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COVID-19 Housing Provider Sharing & Problem Solving Session

April 23rd, 2020
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Goals

- Dedicated time for housing providers
- Sharing questions, strategies, resources
- Working toward solutions and common understanding
Webinar Housekeeping

• Muted until discussion points
• Use *6 if you are on a PHONE to mute and unmute yourself

• Audio Troubleshooting
  • If you are having difficulty hearing us, please join the webinar via phone
  • Click on “Audio” and then click “Telephone”. Please follow dial in instructions
  • If you are on the phone, please do not put us on HOLD.

• Questions
  • In the Question Box
Questions/Chat

- All lines are muted
- Use the **Question Box** to submit questions, ideas, comments, resources, etc.
Today’s Topics: Community Resources: Organizations Support for COVID-19

- Chicago Furniture Bank
- Chicago Jobs Council
- Just Housing Amendment
- Best Practices
- Wrap-up and Next Topic(s)
Today’s Peer Guest Presenters

- **Andrew Witherspoon and Griffin Amdur**, Co-Executive Directors, Chicago Furniture Bank
- **Mari Castaldi**, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Chicago Jobs Council
- **Gianna Baker**, Co-Executive Director, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
- **Henry Shah**, Advocacy Program Associate, Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Virtual Appointments

• Partner organizations can use our online scheduling link to schedule a virtual self-haul or curb-side Delivery appointments.
  • Clients or case managers then facetime or Android video call to select furniture from our showroom.
  • To confirm appointment, you must complete the online client appointment form after booking.

• **Payment:** Agencies can mail payment or pay online through an invoice. Client payment will be collected at time of delivery/pick up.

  ALL FURNITURE IS TREATED WITH DISINFECTANT!

  For questions about partnerships or prepaid accounts:
  andrew@chicagofurniturebank.org
Virtual Appointments

• **Self-Haul Appointments ($50):**
  • Items must be picked up from the warehouse within 2 hours of the virtual appointment.
  • To minimize contact, we ask that all participants remain in their vehicles or maintain a minimal distance of 6 ft from the dock until loading is complete.
  • It is important participants bring the correct size vehicle to fit all chosen items because participants will not be able to return to the warehouse for a second trip.
Virtual Appointments

Curb-side Delivery Appointments (Additional $150):

• Delivery time and date will be decided at the end of the virtual appointment.

• For delivery, CFB staff will not enter the client’s home under any circumstances. Beds will not be brought into the home / unit.

• To minimize contact, we ask that all participants maintain a minimal distance of 6ft from CFB STAFF while they are unloading.
SNAP Applications/Assistance

All FCRCs closed as of Thursday, April 16th

- How to Contact DHS during this time:
  - Website: [abe.illinois.gov](abe.illinois.gov)
  - Phone: (800) 843-6154
  - Access emergency phone numbers
  - FCRC fax numbers are being converted to emails to caseworkers who are working remotely

- Questions / Problems
  - Use the SNAP advocates listserv
  - [Shriver Center’s Help Hub](https://www.shrivercenter.org/help-hub) - sign up and use the site to ask questions or troubleshooting problems with individual cases.
Emergency Allotment: will provide all SNAP recipients with the maximum benefit for their household size.

- **For how long?**
  - Illinois’s SNAP recipients will receive their emergency allotment in April and May

- **Who is eligible?**
  - All existing SNAP recipients
  - All new applicants who are approved for benefits in April or May

- **When will SNAP recipients see their benefits?**
  - People receiving benefits during the first week in April received their regular monthly benefit on their issuance date and will receive a supplemental payment no later than April 20.
  - People receiving benefits on or after April 8 should receive their full allotment in a single payment.
  - Full May benefits will arrive on each client’s regular disbursement date.
SNAP Benefits - Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

**P-EBT:** Provides funds to replace the meals children can’t access while schools are closed via LINK cards. P-EBT will be in place until the end of the school year, unless schools reopen before that time.

- **Who is eligible?**
  - Households with school-aged children whose school has been closed for at least 5 days that also meet any of the following criteria:
    - Currently receive SNAP; OR
    - Have a household income of 185% FPL or lower (eligible for free or reduced priced meals); OR
    - Children attend schools that already provide free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
    - Undocumented children who also fall under the second or third category are also eligible.

- **How can those eligible access these funds?**
  - Current SNAP recipients will see these benefits automatically deposited on their LINK Card
  - Those not currently on SNAP will have to complete a simplified application and if approved will be mailed a LINK card.
  - Target launch date of April 21st may be delayed as USDA has not approved Illinois's plan yet

- **How much will families receive?**
  - $3.50 for lunch + $2.20 for breakfast per child, per day for 7 days in March and 22 days in April.
  - Total:
    - $43.40 for March
    - $136.40 for April
SNAP Waivers Approved by USDA

6-Month Recertification

- SNAP recipients whose benefits expire in March, April, or May are automatically receiving a 6-month extension
  - They will not have to recertify until September, October, or November.
  - Client confusion: many clients received recertification notices before this waiver took effect.

ABAWDs

- All Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) are exempt from work requirements until the month following the end of the federally declared emergency
  - Includes ABAWDs in Cook and DuPage Counties

Telephonic Signatures

- Community partners included in Illinois's State SNAP Outreach Plan will be able to submit ABE applications on behalf of customers, acting as their approved representatives, with the customer's verbal attestation.
  - Illinois's State Outreach Partners include: Catholic Charities, Chicago Public Schools, Feeding Illinois, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Illinois Hunger Coalition
Unemployment Insurance Changes

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)
- Provides $600 extra in UI benefits per week for all recipients, through week of July 25. Being paid now to people currently receiving benefits.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- For traditional UI recipients.
- Allows 13 extra weeks of UI benefits for people who had run out of their 26-week maximum, for a total of 39 weeks of coverage.
- Paired with PUC to provide extra $600 for 13 weeks through week of July 25.
- IL will begin taking applications week of April 20.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Emergency UI for people who are usually left out
  - Only covers people ineligible for traditional state UI
  - Self-employed people
  - Independent contractors
  - People who didn’t work enough hours or earn enough to qualify under normal rules
  - Up to 39 weeks of coverage with 13 weeks of extra $600 under PUC, through week of July 25
  - IL building new website to process these claims; May 11 is stated date that claims will be taken.

IDES issues
-IDES is swamped; very hard to file claims; Governor has added staff to call centers. People will receive retroactive benefits to date unemployment began.
Discrimination is treating someone differently because of their record.

Available NOW!!!* 2 Bedroom... *2 full baths. * High ceilings. * Updated kitchen with granite countertops and bath. *Appliances included Fridge, stove, large deep freezer, Washer and dryer. *Central air.... *Large front porch and back deck for those nice summer days and nights!! *Finish basement only accessible to 1st floor, makes great bonus/recreation room. MUST HAVE A 2 YR RENTAL HISTORY PROOF OF INCOME *NO FELONY, *NO EVCTIONS!!! NO EXCEPTION!!! *PETS CASE by CASE.... *$500 move in fee *1 YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT. *Utilities included are GAS and Water. *Close to Transportation; Minutes away from California green line, Pete's fresh market and Eisenhower Expy....All around great location!!!
As part of the COVID-19 Expedited Housing Initiative, we are launching a Coordinated Landlord Engagement Strategy to identify units in which to house people very quickly. **We need to identify as many available units as possible, and to do this, we need our CoC Housing Locators to help us.**

The **Systemwide Landlord Engagement Workgroup** has developed materials to assist with this effort, including a survey, phone script, Initiative Overview for Landlords document, and Centralized Landlord Outreach Tracker.

If you have someone at your agency who has relationships with landlords in Chicago, we need their help! Survey link is in the chat box as well: [https://bit.ly/CoCLandlordSurvey](https://bit.ly/CoCLandlordSurvey)

Contact **Melanie Felt** at mfelt@allchicago.org to get plugged in to this effort.
Poll: Resources

What resources to support program participants is your agency in need of the most at this time?

- Childcare
- Education
- Food - 46%
- Technology/Devices - 46%
- Internet - 42%
- Additional Comments (Put it in the chat)
Future Topics & Next Session
Future Topics & Next Session

Future Topics

1. **Food Resources and Assistance**
   Jonathan Beavis - All Chicago

2. Do you have a topic idea for next week’s session?

3. ??? (Put it in the chat)

4. Email (twinbush@allchicago.org)

Next Session

Thursday, April 30th
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Same Link as This Week?

Would you like to help plan or facilitate a future session?
Contact Torelen (twinbush@allchicago.org)
THANK YOU!