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

MD-503 ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
MD-501 BALTIMORE CITY
MD-505 BALTIMORE COUNTY
MD-506 CARROLL COUNTY
MD-509 FREDERICK COUNTY
MD-502 HARFORD COUNTY
MD-504 HOWARD COUNTY
MD-513 LOWER SHORE (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset)
MD-514 MARYLAND BALANCE OF STATE (Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Cecil, Charles, Calvert, St Mary’s)
MD-511 MID SHORE (Kent, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester)
MD-601 MONTGOMERY
MD-600 PRINCE GEORGE’S
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

Statewide

Community Action Agencies are funded through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a federal program that has been in existence in one form or another since 1966. The purpose of Community Action Agencies is to support low-income individuals, families, and communities in achieving self-sufficiency through a wide range of supports and services. The Department of Housing and Community Development is the designated lead CSBG State Agency for Maryland.

Single Jurisdiction Service Area
- single county (or equivalent) per community action organization

Multi-Jurisdiction Service Area
- includes Cecil, Kent and Caroline Counties
- includes Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties
- includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary’s Counties

United Communities Against Poverty, Inc.

Southern Maryland 15th-City Community Action Committee, Inc.
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
Contact Information

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