NYC CoC Newsletter
February 12, 2021

CoC Announcements

NYC CoC Steering Committee Special Election: One Non-Profit Seat Open for Election

The NYC CoC is now accepting applications in a special election for one (1) vacant seat on the NYC CoC Steering Committee: Non-Profit Organization. In keeping with special election procedures outlined in the NYC CoC Governance Charter, the elected individual shall finish out the term of the vacant seat. The term for this seat shall end on December 31, 2022.

To learn more about the Steering Committee responsibilities and the non-profit representative eligibility, please review the Steering Committee application.

Application Submission Details:

- **Applications due February 19, 2021**
- Email to: NYCCoC@dss.nyc.gov – ATTN: 2021 Steering Committee Special Election
- By Mail/In Person: CoC staff are currently working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications cannot be accepted by mail or in person.
- With questions, please contact NYC CoC Governance Committee Chair, Kristen Mitchell at mitchellkr@dss.nyc.gov, or CoC Community Engagement Staff Person, Emma Cathell at cathellemm@dss.nyc.gov.

CoC Updates

NYC CoC 2021 Annual Evaluation Timeline:

- Ad Hoc Appeals Committee convenes week of Feb. 15-19
- Providers who submitted appeals notified of decision week of Feb. 22
- Final deadline for updating information (HMIS & Local Priorities Survey) to be included in calculation of evaluation results on March 5
- Final Results posted on CoC website March 12

NYC CoC Persons with Lived Experience Committee Recruiting

The NYC CoC Persons with Lived Experience Committee (PWLEX) is currently recruiting members who have experienced homelessness or housing instability and are interested in making changes in the homeless system.
Save the date for NYC CoC March Grantee Meeting!
Friday, March 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

The NYC CoC Federal Homeless Policy and Reporting (FHPR) team will host the first quarterly Grantee Meeting of 2021 for CoC-funded providers.

Please note: This session will be virtual. The Zoom link will be emailed to you from Eventbrite once you register. The CoC recommends downloading the Eventbrite appointment to your Calendar on Outlook, Google, etc.

For any questions or technical issues, please contact the CoC team.

Click here to RSVP for the Grantee Meeting

NYC CoC 101 Presentation Feedback Survey
A big thank you, again, for attending our first virtual CoC Special Meeting: NYC CoC 101. If you attended the meeting and have not submitted a feedback survey, you may find the link here. We appreciate your participation. Additionally, the PowerPoint slides from the presentation are posted on the CoC website and can be viewed here.

CoC Tip of the Month:
Spend-down- Projects may spend-down beyond the 90-day period if there were mitigating circumstances (see list below) that prevented the project from drawing-down in a more timely manner. In all cases below, the project needs to have reported the issue to the HUD Field Office and should be in close communication with their Field Office representative:

- Projects experiencing technical issues with LOCCs
- Projects that are in some kind of litigation
- Projects that were undergoing a HUD monitoring by the FO
- Project noted specific issues related to under-spending on their APR

Under the above circumstances, projects may be granted additional consideration by the HUD Field Office to spend-down their grant beyond the deadline, if approved by HUD.

Contact Person Survey
ATTN: CoC-funded providers: If you have not yet submitted your project's CoC-Funded Contact Persons survey, you may find the Surveymonkey link here. Please submit by Feb. 19.

HUD Announcement for NYC CoC-Funded Projects
HUD Renews Funding of more than $138 million for 170 NYC CoC-funded projects

On Jan. 29, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded $2.5 billion to renew support to thousands of local homeless assistance programs across the nation. For the New York City CoC (NY-600), HUD renewed 170 projects' funding, which totaled to more than $138 million.

The 2020 funding award renews existing grants without

Job Openings related to the NYC CoC

Federal Homeless Policy and Reporting: Multiple positions available
contract changes. Due to the pandemic, this process was dramatically streamlined because communities have been and will continue to be focused on their COVID-19 response and have limited capacity to participate in the traditional CoC competition.

Please visit HUD’s website to view a complete list of all the state and local homeless projects awarded funding.

NYC CoC-Funded Projects: If you have any questions, please contact your CPD Representative.

HUD Resources, Information, and Guidance on Vaccine Distribution for Program Participants & Staff

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Vaccine Resources

The following resources are for organizations with programs currently serving people experiencing homelessness. Visit the COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Vaccine Planning and Distribution page on the HUD Exchange for a full list of vaccination resources for homeless providers.

Message from HUD:

The Biden Administration has recently released the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. The National Strategy identifies homeless shelters as an example of a congregate setting that could facilitate the spread of infection, also emphasizing that “[b]ecause many people who are homeless are older adults or have underlying medical conditions, they may also be at increased risk for severe illness.”

The strategy affirms that the U.S. will “work to ensure that the vaccine is distributed quickly, effectively, and equitably, with a focus on making sure that high-risk and hard-to-reach communities are not left behind.” Supplies of the vaccine are currently limited, and states/localities are adopting a phased roll-out plan. In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, congregate shelter staff are considered essential workers and should be vaccinated in Phase 1. People experiencing homelessness in congregate settings can be vaccinated at the same time as staff. If there is enough vaccine for all shelter participants, communities are encouraged to vaccinate everyone. However, if supplies remain scarce, shelters should work with public health partners to plan for prioritizing limited doses within shelters.

See the COVID-19 Vaccination: HUD Message at HUD.gov for key policy issues.

Volunteers of America (VOA): Sector Director of Domestic Violence

The Sector Director of Domestic Violence is responsible for ensuring that programs provide comprehensive and integrated on-site social services that help clients restore and rebuild their lives while healing from their experience of domestic violence.

She/he is responsible for ensuring optimal service delivery and oversight is provided in all the domestic violence programs promoting health, safety and wellness through the implementation of best practices including trauma informed care. The Sector Director ensures policies and procedures are adhered to including meeting all city, state and federal guidelines. For more information about this position, please click here.

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH): Regional Coordinator

The incumbent works as part of the National Initiatives Team, which serves as the bridge between the work of the Council, the nation’s governmental leaders, and communities across the U.S. Read the full job posting for the description and information on how to apply.
Communication Tools Recommended by HUD:
Talking About the Vaccine

To reduce the virus spread, our communities can play a major role in the safety and well-being of their families and friends by getting vaccinated and by continuing to wear masks and maintaining social distance. The following links provide flyers for staff and clients with ideas on how to encourage vaccine acceptance among your followers and your partner organizations:

- Why Get Vaccinated
- Vaccines Are Just One Piece of Controlling the Virus
- People Experiencing Homelessness: Three Reasons Why You Were Given Top Priority to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19
- Front Line Workers: Three Reasons Why You Were Given Top Priority to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19

It’s important that CoCs and providers continue to focus on providing information and conducting outreach to people experiencing homelessness and staff. Resources to support your efforts in addressing concerns that people experiencing homelessness and staff may have are included below. We encourage you to share this information with program participants. Also included is information on myths that exist and how to counter them with accurate information.

- Addressing Your Concerns About the Vaccine
- The Time is Now! Talking with People Experiencing Homelessness about the COVID-19 Vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Considerations for Specific Populations
- COVID-19 Vaccine Myths Debunked

HUD-Recommended Program Engagement:

Schedule meetings with staff and with people experiencing homelessness to discuss vaccinations using the following conversation tools:

- How to Build Staff Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines
- Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Communication and Confidence Checklist
- Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Meeting Template
- COVID-19 Vaccination Conversation Tips for Homeless Service Providers

To support HUD’s goal of equitable distribution of the vaccine to people experiencing homelessness, HUD also focused on the logistics of bringing the vaccine to people

Urban Resources Institute (URI): Multiple positions available

To learn more about the current job offerings at URI, please visit their website.

Please send job postings your organization has to nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov if you would like them to appear on the CoC monthly newsletter.

Events in the CoC Community

Please send homelessness and housing related events you would like advertised to the CoC community in the monthly newsletter to nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov.

Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Opps

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC):

To advocate for the passing of $40 Billion in COVID Relief for Renters, People who are Homeless, and Homeowners, you can learn more here.

Learn more and sign your organization on the letter to support increased funding for affordable housing and community development programs in FY22.
residing in shelters or, alternately, bringing people to the vaccine. Recognizing that increased rates of transmission occur in congregate settings, specific attention is paid to vaccination among people living in these locations. Guidance is forthcoming on best practices in providing access to vaccinations for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

- **Vaccination in Congregate Settings: Event Types and Considerations**
- **Congregate Setting Vaccination Event Floor Plan**

**HUD's Suggested Next Steps to Take:**

- Engage in planning conversations with your public health partners. Determine when they expect to begin vaccinating people experiencing homelessness and staff.
- Identify resources to support vaccination efforts (space, staffing, transportation, etc.).
- Continue providing education and outreach to people experiencing homelessness and staff to increase vaccine confidence.
- View COVID-19 Vaccine Updates for Homeless Service Providers on the HUD Exchange.

**New York City Resources & Information**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Update**

As we reported previously, New Yorkers in Phase 1a and 1b groups are eligible to receive the vaccine. The full list of all vaccine eligibility categories can be found [here](#).

Appointments are required in order to be vaccinated. Due to limited supply of the COVID vaccine from the federal government, the State has reported that it could take up to 14 weeks for eligible New Yorkers to schedule their vaccine shot. Please visit the NYC COVID-19 Vaccine Finder [here](#) or call 877-VAX-4NYC for more information, to find a vaccine hub near you, or to schedule an appointment. Additional sites are coming online every day, so please continue to check the site often.

Please download and share the eligibility flyer and the vaccine fact sheet.

**Federal Eviction Moratorium Extended by the Biden Administration**
On Jan. 20, President Joseph Biden extended nationwide existing protections from residential evictions for non-payment of rent until March 31, 2021 in an effort to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. However, New York City tenants have broader protections from eviction under a New York State law called the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act as well as a statewide order of the Office of Court Administration.

Under this law and order, all pending eviction cases in New York City Housing Court are stayed through February 28, 2021. Tenants sued in eviction proceedings cannot be evicted during that time and new eviction proceedings may not be filed. In addition, tenants who have suffered financial hardship during the pandemic or who would suffer hardship as a result of having to move will be protected from eviction for nonpayment of rent and in some holdover cases until at least May 1 if they sign and deliver a “Hardship Declaration” to their landlord, to their landlord’s agent, or to the Housing Court (if they have a pending case).

New York City tenants with questions about how the Biden order or State law may affect them or how to prepare the required Hardship Declaration to be protected from eviction can access free legal assistance through HRA’s Office of Civil Justice by contacting the City’s Tenant Helpline via 311.

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**Immigration Related Federal Executive Orders**

As a part of President Biden’s first day in office, he signed 17 Executive Orders, several of which relate to immigration topics that impact HRA clients.

An order called *“Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)”* provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, should take all actions he deems appropriate to preserve and fortify DACA. President Biden has called on Congress to enact legislation providing permanent status and a path to citizenship for those immigrants.

The President’s *“Executive Order on Ensuring a Lawful and Accurate Enumeration and Apportionment Pursuant to the Decennial Census”* requires the counting of all residents of the U.S., regardless of immigration status, in the census, pursuant to the “responsibility to represent the interests of all people residing in the United States.” This will ensure reliable, high-quality data and appropriate apportionment of representatives in keeping with the Constitution — as well as appropriate federal funding.

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**Public Assistance Fair Hearings**
State Fair Hearings are continuing telephonically throughout the pandemic. Client notices with Fair Hearing information provide a unique phone number that clients can use to request a pre-hearing HRA conference by phone. Once a pre-hearing conference to resolve a hearing issue is requested, clients will be contacted by HRA at or around the date and time requested by the client.

As Fair Hearing determinations are made, the agency is complying with the determinations. When a Fair Hearing finds in favor of the client, benefits will be re-instated, including any rental subsidies.

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**SNAP Recertification – Alternate Timeline Extensions**

For cases that are due for recertification in the months of January, February and March and eligible for an extension, whether on a 12, 24 or 48-month recertification timeline, will receive up to a six-month extension. As such, if a two-year recertification were due during the period that we are extending recertifications, that recertification would be extended for up to six-months. Pursuant to the recertification waiver that we received, we are not able to grant extensions beyond that time period.

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**Federal Emergency Relief Act – SNAP Student Eligibility**

The Federal Emergency Relief Act temporarily expands the SNAP student eligibility rules by amending the allowable exemptions to the work rule in two additional ways:

- A student is eligible if he or she is eligible to participate in state or federal work-study, regardless if the student is actively employed or participating in work-study; and
- Any student that has an “expected family contribution” of $0 may participate in SNAP if otherwise eligible.

These amended eligibility qualifications for students will be in effect until 30 days after the COVID–19 federal public health emergency is lifted.

Students granted eligibility under the amended qualifications will maintain student eligibility until the next recertification regardless of whether the emergency declaration is lifted at any time during the certification period. More details about SNAP student eligibility are available on the [OTDA SNAP website](#).
Plentiful Pantry App

Plentiful is an app that lets New Yorkers find food pantries and make reservations ahead of time. There is a map of pantries all over NYC with over 300 locations. With Plentiful, pantries can easily keep track of clients, and clients can manage pantry visits directly from their phone. Pantries use Plentiful to manage reservations and communicate with clients. Clients get reservation reminders on their phone. Plentiful was created by The New York City Food Assistance Collaborative, a coalition of public and private organizations working to alleviate hunger in New York City. Collaborative members include the NYC Mayor’s Office of Food Policy, City Harvest, United Way of New York City, the New York City Human Resources Administration - EFAP, and the New York State Department of Health Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

Financial Resources for NYC Businesses and Nonprofits

The NYC Economic Development Corporation has compiled a number of financial resources available to NYC businesses and nonprofits, along with business guidance, to help with COVID-19 relief and recovery. The can be accessed here: COVID-19 Business Relief Resources | NYCEDC

Send Us Your Feedback!

The NYC CoC is committed to providing useful information to the community. We want to hear from community members like you. Follow us at nyhomeless.com and let us know what you think about our messaging. Your feedback makes us better.

Thank you.
NYC CoC

Welcome to the NYC CoC email list. You are receiving this email because you’ve opted in at our website or are a NYC CoC affiliate.
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All links to documents referenced in this announcement supersedes any prior information posted on www.nyhomeless.com.

Clear the web browser to see the latest version of the website. Press the Ctrl and F5 keys simultaneously on your keyboard to force a browser refresh.