

NYC CoC Newsletter

September 11, 2020

Issue No. 19

NYC Continuum
CoC of Care



Register for the NYC CoC Open Public Meeting by clicking here

Upcoming Virtual NYC CoC Open Public Meeting
"Coping with COVID-19: A Discussion on Sustainable Solutions"
Friday, October 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

New York City Continuum of Care (CoC), Persons With Lived Experience (PWLE) Committee, and Youth Action Board (YAB) have called an open forum to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on persons with lived experience and the homeless services community at large.

Please note: This Open Public Meeting will be held virtually. There will be **no** in-person attendance. Please register with an active email address. Zoom Log-In Information will be included in the event confirmation email. If you have any questions or issues with logging on, please contact us at nyccoc@dss.nyc.gov.

COVID-19 Updated Resources, Important Deadlines, Voter Engagement Resources, City Updates, and more

Updated Resources from U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) COVID-19 Homeless System Response:

In the past month, HUD released updated COVID-19

The NYC CoC would like to recognize and acknowledge on this day all the individuals who passed away due to the September 11, 2001 attacks. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

CoC Updates

NYC CoC Youth Action Board Recruiting

The NYC CoC Youth Action Board (YAB) is currently recruiting youth (16-14 years old) who have experienced homelessness or housing instability and are interested in making changes in the homeless system. For more information, [please view the flyer here](#).

New Website Postings:

Human Resource Administration (HRA) Redesign of Application System for Coordinated Entry: *Presentation to the Department of Housing*

guidance — see links below to view the resources on the HUD Exchange.

Mitigating the Spread:

- [Mitigating the Spread: Washington DC Shelter Profile](#)
 - This document discusses the data story behind the DC Department of Human Services strategy that was designed and implemented to engage and collaborate with shelter providers to modify procedures, rapidly respond to new positive cases, and conduct mass testing to identify asymptomatic carriers.
- [Evidence-based Service Delivery](#)
 - This document discusses examples of evidence-based practices (EBPs) that have proven effective when used with people who have experienced homelessness as well as behavioral health disorders.
- [Housing Problem-Solving in Practice](#)
 - This document discusses housing problem-solving (HPS) strategies that can help communities target staff time and financial resources in ways that will decrease the number of people who experience homelessness. The profiles from three selected communities are highlighted for the use of effective, equitable HPS strategies in a range of geographies.

Eviction Prevention:

- [Landlord Engagement](#)
 - These documents outline landlord engagement strategies including immediate and proactive communication, recruitment, and retention.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

- [Advancing Racial Equity through Assessments and Prioritization](#)
 - This document focuses on strategies to advance racial equity and dismantle embedded racism in coordinated entry (CE) assessment and prioritization processes.
- [Equity Capacity Building: Hiring, Supervision, Training](#)
 - This document highlights existing inequities in earning, employment, health, and social conditions that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. These inequities have increased the risk for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to need assistance from the homeless response system.
- [Racial Trauma and Trauma-Informed Services](#)
 - This document discusses racial trauma and the effects it may have on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). It also provides trauma-informed resources for how to best support individuals experiencing the effects of racial trauma.

Preservation and Development (HPD) Subgrantees. To view the PowerPoint slides, [please click here to view the pdf.](#) To view the recorded webinar presentation, [please visit the Webex here](#), and use the password: RwSdaG3E.

July Steering Committee Meeting Summary, [please click here to view the pdf.](#)

Register for the Upcoming Virtual NYC CoC Open Public Meeting

"Coping with COVID-19: A Discussion on Sustainable Solutions"

October 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

[Register here today!](#)

**Job Openings
related to the
NYC CoC**

The Jewish Board

Case Associate job opening with the Jewish Board — [view the job posting and announcement here.](#)

IMPACCT Brooklyn

Part-time Housing Specialist job opening with IMPACCT's Gibb Mansion Supportive Housing program. View the job announcement and description here. Please, send all resumes to Sharon_haberer@impacctbk.org.

Additional Non-COVID-19 HUD Resources:

- [Helping Older Adults Age Safely in Place](#): What Multifamily Owners Need to Know About Home Modification
 - This resource provides an introduction to and available resources for home modification to allow older adults the opportunity to age in place.
- [Permanent Supportive Housing \(PSH\) Moving On Services Guide](#)
 - This guide is designed to help communities understand and design services for PSH program participants who would like to pursue moving from PSH to other affordable housing options.

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



Upcoming Important Deadlines:

The 2020 Census closes on September 30

The census closes on September 30 and only just over half of all New York City residents have completed the census. In 2010 the City's self-response rate was only 62% compared with a national average of 76%. An undercount jeopardizes our fair share of Federal funds and political representation. It is critical that we help dispel myths and encourage all New York City residents to complete the census. Please help the City reinforce to clients and constituents the critical importance of completing the 2020 census. The census is easy, safe, and confidential. There are no questions about citizenship or immigration status. Click the icon below or call 844-330-2020 to learn more. More information about how to get involved/volunteer can be [found here](#).



Voter registration deadline is October 9

Providers, please help remind clients and tenants of this important deadline. To confirm voter registration, call 866-868-3692. All New York voters are eligible to vote by mail this November. Individuals can sign up to vote by mail [online here](#) or by calling 866-VOTE-NYC. Early voting is also available between October 24 and November 1. Click the icon below to learn more.

New Funding Opportunities:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) forecasted grant for eligible CoC providers:

Street Outreach Program:

Education and Prevention Grants to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless and Street Youth

HHS will award grants of \$90k - \$150k for street-based services, e.g. information and access to shelter and basic needs. Nonprofits and city/county govt. are eligible.

The full grant notice will be posted October 14, 2020 with applications due December 13, 2020 and project start date on September 30, 2021. [View the Grant Opportunity Forecast here.](#)



Training Opportunities Within the CoC:

New Voter Engagement Resources:

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020 Tools

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020, National Low Income Housing Coalition's (NLIHC) non-partisan, voter and candidate engagement project recently released two new tools for engaging and supporting voters as they exercise their civic duty to vote. These resources recognize that voter engagement is critically important, but that it may look different this year due to the pandemic.

[Read more of this article here](#) to learn more about the two new tools:

- [Our Homes, Our Votes Engagement Plan](#)
- [Organizing Voter Engagement Events Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Our Homes, Our Votes: 2020 Webinars

[“Protecting Low-Income People from Voter Intimidation and Voter Caging”](#) Webinar
September 17, 2020 at 3 p.m. ET

This webinar will explore how nonprofits and community volunteers can best protect low-income people from voter-intimidation efforts.

Register for this webinar and NLIHC's entire “Third Thursdays at Three” webinar and podcast series on nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement, free to the public by [clicking here](#).

To learn more about this series and to listen to the previous recordings, [please visit the NLIHC website](#).

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and Goldstein Hall PLLC:

"Creating Supportive Housing in NYS - Navigating Year 15" Webinar

Thursday, September 24
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Registration is required to join this event. If you have not registered, please do so now by [following this link](#).

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR):

SOAR Online Course Training Cohort: Adult Curriculum

Register for the free, web-based, and self-guided course by October 2, 2020.

To learn more and to register for the upcoming SOAR Online Course, [please follow this link](#).

City Resources

Emergency Utility Intervention Program (EUIP):

In August, HRA completed its low-income rate match for the Con Edison utility rate reduction programs for customers receiving social services benefits. HRA clients with utility accounts were automatically enrolled and provided an opportunity to opt-out of the program if they wished.

Enrollment is ongoing and HRA clients who were not

Please send your organization's training opportunities to nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov if you would like to appear on the CoC monthly newsletter.

Please click

automatically enrolled can participate by contacting their utility company to enroll, see details below:

- To apply for the Con Edison low-income rate discount, please submit documentation (acceptance or current budget letter) to verify receipt of public benefits from at least one of HRA's social services programs (Cash Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP). In addition, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) can serve as qualifying benefits.

Clients can contact Con Edison at 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633) to enroll by phone, or by email at lowincomerate@coned.com. Con Edison will provide further instructions regarding enrollment requirements. Applicants need to have their account number available when calling Con Edison and include it in any correspondence. For questions, clients should contact the Emergency Utility Intervention program at 212-331-4120 or by email at EUIP@hra.nyc.gov.

Tenant Resource Portal:

The Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants (MOPT) and the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit's (PEU) Tenant Support Unit (TSU) have created an online tool, the [Tenant Resource Portal](#), to help renters in New York City navigate public and private resources that can stabilize their housing situation. A tenant seeking help will be taken through a series of questions and directed to the most useful resources based on their responses, including information about free legal services for tenants through HRA's Office of Civil Justice (OCJ). MOPT and PEU have included resources from multiple City agencies, Legal Services Providers, and Community-Based Organizations.

Legal Services Providers or Community-Based Organizations are encouraged to recommend additional resources using the online feedback form [found here](#).

Citywide Landlord-Tenant Mediation Project:

The Citywide Landlord-Tenant Mediation Project will serve New Yorkers each month by addressing rent-related issues in a mediation setting outside of the Housing Court system. The program will operate in all five boroughs but will prioritize communities hardest hit by the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Through the program, nonprofit [Community Dispute Resolution Centers \(CDRCs\)](#) will assist tenants and small landlords in finding solutions to rental issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to resolve these cases before they reach litigation and avoid the long-term effects of an eviction proceeding which can lead to displacement for vulnerable tenants and limit future housing options.

Eligible tenants will be referred to non-profit CDRCs in

the icons
below to learn
more:



Click here to
find a COVID-19
testing site

each borough who will manage case intake, provide mediation sessions and monitor cases for follow-up for tenants.

Financial Counseling:

NYC Financial Empowerment Center counselors are available to support New Yorkers over the phone with free financial counseling. It is free and confidential. To book an appointment, [please click here](#).

Federal Stimulus Payments: Economic Impact Payments:

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has extended the deadline for individuals and families to register for the stimulus payment as a non-filer through September 30, 2020.

As a reminder, on March 27, 2020, the federal CARES Act authorized a one-time payment of \$1,200 to individuals and families who fall below the income threshold established for stimulus payments. Payments are automatic for people who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, receive survivor or disability benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Veterans Affairs beneficiaries who did not file a tax return in the last two years.

In order to register for payments, individuals and families should use the "[Non-Filers: Enter Your Payment Info Here](#)" application to provide information to receive payment. This application should be used for the following individuals and families:

- US citizen or a non-citizen with a Social Security Number.
- Have a qualifying child under the age of 17 to claim the \$500 payment per child.
- Have not already entered information using the IRS Non-Filer Tool for themselves and at least one child
- Did not file a 2018 or 2019 federal income tax return because gross income was under \$12,200 (\$24,400 for married couples). This includes people who had no income.
- Were not required to file a 2018 or 2019 federal income tax return for other reasons.

The City is providing assistance in order to ensure all New Yorkers are able to receive their stimulus payments. If clients need help filling out the non-tax filer form, NYC Free Tax Prep can help. For those who have filed and need help navigating other IRS tools related to the Economic Impact Payment (EIP), they can speak with a financial counselor who can help them. Both programs offer services in multiple languages. More information about these resources can be found on the [DCA website for Economic Impact Payments](#), or the [NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection's \(DCWP\) COVID page](#).

Please share information from this helpful [Fact Sheet](#) and [Flyer](#) with clients to help ensure receipt of stimulus payments.

LGBTQ+ Resources during COVID-19:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYC Unity Project surveyed hundreds of LGBTQ+ programs and service providers across New York City to develop a resource page for LGBTQ+ resources that remain available during the COVID-19 pandemic. [This information can be found here.](#)

As part of this survey, HRA identified food assistance providers in each borough for inclusion in the guide. There is a separate page for LGBTQ+ food assistance, [which can be found here.](#)

Resources for People with Disabilities:

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities has created a [resource website](#) with information on Food/Supply Delivery, Social Security/Medicaid Benefits, Home Healthcare Services and more.

COVID-19 Related Fraud:

The FBI has seen a significant increase in fraud schemes related to the pandemic. Please help get the word out as some of these schemes target our shared clients by posing as assistance with or opportunities to access public benefits and CARES stimulus payments. Additional information and resources can be [found here.](#)

Food Resources:

New York City is taking steps to make sure every New Yorker has access to the food they need. For individuals who are in need of support with meals and food, here are some resources that we want to be sure you are aware of.

City Resources:

- The Neighborhood Opportunity Network is operating Nutrition Kitchens with locations in five boroughs. These sites provide free groceries for individuals and families in need. More information can be found [here.](#)
- Any New Yorker can receive three free meals a day at one of more than 400 [Meal Hubs](#) across the city.
- The City has created the [GetFoodNYC](#) food delivery program to provide food for coronavirus (COVID-

- 19)-vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs.
- If you are interested in the location of a food pantry, please visit the [Food Help NYC pantry locator](#). We recommend calling to ensure the particular location is open. We've provided all of our emergency food providers with information about grab and go meals and how to implement social distancing at food pantries.
 - The NYC Unity Project has made food assistance available for individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ during the COVID-19 pandemic, [which can be found here](#).
 - You can now use your SNAP benefits to shop online for fresh produce and groceries. Participating online stores now accept SNAP benefits for online orders and will deliver to you. Use your EBT card to securely shop online. For participating stores, [please click here](#). NOTE: Pursuant to federal requirements, SNAP benefits cannot be used to cover delivery fees.

Farmers Market Health Bucks:

Many NYC farmers markets remain open as an essential service and all accept Health Bucks coupons and most accept SNAP. Health Bucks are \$2 coupons that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at all NYC farmers markets. SNAP recipients are eligible to receive Health Bucks. For every \$5 spent at farmers markets using SNAP on an EBT card, individuals can receive \$2 in Health Bucks. Health Bucks are available year-round at NYC farmers markets that accept SNAP. [Find a farmers market here](#).

For additional information on how individuals can access and use Health Bucks, please refer to this video: [How People with SNAP Benefits Use Health Bucks](#).

Organizations may apply for free Health Bucks to distribute to clients. Organizations can apply from mid-May through November. Health Bucks are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Apply for Health Bucks online](#).

HRA-Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP):

We have updated the eligibility criteria for our Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) providers to allow additional organizations to meet eligibility requirements. Applicant organizations are now required to have operated a pantry for four months rather than six. The application and eligibility criteria to operate a food pantry [can be accessed here](#) and more information can be found at [feednyc.org](#).

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides supplemental nutrition to food insecure New

Yorkers. EFAP currently funds over 570 emergency food programs (food pantries, community kitchens and mobile pantries) throughout NYC, providing shelf-stable and frozen food, and administrative funding for non-food related expenses.

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 nychomeless.com and let us know what you think about our messaging. Your feedback makes us better.

Thank you.
NYC CoC

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