

Responding to COVID-19

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COVID-19 Disparate Impacts and Racial Inequity

- **The Pandemic exacerbated existing needs and inequalities**
- Record unemployment, disproportionately incurred by lower-wage works
- Increased demand for assistance through public services, tests capacity
- Housing costs, missed rent payments, and increased risk of homelessness



Discussion Topics

- Administering the Federal CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grants and Community Development Block Grants
- Project Homekey
- Increased importance to provide safe, affordable homes and create vibrant, sustainable communities



Federal CARES Act & Emergency Solutions Grants

- Provides funding for people experiencing homelessness or receiving homelessness assistance
- HCD issued a NOFA on June 1st, roughly \$42 million and applications are due July 20th
- Streamlined over-the-counter allocation
- Another \$271.7 million in Round 2



Federal CARES Act & Community Development Block Grants

- Allows grantees to use FY19 & FY20 CDBG grants for COVID response
- HUD may issue waivers and alternative requirements
- On June 5th, HCD issued NOFA of \$19 million in CDBG funding for COVID response
- Over-the-counter applications accepted from June 8th to August 31st



Project Homekey

- Next phase of Project Roomkey that provided 15,679 rooms for 14,000+ individuals in 52 counties
- Funds for acquisition and rehab to convert hotels & motels to permanent housing, preservation, and other strategies to house people experiencing homelessness in a rapid and long term way
- Multi-agency effort, including local governments
- Equity-informed approach
- \$550 million in federal funds must be spent by Dec. 2020, additional \$50 million in state funds to support effort



Project Homekey: Data Collection

To support HCD evaluations and local partners in pursuing acquisitions, HCD gathered data including:

- Access/Proximity to transit, and other services such as grocery stores and county health facilities
- Unit and building amenities such as kitchenettes and parking
- Demographic information: homelessness, unemployment, ethnicity, income level
- Risk factors such as toxins, wildfires, and floods



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