



# **COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**

## **April 2, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (4-2-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 419 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the County.

- Gender, age and geographic distribution of cases are available on the [Health Department website](#).

### Web Communication

- As a reminder, please update your websites with any changes to your operations, such as hours, to help our clients better find services.
- As a reminder, be aware of phishing scams that are going around. If you see any emails coming from DHS with a suspicious link or attachment, do not click on it and please report it to us.

### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program RFP

- As a reminder, The RFP is live on the [DHS Solicitations website](#).
- Proposals will be due 5-1-2020, with program start dates of 10-1-2020.

We are continuing to improve our website, now located at [www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders).

- You can find daily briefings, slides and frequently asked questions.
- We're posting information under various subjects like child welfare, food assistance, homelessness and housing, and payments and DHS operations. We keep adding things to these sections so keep checking back.
- You can reach us by email at [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us). We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.

### Staffing Challenges

- As a reminder, when you have used all your staff resources and invoked all your contingency plans, please contact your Deputy Director or [DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us) to help you problem solve.

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### Federal update

Nonprofits are eligible to apply for the SBA Paycheck Protection plan.

- You can begin to apply on Friday 4-3-2020.
- Link: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

### CARES Act

- PA will receive grants through the CARES ACT totaling \$160.5M.
- [Informative visualization of CARES funding](#)

### State update

PA reports that tax revenue collections were 6.2% below estimates for March.

- This revenue drop eliminated all excess from the state's General Fund from the first 8 months of the fiscal year.

- April numbers will be worse than this. Without federal aid, the PA budget will almost certainly constrict for next fiscal year.

Gov. Wolf is considering promoting K-12 students to the next grade or allowing them to graduate if they had passing grades prior to the school shutdown.

## **Food**

We had a school superintendents' call today, convened by the AIU and joined by the Food Bank, United Way and Allies for Children.

- The group will be collecting weekly data on participation, distribution and community-based partnerships. Contact us if there is information you want.
- The Students and Families Food Relief Fund has launched.
- Spring break food distribution is well covered.

Emergency “last resort” food access procedure

- As a reminder, this option is for families who have exhausted all other options: COVID-19 positive households and/or those that lack the ability to leave their home and have no existing delivery options.
- Call 2-1-1 and delivery will be arranged.

### AAA food information

- No new updates since yesterday (4-1-2020).

## **Program Updates**

### AAA

- No new updates since 4-1-2020.

### OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us) or 412-350-3577) with your essential employees.
  - The state announced new flexibility, allowing families to continue using childcare subsidies when transferring between providers.
  - We have identified two additional childcare needs:
    - COVID-19 positive households
      - We are exploring solutions for this.
    - Crisis respite care for families in need of support
      - Jeremiah's Place is open 7am - 7pm Monday – Friday.
      - Referrals will be accepted from case workers/social workers on behalf of families.
      - Capacity is very limited, given the circumstances, so it's first come/first served.

- Call Jeremiah's Place at 412-924-0726 from 9 am-5 pm to make arrangements.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - We continue to work on isolation and quarantine space.
    - As a reminder, the CYF Youth Facility (FamilyLinks Teen Healing Center) is open!
    - We hope to announce the hotel opening date soon.
  - Supplies
    - DHS is a supplier of last resort: Please purchase supplies if you are able to do so, but if you cannot find supplies (e.g., PPE, sanitation products) in stores or lack funds, please let us know.
  - HUD is offering opportunities for CoCs to request waivers. DHS is currently reviewing what is available and will make a request to HUD within the next few days. We will keep you posted on what flexibility we do have.
  - The provider call is on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.
  - DHS is working to schedule a call with emergency shelters and the Health Department.
    - Contact Kate Holko (Kathryn.Holko@alleghenycounty.us) if interested in participating.

### Behavioral Health

- We had a behavioral health provider meeting this morning and heard terrific things about client engagement and satisfaction, across levels of care, with telehealth.
- Update to the Behavioral Health Commitment Protocol
  - IRES MH Delegates will accept petitions called in directly by petitioners, whether they are an MH professional, family, friend, etc.
  - Petitioners can file a petition electronically or over the phone.
  - Physician exam can be done via telehealth.
- Drug and Alcohol
  - DDAP-Approved Prevention Activities include physical and online information dissemination activities, online collaboration, online education and training, virtual training and virtual education.
  - [Federal DEA Update on MAT](#): Quarantined or isolated patients can have their MAT dropped off in a lockbox by a provider or law enforcement.
- Early intervention
  - No new updates since 4-1-2020.

### OID/Autism

- Allegheny County OID continues to have weekly meetings with the Supports Coordination Organizations. They have increased their communications with families, especially those most vulnerable. They are reaching families every way that they can. If you have a family in mind that needs support, call the appropriate supports coordination unit or our office.

## CYF

- The Warmline is available at 1-855-284-2494 for those who are experiencing anxiety and stress or just need someone to talk to. Please share with your staff, families and anyone who may need some support.

## Courts/Jail

- As a reminder, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a second supplemental order on 4-1-2020.
  - We will continue to stay in touch with the courts to monitor the local impact.

## Transportation

- We are continuing to collaborate on transportation plans for people who have intense medical needs or who are COVID-19 positive.

## **How to Reach Us**

- Email us at [DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19planning@allegHENYcounty.us) with questions. Use the subject line to indicate the type of question you are submitting (e.g., program area, DHS operations).
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

**SEE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED AT TODAY'S CALL**