



**COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting**  
**August 13, 2020**



## General Information

Provider Meetings are held each week on Thursdays.

Please submit uncovered expenses to DHS by 8/31/2020 if you have not already. We want to do what we can to help cover these costs.

- Please review the below for more information and you can reach out to your fiscal lead or contact the [DHSPROVIDERRESOURCEHUB@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US](mailto:DHSPROVIDERRESOURCEHUB@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US) with any questions.
- [Guidance Document](#)
- [E-Learning](#)

Medical/behavioral health providers are eligible for a federal HHS provider relief fund, covering up to 2% of patient revenue. They have streamlined the application and are trying to get the money out as quickly as possible. If you think we may be able to help you apply, please let us know.

- [Follow the 6-Step Application Process.](#)
- [Provider Relief Fund Application and Attestation Portal](#)
- If you encounter challenges with the application, call the Provider Support Line at (866) 569-3522; for TTY, dial 711.

Poll workers are still needed and we encourage you to apply. To learn more and apply, visit [Poll worker application](#) and the [Become a Poll Worker](#) video.

Check out and share these voter resources:

- Allegheny County Elections Division E-newsletter: [Sign-up](#) to receive information on preparations for the November general election.
- [Overview of vote by mail process in Allegheny County.](#)
- [Register to vote.](#)
- [Check voter registration status.](#)
- [Absentee Ballot Application](#): The last day to apply for an absentee ballot for the November 3, 2020 election is October 27th. The application must be received in the Elections office by that date.

DHS Procurement Manager Kelly Prokop joined the call to share [new guidance on the procedure for notifying exposed client if a staff member test positive for COVID-19.](#)

- We ask you to follow the Health Department's contact tracing process. The process is now moving quickly.
  - You can also choose to notify clients more proactively at the discretion of your legal and leadership teams.
  - The client or staff member should be prepared to share a list of contacts they were in the presence of up to 48 hours before symptom onset or after symptom onset.
- If a staff member is getting tested, they should stay home while awaiting results and isolate for 10 days if positive.
- Exposed staff members should quarantine for 14 days from date of exposure.

The following solicitations are active on the DHS Solicitations Page:

- Request for Comments on Foster Care Concept Paper

- Submit Comments by August 14
- RFP for Trauma-Informed Care Training and Consultation
  - Proposals Due August 21
- RFQ for Forensic Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluators
  - Proposals Due Sept 1 (RFQ is ongoing; proposals due Sept 1 and March 1)
- RFP for Inpatient Program for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
  - Proposals Due September 16
- RFP for Latinx Community Needs Assessment
  - Proposals due September 18
- All are available on [DHS Solicitations Page](#), along with a form to sign up to receive email notifications when we post new solicitations.

### Recruitment Platform Update

- We put together this [platform](#) to link qualified staff to agencies with potential staffing shortages.
- We want to hear your feedback about your staffing needs and what we can do to help.
- In a [live poll](#), a majority of agencies had not experienced a staffing shortage and 73% did not anticipate a future staffing gap. Participants offered more ways that DHS can help.

The deadline for the 2020 Census is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- The city and the county are undercounted compared to 2010 levels. The East End and Mon Valley are particularly undercounted right now.
- Please do whatever you can to get the word out, and let DHS know how we can help.

### COVID-19 Metrics

[PA has posted an early warning indicators dashboard](#), so we think that the local metrics may now feel confusing. There are differences in calculations and time frames. Therefore, we will explore using the state metrics moving forward.

- All metrics except patients on ventilators are decreasing.
- The reproduction value continues to remain below one at 0.84.

AccessMyInfo is a redesigned social services record system (formerly Client View) designed to provide better, easier access to personal social services information for residents of Allegheny County.

- The name and web address has changed for client users <https://accessmyinfo.alleghenycounty.us/>. For providers and staff the name of the application (Client View) and web location will not change.
- Clients will now use a DHS-generated access code to log on. Clients will get the access code by:
  - Flyer attached to:
    - Accept for Service Letter (311) in KIDS system
    - Closing Letter (311) in KIDS system
    - Common Assessment Tool ANSA summary report
    - Self Sufficiency ANSA report
  - Clients will learn of AccessMyInfo through [Connect.AlleghenyCounty.us](https://connect.alleghenycounty.us) (new Client Experience Website)
  - DHS staff and providers can generate an access code (and flyer) from Client View
- We are utilizing a user experience design process to ensure that the functionality of both sites meets the needs of DHS staff, provider users and clients.
- We will follow up and solicit your help in getting the word out.

- If you would like to help provide guidance and feedback from the professional perspective (for Client View) or help connect us with clients to provide their perspectives (for AccessMyInfo) please contact Samantha Looney @ [CVAdmin@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:CVAdmin@alleghenycounty.us) or 412-350-7092.

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

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is 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 the pandemic has changed your operations to [Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Evelyn.Whitehill@AlleghenyCounty.US).

## Legislative/Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

- In the face of stimulus gridlock with Congress, President Trump issued an executive order making way for an additional \$400 a week in unemployment compensation (UC) if states contribute a share.
  - Order requires states to pay \$100 of the \$400 weekly benefit.
  - Gov. Wolf is seeking clarification from the feds and has indicated a separate state UC program would have to be created to distribute these payments.

### State and Local Updates

- In addition to confusion over the executive order and the additional payment, PA has begun borrowing money from the federal government in order to continue UC payments, highlighting the problem with executive order match requirements.
  - PA is borrowing \$800 million for August, \$1 billion for September and \$1 billion for October.
- The Pennsylvania Utility Commission Chairwoman has issued a [letter](#) soliciting comments on how to transition out of the PA moratorium on utility shut-offs.
  - Commission has been unable to break voting deadlock twice on ending the moratorium.
  - Comments must be emailed directly to Secretary of the Commission at [rchiavetta@pa.gov](mailto:rchiavetta@pa.gov) and submitted on the [PUC website](#) by August 18th.
- Dems in PA House introducing a bill next week ahead of impending eviction moratorium end date of August 31.
  - The legislation would create a Tenant Mitigation Program requiring that landlords create a payment plan option for tenants who have lost income, while prohibiting landlords from charging late fees for those tenants and creating a landlord-tenant mediation and counseling program.
- Allegheny County announced the spending plan for the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) received through the CARES Act.
  - Allegheny County received a total of \$212 million which must be spent on eligible costs, related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, that were unbudgeted and occurred between March 1 and December 30 of this year.

- Vulnerable Populations (includes DHS & Economic Development): \$58m, about \$38m to DHS
  - Medical: \$52m
  - County Operations: \$42m
  - Agency Support: \$24m
  - Regional Assets: \$12m
  - Local Governments: \$25m
- On August 7, President Judge Clark issued an order prohibiting the commencement of new residential landlord tenant actions where the eviction is based solely on non-payment of rent or on a tenant holding over or exceeding the term of a lease whether or not the lease includes a waiver of a “notice to quit” provision.
  - The temporary prohibition is in effect through Aug. 31 while the court remains in emergency status. Read the full order from Aug. 7 [here](#).
  - This Order was made in recognition that Governor Wolf’s July 9th Order did not affect those residential leases containing a waiver of the “notice to quit” provisions.

## Food

There are two upcoming food distributions:

1. Farmers to Families, Penn Hills High School, 8/14, 1 pm
2. Food Bank, McKeesport 1960 Eden Park Blvd., 8/15, 10 am, [register here](#)

## Program Updates

### OCS

- Samantha Murphy, DHS resource services manager/education liaison, joined the call to share information about school reopening resources:
  - PPS is holding computer device exchanges. Families that received devices in the previous school year will need to swap them out to participate in remote schoolwork this year. They are doing grade by grade distributions. Please refer to the slide presentation for dates and locations.
    - PPS is urging families with a personal device at home to use that device.
    - Please help us get the word out about this!
  - As a reminder, we are partnering with Trying Together and United Way to establish Community Learning Hubs. Funding is available to support in-person and virtual learning hubs to help facilitate remote schooling. [Applications, due 8/14, can be found here.](#)
  - DHS leadership has sent out some unified messaging around school reopening, sharing tips, resources and key questions.
  - We are repurposing our Focus on Attendance staff, who will now staff our School Help Resource Center and will be available to providers to work through problems that families are having, such as difficulties with school engagement, devices, basic needs or any need you are not sure how to address.
    - [Focus\\_Attendance@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Focus_Attendance@alleghenycounty.us)
    - 412-918-9206

- Housing
  - The Allegheny County Rent Relief program is up and running. We are five weeks in and Allegheny County has submitted over 4100 applications, the most in the state. Checks are already going out.
    - Contact the Allegheny Link at 866-730-2368 for a referral to an agency that can help the client apply for this or any other public benefits.
  - The Winter Shelter at Smithfield United Church will open on November 15. Pittsburgh Mercy will again be an operating partner.
  - Due to COVID space restrictions, we anticipate being able to shelter significantly fewer people in the Smithfield space.
    - We expect to be able to shelter at least 120 individuals per night when needed.
    - If you have space or know of available space, please contact Cynthia Shields @ [cynthia.shields@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:cynthia.shields@alleghenycounty.us).
  - Points of Contact for the Isolation and Quarantine space referrals:
    - Homelessness System 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/CJ referrals: [Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Jennifer.Batterton@alleghenycounty.us)
    - Immigrant and International program referrals: [bgreen@jfcspgh.org](mailto:bgreen@jfcspgh.org)
    - Families: Remy Harris: [Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Remy.Harris@alleghenycounty.us)
  - Our next Homeless network provider call is on 8/18 at 9:30 am; please see slide for access information

## **OBH**

- September is suicide prevention month.
  - This [resource guide](#) provides examples of activities that you can implement in your community to raise awareness of the importance of suicide prevention.
- The 5th Annual Pittsburgh Recovery Walk will occur semi-virtually on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Register Here: <https://pghrecoverywalk.org/>.
- NAMI Walks will occur on October 10th, 2020. Visit <https://www.namikeystonepa.org/nami-events/namiwalks/> to learn more.
- Dates for Motivational Interviewing Trainings for COEs & PCMHs have been published; see slide presentation for details.
- The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) announced the release of the 2020 E-Learning Summer Series, consisting of 9 videos (approximately 30 minutes each). Visit the [CPA website](#) for full details. These are free for members.

## **CYF**

- September is Black Girls Equity Month
  - Gwen's Girls and the Black Girls Equity Alliance are seeking to highlight Black girls and young women who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and advocacy skills, especially related to social justice. Please click [HERE](#) to complete the form to nominate a young person up to age 24 years old. All responses are due by August 14, 2020.
- Back to School Resources
  - Back to School Resources - <https://childmind.org/backtoschool/>
  - How to Set Priorities - <https://childmind.org/article/how-to-set-priorities-this-school-year/>

- Tips for Partnering with Teachers - <https://childmind.org/article/tips-for-partnering-with-teachers-in-the-new-school-year/>
- Supporting Learning at Home - <https://childmind.org/remote-learning-resources-for-families/>
- Tips for Children Who are Struggling - <https://childmind.org/article/back-to-school-tips-for-kids-who-are-struggling/>
- We have 40 young transition-aged people going back to school this year! We had a Rising Scholars program to promote a smooth transition. We also handed out Dorm Kits and stuffed backpacks to our first-time college students.

### **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 COVID Hotline is 2-1-1. For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services are available.
- See the slide presentation for other key contacts.

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