



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**May 21, 2020**



## General Information

As of the time of this meeting (5-21-2020 at 4:30 pm) there are 1,718 confirmed cases and 144 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.

### Local Grantmaking

At the last two meeting, we have had have funders join the calls to share their investments to date and future plans. Today we were joined by representatives from BNY Mellon Foundation, Hillman Family Foundations and Staunton Farm Foundation. Notes on their presentations follow and you can hear their full presentations at <https://vimeo.com/421293263>.

Kenya Boswell, BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern PA

- Focus to Date
  - BNY Mellon invests through our foundation, corporate sponsorships and employee matching.
    - During COVID-19, they established avenues for employees to give directly through a 2-for-1 matching gift campaign. BNY Mellon matched at a rate of \$2 for every \$1 given by an employee.
  - They first reached out to existing grantees to inform them of flexibility with their current grant funds.
  - They focused on critical and basic needs.
- Future Plans
  - Focus on workforce development, specifically getting individuals back in the workforce.
  - They are discussing possibly increasing giving levels above their mandated 5%.

Lauri Fink, Hillman Family Foundations

- Focus to Date
  - Focused on Basic Needs at a systems level, including Allegheny County DHS.
  - \$5.3M of giving so far during COVID-19
  - Global Links was their primary grantee for critical supplies.
  - They extended flexibility to existing grantees.
- Future
  - They are continuing to focus on COVID-19 response, basic needs, and those disproportionately affected by the crisis.
  - They are staying nimble as things unfold.

Joni Schwager, Staunton Farm Foundation

- Focus to Date
  - \$600,000 in emergency grants, half within Allegheny County.
  - They focused on telehealth and technology.
  - They are continuing to give emergency grants at this time.
- Future
  - They will continue this approach through the rest of the calendar year.
  - The board is committed to acting quickly.

- They are interested in doing outreach to hidden/underserved populations; please submit any ideas. For example, they are doing a webinar for restaurant workers next week.
- If you are interested in a non-emergency grant email [office@stauntonfarm.org](mailto:office@stauntonfarm.org). Describe briefly what you are interested in and who it will serve (in lieu of an LOI) to save you time.
- If you already had a grant in the pipeline, please email them with an update regarding whether you are still interested in pursuing the proposal and what if anything has changed.
- You can share your ideas about how foundations can best support the social safety net with us at [DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us)

Testing Sites Update. New testing sites include:

- Tests at 7 FQHC as partnership between ACHD and the RK Mellon Foundation
- Testing at 2 CVS locations with more sites this week
- These have all been added to the [testing site map](#)

All PA Licensed Residential Providers are requested to complete a survey by May 26<sup>th</sup>.

- The Wolf administration has developed and released a [Testing Strategy](#) that focuses on the three pillars, which include accessibility, availability and adaptability.
- The Department seeks to understand the testing environment in its residential facilities and requests that each facility complete this [testing survey](#) no later than Tuesday, May 26.

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

- 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](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/COVID19DHSPROVIDERS).

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now live.
- 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.
- Please submit stories and photos of how you are meeting needs during this time to [Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US).

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

- 5th Federal stimulus bill: Senate introduced bipartisan SMART Act as alternative to House HEROES Act, with a much narrower scope
  - \$500 billion in flexible funding for state and local governments to cover COVID response costs as well as some lost revenue

- Removes 500,000 population threshold, so any municipality qualifies
- Strictly for state and local government relief – does not include any other funding from the \$3 trillion House HEROES Act

#### State and local updates

- PA House Republicans' attempt to override Gov. Wolf's veto of a bill that would have allowed broad business reopening across the State failed to garner two thirds majority.
  - Emphasis on reopening businesses quickly continues to overshadow state budget discussions at the State Capitol
- The Allegheny County Board of Elections is receiving pushback on a limited number of in-person polling locations for the June 2nd Primary.
  - The County received State approval to reduce the number of in-person locations due to COVID-19.
  - County pointing to large number of mail-in ballots received as proof that in-person turnout will be lower.

#### Food

As a reminder, here is the best way to support families/individuals with food access:

1. Encourage families/individuals to apply for public assistance.
  - a. SNAP
    - i. [Food Bank](#) and [Just Harvest](#) both offer support with applications.
    - ii. Pennsylvania was just approved for online SNAP purchasing – coming soon!!
  - b. P-EBT
    - i. Up to \$370.50 per child for families enrolled in free/reduced lunch (and ALL PPS families)
    - ii. Remind families to make sure their updated address is on file with school district.
2. Support families/individuals in finding access to food
  - a. Pantries and other emergency food options:
    - i. Use [this map](#) or "Get Help" on the [Food Bank website](#) to identify pantries near household.
  - b. Grab and Go sites (for families with children):
    - i. Use [this map](#) or "Grab and Go" on [Food Bank website](#) to identify the closest Grab and Go location.
  - c. Large scale Food Bank distributions
  - d. Call 2-1-1 or Food Bank Concierge (412) 460-3663 ext. 655

If you are interested in partnering with the Pittsburgh Food Bank to provide food to your community, please complete this survey: [bit.ly/PFB-partner](https://bit.ly/PFB-partner). As a community partner, you would help distribute food boxes and produce.

#### Farmers to Families Program

- These five schools will be distributing boxes of produce every Thursday at 10 am, beginning next week:
  - Millones, 3117 Centre Ave
  - Carmalt, 1550 Breining Street

- Perry, 3875 Perrysville Ave
- Falson, 7430 Tioga Street
- The Gifted Center, 1400 Crucible Street

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

### AAA food information

A new distribution process for Farmers Market vouchers is being developed to comply with coronavirus guidelines that will keep agency staff and seniors safe.

- Mail-in applications will be utilized
- Once the plan is finalized, the AAA will be using email, local media, our website, newsletters, etc. to inform the community.

## **Program Updates**

### AAA

- No new updates since 5-14-2020.

### OCS

- For childcare resources, please share ELRC contact information ([elrc5@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:elrc5@alleghenycounty.us) or 412-350-3577).
  - New Allegheny Childcare tool launched today! You can search for childcare spots in your area using information such as age and address. Providers are still being listed on the site, and it will become more useful once more providers are added. <https://tryingtogether.org/find-child-care/>
  - Health and Safety Guidelines have been developed
    - Childcare provider guidelines were shared with providers last week.
    - School age summer camp guidelines are under development.
  - Funding to Support Childcare Providers
    - Over \$4M in CARES funding will be distributed to childcare providers via ELRCs.
    - Local foundation community also made a \$500,000 investment to support childcare.
- We have moved employment information and resources to [our website](#).
- Homeless network
  - As a reminder, Quarantine and Isolation facilities are open and have available spaces!
    - To make a referral for a family, contact Remy Harris ([Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us))
    - Homeless referrals: [Jessica.McKown@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jessica.McKown@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Office of Behavioral Health referrals: [Diane.Johnson@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Diane.Johnson@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Allegheny County Jail referrals: [Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Immigrants and Internationals referrals: [bgreen@jfcspgh.org](mailto:bgreen@jfcspgh.org)
  - As a reminder, we received our first delivery of client cell phones.
    - Contact Gabe Krivosh ([Gabriel.Krivosh@alleghenycounty.us](mailto: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
  - If you would like to speak about COVID preparedness and response, please contact Cynthia Shields [Cynthia.Shields@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:Cynthia.Shields@AlleghenyCounty.us).

### Behavioral Health

- May is Mental Health awareness month. As a reminder, here are a few highlighted resources:
  - Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) Deputy Secretary Kristen Houser has recorded a [short video](#) to help promote Mental Health Awareness in Pennsylvania.
- Webinar Opportunities
  - SAMHSA’s Technical Assistance Center Presents: [Implementing Best Practices and Improving Collaboration for Crisis Care and Suicide Prevention among High-Risk SMVF](#).
    - June 10<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:00 pm
  - [Understanding Mental Health in the Black Community](#)
    - Thursday, May 21 at 6 pm and Friday, May 22 at 11 am
    - A discussion about mental health awareness, breaking down stigmas, and barriers plaguing communities of color that prevent individuals and their families from seeking treatment and/or support
  - [American Lung Association webinar with CDC on COVID-19](#)
    - CDC discusses at-risk groups and the intersection of smoking and COVID-19.
- Early Intervention
  - Early Intervention services will continue to be offered via tele-intervention even as childcare centers open.

### OID/Autism

- [ODP Announcement 20-059 Version 1: Frequently Asked Questions](#) about Services Rendered through the Consolidated, Community Living, P/F Directed Support and Adult Autism Waivers
- Community Participation Service was severely impacted by COVID-19. The State will be issuing a new tool soon and there will be a related [webinar on 5-29-2020 at 11 am](#).
- As a reminder, 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

- No new updates since 5-18-2020

### 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](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).
- The COVD Hotline is 2-1-1 and the Health Department's line is 412-687-2243.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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