

Key Points & Take-Aways

The purpose of the webinar is to **convene homeless service providers for a weekly overview** of the COVID-19 response in the Chicagoland area. The presenters on this webinar are Dr. Wilnise Jasmin (CDPH), Maura McCauley (DFSS), Nicole Bahena (All Chicago), LaShunda Brown (CE Leadership, Primo Center), Laura Bass (CE Leadership, Facing Forward) & Bridgett Doveatt (All Chicago).

- **Modified Stay at Home Order extended through May 31st, 2020**
 - State parks, fishing, golfing is allowed. Some non-essential businesses may reopen for curbside picking or delivery.
 - New Policy: Face masks are required in all indoor public places, and outdoor public areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **The City has launched a new platform: CHI COVID Coach**
 - This system will help inform individuals of the necessary steps to take if you have COVID-19 symptoms. It is [free to register](#) and enable alerts for when a COVID vaccine is available. Your information will be protected and kept confidential.
- **The City has begun testing shelter sites of residents and staff without active outbreaks.**
 - Plans are underway to begin testing in encampments and working with the outreach teams that regularly work with the encampments.
- **Q/I Housing Opening: Southside YMCA**
 - Southside YMCA has opened as of May 1st. The building hosts 132 beds with medical and wrap-around support provided by Cook County Health (CCH) with staffing support from Sunbelt.
 - CCH conducts intake and direct referrals to Southside from shelters.
- **The City has made Infrared thermometers available to providers (congregate settings, drop-in, outreach) starting May 1st. Guidance will be released shortly.**
- **Shelter Updates**
 - As of May 1st, Broadway Amory is active, bringing shelter beds to 700 to allow for decompression of the shelter system.
 - 140 high-risk clients have been relocated from congregate shelters to individual hotel rooms for shielding.
 - 311 is continuing to ask if citizens have recently been released from prison during intake.
- **DFSS is working with All Chicago to provide guidance for shelter providers on how to capture client transfers to Q/I facilities or shielding placement in HMIS.**
 - Your agency technical administrator will be receiving an email from All Chicago with more details.

- DFSS and All Chicago are working with all temporary shelters on documenting clients in HMIS.
- **Feedback from Nurse Visits to Shelters: Supply Orders**
 - Nurse visits to shelters highlighted the need for regular and ongoing distribution of cleaning supplies.
 - DFSS is working to create a sustainable and consistent supply chain. Please reach out to DFSS-Homeless@cityofchicago.org for any questions regarding PPE.
- **The second round of homeless system agency emergency fund closed May 1st. Funding award notifications will be sent out by the week of May 11th.**
- **Landlord Engagement Strategy**
 - All Chicago is making a push for a coordinated landlord engagement. If housing locators are interested, please email cocprograms@allchicago.org to add contacts to a database.
- **COVID-19 Expedited Housing Initiative**
 - CoC board adopted a policy in support of expedited housing on April 15th. The [Accountability Plan](#) went into effect on May 4th.
 - Expectations for providers include determining appropriate HUD waivers, match requests within 2 days, and removing barriers to expedite housing placements.
 - CoC agencies received an email regarding the Accountability Plan on April 27th and invited them to complete an [acknowledgment survey](#). Follow-ups will be conducted after May 8th.
- **Coordinated Entry Temporary Prioritization Plan**
 - CE has prioritized shielding CDPH identified households at higher risk for COVID-19 complications who have currently tested negative. The plan was approved on April 28th.
 - Housing has been set aside for Youth (10%), Unsheltered (10%) & Families (20%) who fall under a list of criteria.
 - CE leadership team will maintain attention to racial equity by ensuring this plan accounts for system racialized inequities and creates and sustains equitable access for people of color.
- **Housing Provider Interim Contact Protocol**
 - In response to COVID-19, CE has adjusted the contact protocol, which begins May 4th and will not backdate matches. Changes include:
 - Attempt to contact has been cut down to 5 days.
 - Eliminated contact by mail
 - Needs Status Timeliness Standard has been shortened to 15 days. If not updated, households will be matched to a different provider.
 - Households who cannot be located after the match will not be matched again until they have an update within HMIS.
 - Reengagement Policy: If a household reaches out in 90 days and the provider has housing availability contact ChicagoCES@catholiccharities.net to request the match.
 - Established Declining Housing Policy