

COVID-19 Briefing for DHS Providers and Partners

Department of Human Services June 5, 2020

Please submit questions via WebEx chat



www.dhs.dc.gov @DCHumanServ

Agenda

- I. Welcome and DHS Operational Status
- II. ESA SNAP and P-EBT Update
- III. ESA Operational Status
- IV. Human Services Data
- V. FSA Operational Status
- VI. Housing Process
- VII. Re-Opening Plans
- VIII.Question and Answer



DHS Operational Status (6/5/20)

Phase I Re-Opening does not impact DHS services

DHS continues to deliver essential services:

- Low Barrier and Emergency Shelters Open, extended hours
- Call Center Open
- ESA Service Centers Limited Services, varied by site
- Outreach Limited Services
- Day Centers DDSC limited, Zoe's Doors & Sasha Bruce open
- Virginia Williams Family Resource Center Open, intake via telephone / Shelter Hotline
- FRSP case management, HPP, and ERAP: via telephone



ESA: SNAP Updates

- Requesting extensions of waivers/flexibilities due to extension of public health emergency through July
- Emergency Allotments will continue through June

\$17 million in emergency allotments issued to 34k households



ESA: P-EBT Update

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) implemented Wednesday, May 20
- P-EBT is a new temporary federal food benefit for families who have one or more children who receive free or reducedprice school meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at their school.
- P-EBT coverage: March 16 <u>June 19</u>
- \$5.70 per school day per child
- Only children who receive/attend schools that offer free/reduced meals under NSLP are eligible

P-EBT Call Center (202) 868-6663 7:30 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. Monday – Friday

Issued so far... **\$14.7 million** to over **21k families**



ESA Operational Status

- Following Service Centers open <u>only</u> for pick up & drop off:
 - Taylor Street located at 1207 Taylor Street NW
 - H Street located at 645 H Street NE
 - Congress Heights located at **4049 South Capitol Street SW**
 - Anacostia Service Center & Fort Davis are temporarily closed
- DHS Call Center: (202) 727-5355 open Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:45pm; wait-times between 5-10 minutes
- Applications are accepted online, at one of the open service centers, or by mail (customers can also request an application be mailed by calling the DHS Call Center)
 - https://dhs.dc.gov/service/apply-benefits



Human Services Data – COVID-19

As of June 4 at 5pm:

- Number of individuals in shelter who have tested positive: 302
- Number of individuals in remote quarantine: 90
- Of individuals in remote quarantine, number of individuals from shelter: 78
- Total Number of Lives Lost Among Individuals in the Homeless Service System: 16

Updated Daily:

https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/human-services-agency-covid-19-case-data



Heat Emergency Planning

Cooling Centers for Summer 2020

- Aiton Elementary School
 533 48th Pl NE, Washington, DC 20019
- Congress Heights Recreation Center 611 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20032
- Dunbar High School
 101 N St NW, Washington, DC 20001
- Hamilton Recreation Center
 1340 Hamilton St NW, Washington, DC 20011
- Handy Recreation Center
 4500 Q St NW, Washington, DC 20007
- Marvin Gaye Recreation Center
 5200 Foote St NE, Washington, DC 20019
- New York Ave. / Dunbar Recreation Center 100 N St NW, Washington, DC 20001

- Parkview Recreation Center
 693 Otis PI NW, Washington, DC 20010
- Patterson Elementary School 4399 South Capitol Terrace SW, Washington, DC 20032
- Randall Recreation Center
 S Capitol St SW & I St SW, Washington, DC 20024
- Randle Highlands Elementary School 1650 30th St SE, Washington, DC 20020
- Seaton Elementary School
 1503 10th St NW, Washington, DC 20001
- Volta Recreation Center
 1555 34th St NW, Washington, DC 20007
- Watkins Elementary School
 420 12th St SE, Washington, DC 20003

More information and map: heat.dc.gov



Support for Unsheltered Individuals

Safety

Access to food, showers, laundry, charging stations

Handwashing Stations and Porta Potties





Update on Testing

Judiciary Square Testing site open for walk up – no appointment required

F Street NW between 4th & 5th Streets M-F 10am-2pm





PEP-V: Eligibility Criteria

Aligned with CDC list of conditions for higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 Individuals experiencing homelessness:

- People 65 years and older
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart condition
 - People who are immunocompromised, including persons undergoing or recovering from cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - People with diabetes
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - People with liver disease



PEP-V: Referral Process

Please use this link to refer clients who are staying in shelter or unsheltered to PEP-V:

- <u>Referral Form</u>
- Please make sure to have all information filled out before submitting the referral form
- Those who are 65 and older will automatically medically qualify.
- Please allow up to 48 hours for the client to be medically reviewed by Unity Healthcare and before DHS will confirm and reach out to schedule transportation
 For questions, please email Christian Howard (Christian.Howard@dc.gov)





FSA: Families

- FRSP No new notice of cessation will be issued for families in FRSP for the month of June
- **ERAP** Online application up and running. District residents can access scheduling app at dhs.dc.gov under ERAP page
 - DHCD finalizing preparation to launch COVID Housing Assistance Program that supplement ERAP
- VWFRC continued to provide shelter placement via telephone screening
- **HPP** continued to provide services remotely
- SHELTER: we adjusted the lease up business process to support families in shelter transition to housing



Shelter Transition to Post-Pandemic Operations

- DHS and DC Health working together on what DC's reopen phases mean for shelter, ISAQ, and PEP-V operations
- Guiding principles:
 - Phasing out modified operations depends on curbing the infection rate within shelters and the community – not solely dependent on District's Phases
 - Clear testing and contact tracing strategies are key
 - Residents staying in PEP-V will exit to housing, rather than return to shelter or unsheltered situations to the maximum extent possible



Question & Answer

DHS modified operations:

https://dhs.dc.gov/page/dhs-modified-operations-during-covid-19_

Portal for homeless service providers (Partner PPTs posted here): <u>https://dhs.dc.gov/page/resources-homeless-service-providers</u>

Central inbox for requests and inquiries: <u>dhs.covid19@dc.gov</u>

Share tips, experiences, and photos to post: <u>dora.taylor-lowe@dc.gov</u>

