



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kenneth C. Holt, Secretary

September 25, 2020

DHCD Response to COVID-19



Presenter

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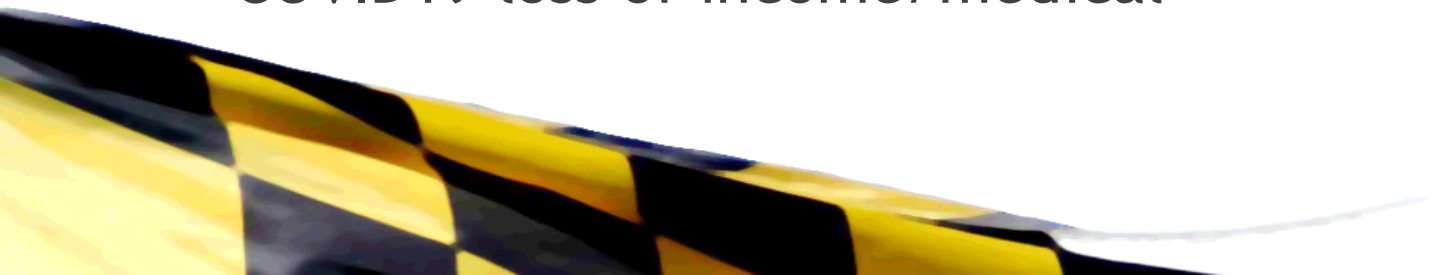
Community Services Programs

- ▶ Recipient for Federal ESG, CDBG, CSBG funds
- ▶ State homeless services funding
- ▶ Lead Agency for Balance of State CoC (started January 2020)
- ▶ State Interagency Council on Homelessness
- ▶ Biennial Youth REACH count
- ▶ Maryland State Homelessness Data Warehouse



Maryland's COVID-19 Response

- ▶ March 5 - Governor's Emergency Public Health Declaration
- ▶ March 12 - Beginning of State Safety Measures/Restrictions
- ▶ April - FEMA Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) approval
- ▶ Aggressive distancing and stay at home orders
- ▶ CoCs implemented use of PPE and CDC best practices early as much as possible, invested in decompressing congregate shelters early
- ▶ Court eviction moratorium through August 31, with continued protection for tenants until health order is lifted for those who cannot pay rent due to COVID19 loss of income/medical



DHCD's COVID-19 Response

- ▶ DHCD led weekly meetings with grantees, now biweekly
 - ▶ State departments provide updates on strategy/initiatives
 - ▶ Each grantee reports out on their community's testing/positive cases, funding/resource challenges, and special topics related to COVID 19 response
- ▶ Weekly, now Biweekly, newsletter/resource roundup
- ▶ Aligned state funding policies with federal waivers, provided flexibility whenever possible
- ▶ Provided advance funding to support emergency response and ensure continuity of operations



Our Grantees

- ▶ Continuums of Care in Maryland
- ▶ Community Action Agencies
- ▶ Housing Counseling Agencies
- ▶ Local Jurisdictions

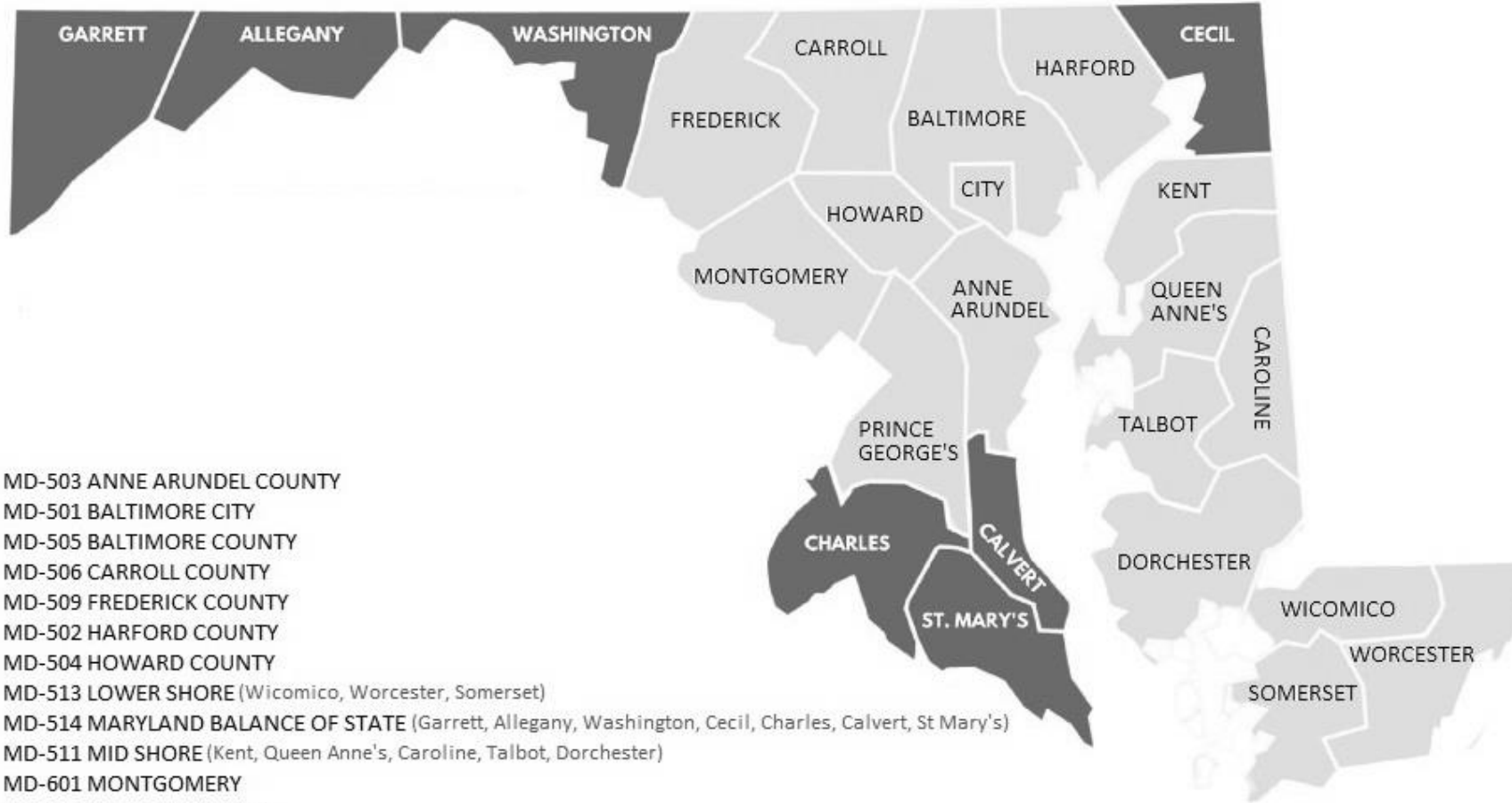


Continuums of Care

- ▶ A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a federally-recognized entity that is responsible for the application and distribution of federal homelessness services funds within a designated region
- ▶ Maryland has 11 (formerly 16) CoCs.



Maryland Homeless Services Coordination



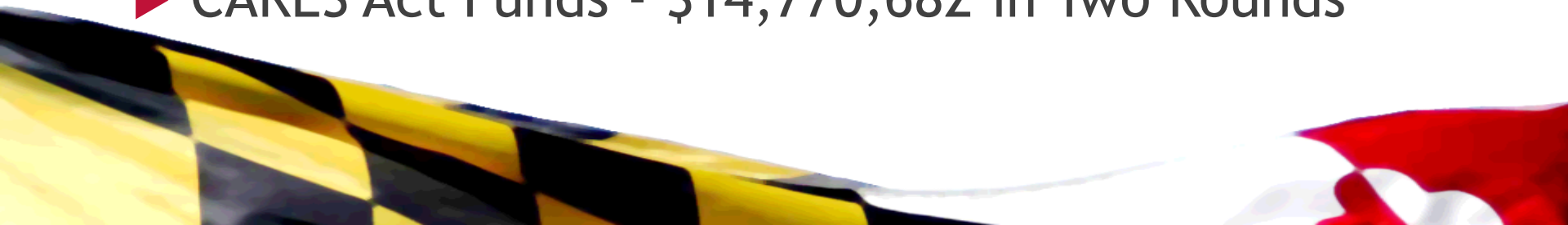
23 Counties:
5 entitlement
18 non-entitlement

11 CoCs:
1 BoS (7 counties)
2 Regional
8 Single County



Homelessness Solutions Program

- ▶ Provides Funds to support:
 - ▶ Shelter Operations
 - ▶ Rental Assistance
 - ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Data Collection
- ▶ Typical Year - \$9.5 million in State funds and \$1 million in Federal funds
- ▶ CARES Act Funds - \$14,770,682 in Two Rounds



Community Action Agencies

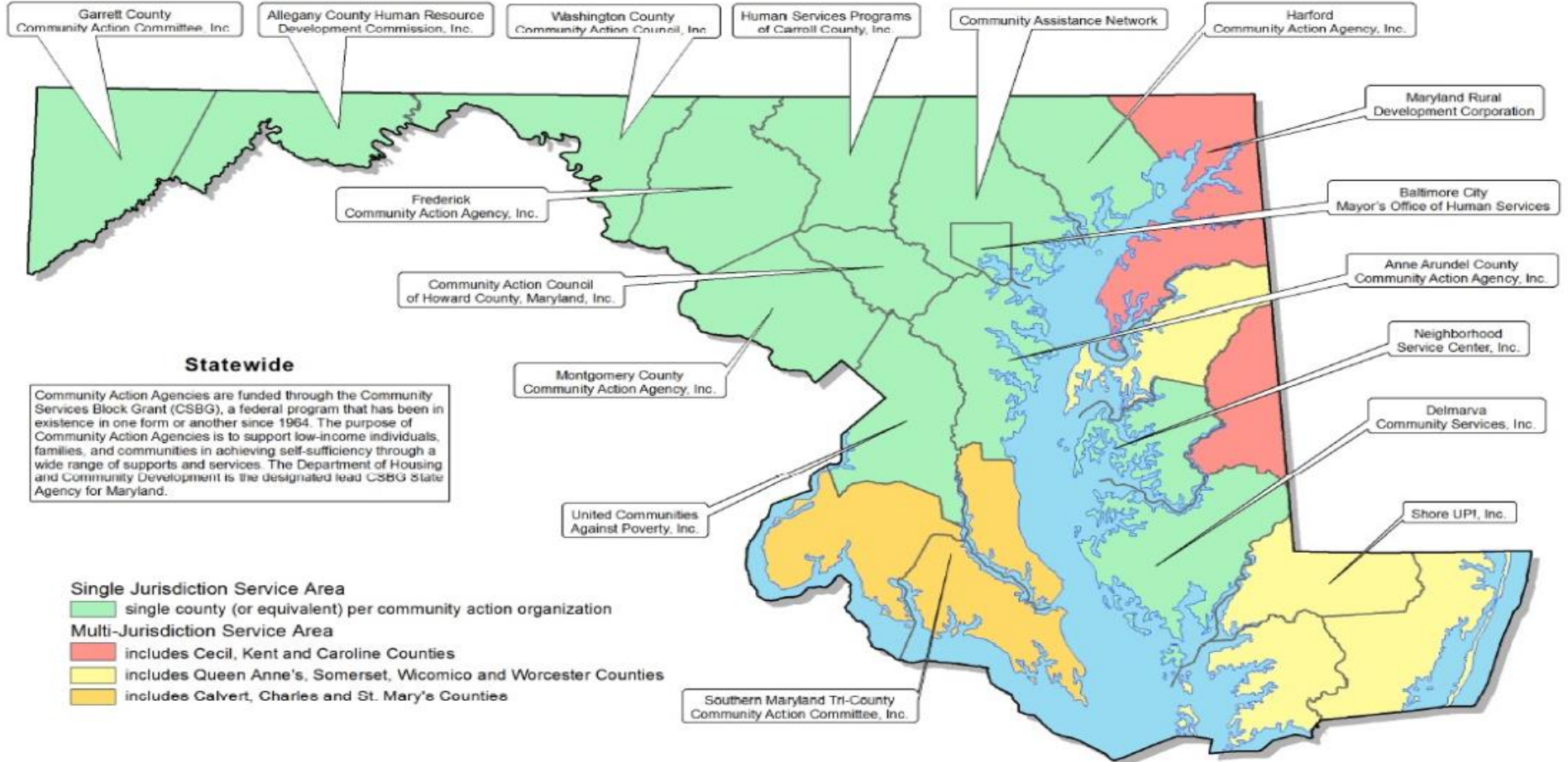
- ▶ Established by LBJ in the War on Poverty in the 1960s
- ▶ Evolved through the years to become the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- ▶ Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are federally-recognized anti-poverty agencies responsible for a designated region



Role of Community Action Agencies

- ▶ Provide a wide-range of services to individuals at or below 125% of federal poverty level
- ▶ Services may include = housing assistance, utility assistance, job training, food pantry, homelessness services, weatherization, tax preparation, budget counseling, crisis assistance, and much more.
- ▶ Maryland typically receives = \$10 million in CSBG funds
- ▶ Funds are distributed by formula based on poverty, unemployment, and rural needs
- ▶ CARES Act funds - \$13,719,816

Maryland Community Action Agencies



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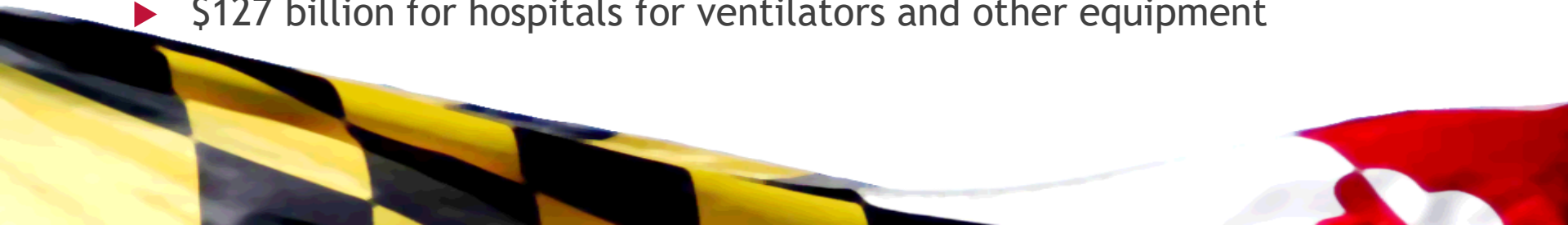
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Community Development Block Grant

- ▶ Designed to assist local jurisdictions with community development that supports affordable housing, anti-poverty, and infrastructure development
- ▶ Typical total allocation to Maryland = ~\$50 million
- ▶ Typical allocation to DHCD = ~\$7.8 million
- ▶ Direct allocation to “entitlement” jurisdictions
- ▶ DHCD awards funds to “non-entitlement” jurisdictions
- ▶ CARES Act funds - \$26,114,705 to DHCD; \$73,561,575 statewide

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- ▶ \$290 billion in direct payments to eligible taxpayers
- ▶ \$260 billion in expanded unemployment insurance
- ▶ \$150 billion for state and local governments
- ▶ \$510 billion in expanded lending for businesses and local governments
- ▶ \$377 billion in new loans and grants for small businesses
- ▶ \$127 billion for hospitals for ventilators and other equipment



CARES Act Funds to DHCD

- ▶ Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) = \$14,770,682 in two rounds
- ▶ Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) = \$13,719,816
- ▶ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) = 26,114,705
- ▶ Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) = \$10,000,000





DHCD Response



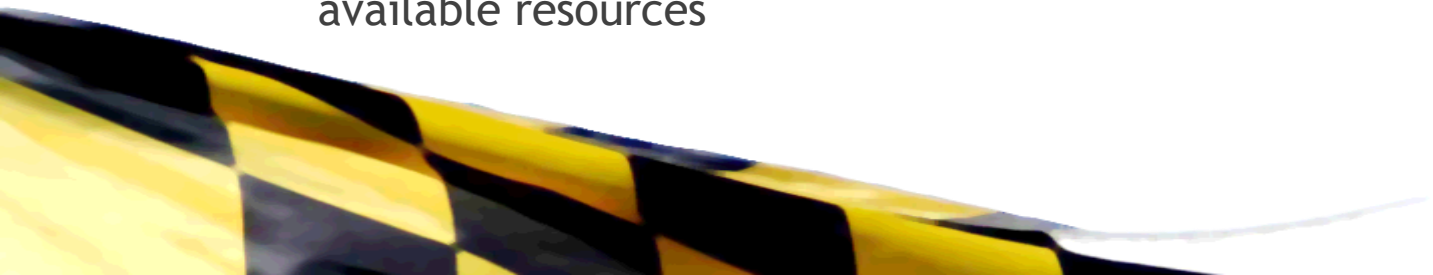
ESG-CV Round 1

Three key goals:

- ▶ Decompress shelters > Use of NCS and increase permanent housing resources
- ▶ Increase safety in congregate settings > Purchase of PPE, screening materials, cleaning supplies
- ▶ Act quickly - CoCs incurring significant expense since early March

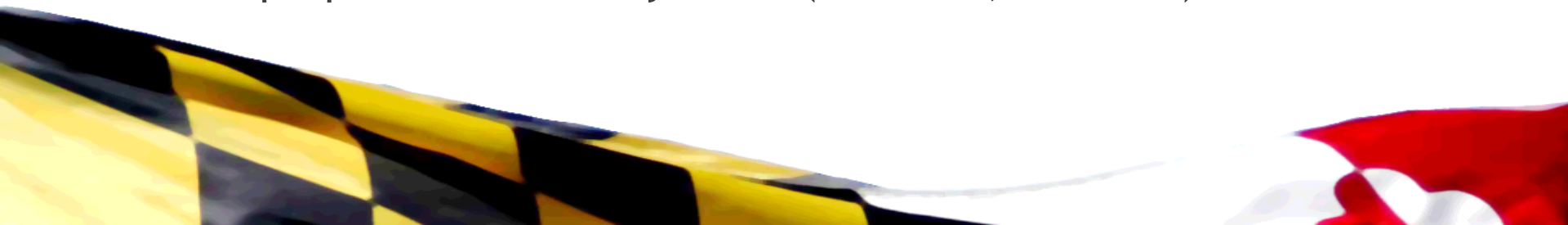
How it worked:

- ▶ Awarded funds to CoCs based on normal annual formula
- ▶ Announced funding allocations quickly so CoCs could plan how to align with CDBG-CV1
- ▶ Sought and gained approval to do advance payments
- ▶ No restrictions on how Round 1 funds could be used, other than that they should not duplicate other available resources



Early Focus on Rental Assistance

- ▶ Governor announced \$30 million in rental assistance
- ▶ \$20 million to be disbursed through CDBG - CV to supplement local jurisdiction programs
- ▶ \$10 million of Coronavirus Relief Fund to create Assisted Housing Relief Fund
 - ▶ Provides assistance to tenants in about 800 affordable housing properties funded by DHCD (about 40,000 units)



Planning for Round 2

Coordinating CARES Act and Federal Investments

- ▶ **CDBG-CV - \$26m through DHCD
\$73.5m statewide**
 - Round 1: Non-Entitlement Communities
 - Round 2: Statewide - Rental Assistance
 - Round 3: TBD

- ▶ **FEMA**
 - First funding source for all non-congregate shelter

- ▶ **CSBG-CV - \$13m**
 - Distributed to 17 Community Action Agencies across the state - wide variety of uses: rental assistance, food pantries, employment and training services, etc.

- ▶ **ESG-CV - \$14m**



ESG-CV2

Priority: People Already Experiencing Homelessness

▶ Total Awards

- ▶ Allocated to CoCs based on their share of the number of people experiencing homelessness annually across the non-entitlement communities
- ▶ Checked formula against racial and age demographics for CoCs to ensure equitable distribution
- ▶ Focus on strategies that move individuals out of homelessness and into housing.

What We Know

For Non-Entitlement CoCs:

- ▶ Low COVID case rate for total population
- ▶ Limited to no COVID cases confirmed in homeless population
- ▶ Not eligible for direct allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds
- ▶ Most CoCs had a FEMA NCS project in their jurisdiction or alternative hoteling support
- ▶ Unemployment rates relatively equal
- ▶ Racial disparities in homelessness in certain counties
- ▶ Many CoCs also Community Action Agencies and could align CSBG-CV funding with ESG-CV



What We Don't Know

- ▶ Whether Congress will approve additional funds for ESG-CV
- ▶ Future changes in COVID cases, infection rates, etc.
- ▶ Eviction case data
- ▶ Future economic and housing impacts



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