and meals will be provided
    - COVID testing will not be completed
* For questions please reach out to Josh Arrospide at caseworker2@comeashelter.org