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) 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
	+ 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)

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