



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
May 18, 2020



General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-18-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,641 confirmed cases and 143 deaths in the County.

- The Health Department's [dashboard](#) provides additional information.
- The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania's [dashboard](#) shows information such as bed utilization.

As a reminder, we invite you to submit your ideas about how to help people in Allegheny County at <https://neighborland.com/alleghenycounty/home?preview=c9ad1489989a4c44>.

- We are very excited about the responses. We have received about 5,000 visits to the site so far. Please keep sharing the link!

Local Grantmaking

For the next few days, we will have funders join the calls to share their investments to date and future plans. Today we are joined by representatives from The Heinz Endowments, The Opportunity Fund and The Pittsburgh Foundation.

- Michelle McMurray, Director of Grantmaking – Children, Youth and Families at The Pittsburgh Foundation:
 - Focus to Date
 - The Pittsburgh Foundation houses the Emergency Action Fund
 - 4 foundations (Heinz, Hillman, RK Mellon and TPF) came together to create a pooled fund, on March 16th. Each foundation contributed \$1M.
 - The fund covers 2 streams of activity:
 - Systems Level
 - Advised fund by foundations, DHS, United Way and County
 - Invited proposals for system-level needs
 - Made 12 grants totaling \$3.3M
 - Average grant size was \$200K
 - Grantees included DHS for emergency quarantine, United Way to expand 2-1-1, COVID-19 staffing and support for the Health Department, emergency housing stabilization to URA and more.
 - Strengthening the nonprofit human services sector at the organizational level
 - Accepts contributions from donors and corporations
 - Awarding small operating grants to organizations in Allegheny, Westmoreland and Beaver counties
 - Grant sizes range from \$5,000-25,000
 - Goal is to provide operating support to organizations that meet basic needs and arts organizations
 - \$4.5M has been raised
 - Received 535 applications totaling \$13M
 - Approved 216 grants totaling over \$3.7M
 - 57% for operating support
 - Average grantee budget size \$1.8M

- 44% under \$500,000 budget
 - 19% are led by people of color
 - They are still reviewing proposals, but the fund is no longer accepting applications at this time.
 - To date, the fund has distributed over \$7M in grants.
- Future Plans
 - Given how challenged families have been and will continue to be as they recover from unemployment, furloughs and layoffs, they will probably continue to focus on funding for basic needs/social safety net.
 - They are thinking geographically and through an equity lens.
 - There are so many unknowns; they will listen to information they receive from partners and through community calls with grantees.
 - They are hearing over and over again about the critical need for operating support and understand that organizations need flexibility right now.
 - They need stronger data on racial disproportionality.
 - They want to focus more on system change through advocacy and policy.
 - Here is [a link to the summary of the community conversations that they've held](#). Feel free to contact Michelle at mcmurraym@pghfdn.org if you have thoughts or ideas about what they've missed or gotten wrong.
- Michelle Figlar, Vice President of Learning at The Heinz Endowments:
 - Focus to Date
 - Heinz wanted to be as flexible as possible with current grants to respond to crisis
 - They created a \$5M fund to support COVID-19 response at the systems level.
 - Grants have included:
 - \$360K United Way emergency basic needs
 - \$200K to Poise Foundation
 - \$250K AHN mobile testing
 - FQHCs including those in Homewood and Hazelwood
 - \$200K for arts organizations (have not been made yet)
 - Future Plans
 - They are thinking about the social safety net across our areas: creativity, learning and sustainability.
 - Their cross-program work is needed more than ever.
 - They are thinking about policy opportunities to avoid going back to doing business the way it's always been done.
 - They are partnering with key intermediaries like the Forbes Funds, United Way, Poise, DHS, School Districts, The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Health Department.
 - They are in contact with grantees more than ever.
- Jake Goodman, Executive Director of The Opportunity Fund:
 - Focus to Date
 - The Opportunity Fund supports the arts and social and economic justice.

- They created a \$500K fund outside of normal grant cycles to respond to COVID-19, allocating half to arts organizations and splitting the other half between mutual aid, de-incarceration and food distribution.
 - The largest grant of \$25K was made to a fiscally-sponsored organization called The Bucket Bail Fund.
 - Pittsburgh Mutual Aid gives \$250 grants to people who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
 - 43% of funding went to Black-led organizations.
 - They also support the Food Bank and 412 Food Rescue.
 - Future Plans
 - They want to become more transparent and to ease restrictions on current grantees and applicants.
 - They are defining their lane—focusing on smaller organizations as they grow their own power.
 - They will focus on areas such as de-incarceration and housing evictions.
- You can share your ideas about how foundations can best support the social safety net at DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us.

Testing Sites Update

- New testing sites include:
 - 7 FQHC, representing a partnership between ACHD and the RK Mellon Foundation
 - 2 CVS locations, with more sites opening this week
- These have been added to the [testing site map](#).

Supply Update

- Some agencies still have orders pending pickup or delivery. Look for emails from DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us with pickup or delivery details.
- Continue to submit supply requests through Global Links at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4813339>.

Laptop request update

- To date, have distributed 196 laptops to clients.
- We've received almost 500 requests.
 - Each request is validated for need and prioritized.
 - Another distribution is scheduled for this Thursday and Friday.
- If your request is approved, you will be contacted by DHS-Covid19Supplies@alleghenycounty.us with pickup details.
- The link to submit a request is: <https://bit.ly/DHSCOVID19Form>.

As a reminder, please advise your clients of the health insurance deadline for furloughed/displaced workers.

- Furloughed workers have 60 days from the end of their health insurance coverage to enroll in the Affordable Care Act marketplace, which can be one of the lowest cost options. If people don't

take advantage of that 60-day window, then they will be forced to wait until this fall to apply and their coverage won't begin until January of next year. <https://www.healthcare.gov/get-coverage>

- Consumer Health Coalition, a local non-profit, can help people navigate the process and can be reached 412-456-1877.
- Also, the Allegheny County Health Department publishes a Guide to Health Care Resources for people who are Underinsured and under-insured. https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Health_Department/Programs/Chronic_Disease_Prevention/Insuredlinked.pdf.

As a reminder, DHS sent out new DHS Draft Guidance for providers' review, consisting of 2 main sets of guidance:

- Workplace Safety Guidance
- Updates to DHS's prior guidance regarding 24/7 residential settings

The drafts were sent out for your review and are [posted on our website](#). To submit comments on these drafts, please email DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us and write "Guidance feedback" in the subject line.

We are continuing to improve our website, located at www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSProviders.

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is live.
- You can reach us by email at DHS-COVID19planning@alleghenycounty.us. We will answer all questions and elevate issues to inform the network.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US

Legislative/Policy Updates

Federal Updates

- 5th Federal Stimulus Bill: House passed \$3 trillion bill on Friday.
 - Includes \$850b to support state and local governments as well as funding for human services programs, another round of Economic Impact Payments and much more.
 - The bill is a "non-starter" in the Senate; Senate Republicans are working quietly on their own bill, but there is no agreement with the House and their plans to introduce a bill is unclear.

State and local updates

- As a reminder, the Wolf Administration [announced](#) a decision to shift implementation of key provisions in the Family First Prevention Services Act from October 2020 to July 2021.
 - The federal legislation was enacted in 2018 to increase investments in child welfare prevention services and focus on family-based foster care when out-of-home placements are necessary.
 - Planning for implementation continues at the County and State levels.

Food

Food Bank Data

- We are seeing increasing numbers of community partner organizations distributing boxes. Use of community delivery boxes and summer food continues to rise.
 - Summer sites will continue operating through August 30th.

The Food Access Call is on Tuesdays at 3:30 pm. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

AAA food information

- No new updates since 5-14-2020.

Program Updates

AAA

- No new updates since 5-14-2020.

OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information (elrc5@allegHENYcounty.us or 412-350-3577).
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
 - There is still time to receive the first round of Economic Impact Payments and paper checks are still available. Please contact Peter Harvey (Peter.Harvey@allegHENYcounty.us) for additional information.
 - As a reminder, National Alliance to End Homelessness has compiled a 7-part learning series.
 - [Click here to register](#). Registration is free for the first 2500 participants.
 - As a reminder, the Family Quarantine and Isolation space is open and has available spaces!
 - 2- and 3-bedroom apartments for families from the homeless system or CYF
 - To make a referral, contact Remy Harris (Remy.Harris@allegHENYcounty.us).
 - As a reminder, we have gotten our first delivery of client cell phones.
 - Contact Gabe Krivosh (Gabriel.Krivosh@allegHENYcounty.us) for more information.
 - Provider Network Meeting is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am. Call-in information can be found in the slide presentation.

Behavioral Health

- As you make programmatic changes, please reach out to your designated contact at the Office of Behavioral Health.
- May is Mental Health Awareness month. As a reminder, here are a few highlighted resources:
 - State set up a mental health awareness website: <http://mha2020.org/>
 - Earlier this year, Governor Wolf launched [“Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters.”](#)
 - PADHS also announced a [statewide support and referral help lines](#).

- [1-855-284-2494](tel:1-855-284-2494) or TTY at dial 724-631-5600
- As a reminder, SMAHSA drafted a [Personal Protection Letter](#) for providers indicating that we are an essential service in this pandemic.
- SUD
 - As a reminder, DDAP is seeking client feedback on confidentiality practices through the [SUD Confidentiality Requirements Survey](#).
 - As a reminder, DDAP ASAM Trainings are being offered for each level of care.
 - Schedule of webinars can be found [here](#).
 - These are very important to participate in and they are presented in a different way than trainings in the past.
- Webinar Opportunities
 - As a reminder, Stress and Mental Health among Pregnant and Parenting Mothers during COVID-19 is being offered tomorrow.
 - Tuesday, May 19 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm CT
 - Register - <https://stressmentalhealth.eventbrite.com>
- Early Intervention
 - No new updates since 5-1-2020.

OID/Autism

- [ODP Announcement 20-052](#), “HCBS in Counties Designated by the Governor as Yellow Phase,” has been updated.
 - The Spanish language version of the individual transition guide came out today (5-18-2020).
- Continue to follow local information and directives, along with the PA Department of Health and the State Office of Developmental Programs. There are links to COVID-19 updates on MyODP.org <https://www.myodp.org/mod/page/view.php?id=26808>.

CYF

- Fingerprinting update
 - Please remember that people need to call to see what locations are open and that all individuals need to wear a mask or they will be turned away. See the slide presentation for details.
 - There is some flexibility around Act 18, making sure that you as the employer document the information. See the slide presentation for details.
- Resources/information about serving our most vulnerable populations
 - Early data (from the [CDC](#) and [AARP](#)) shows that people of color are being hit the hardest by the coronavirus.
 - Resources for Caseworkers
 - [Stabilizing Children and Families](#) – This article looks at how the pandemic has affected vulnerable populations and how we can help support these individuals.
 - [Black Social Workers during COVID-19](#) – This article explores challenges faced by Black social workers during COVID-19.
 - Resources for Administration/Management
 - [Equity Implications](#) – This article from the NAACP looks at possible equity considerations due to COVID-19.

- Resources for Families
 - [African-American community resources](#) – This NAACP resource includes information on housing, direct services worker resources and more. It also includes recommendation for advocacy work.
 - [Resources for the Latino Population](#) – Salud America developed this resource to assist Latinx families and children.
 - [Tips for parents to combat stigma and racism during COVID-19](#)
 - [Resources for the Undocumented Community](#)

Courts/Jail

- No new updates since 5-7-2020.

Transportation

- No new updates since 5-14-2020.

How to Reach Us

- Email us at 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).
- The COVID Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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