



COVID-19 DHS Provider Meeting
September 24, 2020



General Information

As a reminder, DHS Provider Meetings are held on Thursdays.

Allegheny County has announced that we have sufficient poll workers. The elections office is still currently looking for temporary election processing assistants (primarily data processing and clerical work) at \$20/hour for various shifts. If interested, call 412-350-6109.

The following solicitations are active on the DHS Solicitations Page:

- RFP for Inpatient Program for Victims of Childhood Sex Trafficking
 - Proposals Now Due 10/14 (amended; date extended from original date of 9/16)
- All available on [DHS Solicitations Page](#), along with form to sign up to receive email notifications when we post new solicitations.

As a reminder, the deadline for the 2020 Census is September 30th.

- Please do whatever you can to get the word out, and let DHS know how we can help.

Narcan giveaway and resource fairs are still happening. Upcoming events are in Brookline, Beechview, North Side and Mt. Oliver.

The McKeesport Testing Site is open.

- Make an appointment for a free test. Learn more on the Allegheny County News: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/news/index.aspx>

COVID-19 Metrics

[PA has posted an early warning indicators dashboard](#). The data are updated every Friday.

- There were increases in newly reported cases and incidence rate in the previous week. All other indicators are stable or decreasing.
- For more information, you can access the [Quarterly Board of Health meetings](#) and Weekly COVID-19 Press Briefings on [Facebook](#), Twitter and YouTube channels for Allegheny County and ACHD.

Update on CARES (CRF) spending

- Reminder to submit all invoices by October 13th for the months of July, August and September
- Continue to bill within the first 10 business days of November and December.
- Submit final invoices by January 5, 2021
- CRF expenditures must be incurred by 12/30/20.

Cleaning Services can be requested through [this form](#).

- DHS will not be able to pay for any cleaning services that are not requested via the web form and approved by DHS ahead of time.

Internet and Device Requests

- Request in-home, portable internet access for your clients in need through [DHS Device Request Form](#).
- Hotspots are available now! Distributions are held most Fridays.
- Laptops can still be requested but remain out of stock. Our next shipment is expected mid-October.

Julie DeSeyn from United Way joined the call to share about 2-1-1, a 24-hour service that connects individuals and families to resources that can assist with human service needs.

- Calls are free, anonymous and confidential.
- People are mostly calling about basic needs: Food, utilities and housing. United Way can share the call data with you if needed.
- 2-1-1 has multi-lingual resource navigators & access to language line (over 250 languages)
- Locally, people can contact 2-1-1 in the following ways:
 - Text zip code to 898-211
 - Dial 2-1-1 from any phone
 - Chat/Search on the local 2-1-1 website (pa211sw.org)
- 2-1-1 is hiring for multiple contracted positions right now.

COVID-19 Mobile Testing Schedule

As a reminder, each Monday, the Allegheny County Health Department provides an updated mobile testing schedule on its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#). Testing is ongoing at sites around the County and individuals can [register here](#); some sites allow for walk-ins.

- You can use the [county testing map](#) when you are assisting a client to find convenient testing locations.

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

- The [Operational Changes Tracker](#) is now 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

- Congress is close to passing a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government thru mid-December.
 - Includes funding to continue the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food program.
 - Excludes new stimulus funding for local and state governments.
 - Supreme Court vacancy battle overshadowing the chance of an independent stimulus bill.

State and Local Updates

- Pennsylvania launched new virus exposure notification phone app, COVID Alert PA. [Link](#) to Governor's Office press release.
- Full PA Senate will consider COVID-19 funding-related bills week of October 5th, including a bill creating the Nonprofit Economic Emergency Delivery Systems Grants Program with a \$200m appropriation.
- The County Health Department has lifted the County-specific order. The local order was more restrictive on the size of outdoor gatherings than the statewide limit.
- [State orders](#) on mask-wearing, mandatory telework, worker safety, building safety and hospital safety all remain in place.

- Additionally, business occupancy restrictions applicable to personal care service, indoor recreation and health and wellness facilities, entertainment venues, and bars and restaurants are also in effect.
- Pittsburgh City Council passed a bill outlawing City purchase and use of facial recognition technology for Pittsburgh Police.

Food

Upcoming food distributions:

1. Edgewood Town Center, 9/26, 9 am, 1763 South Braddock Ave
2. Homewood 9/26 at 2 pm, Gazebo at Homewood and Frankstown (voter registration also happening at this event)
3. Wilkesburg, 9/26, 11 am, 333 Lincoln Highway
4. Duquesne, 9/28, 12 pm, 1 N Linden St
5. Heinz Field 9/29 1-7 pm (voter registration also happening at this event)

A Diaper Distribution is scheduled on 9/25 at 11 am. Located in Gold Lot 1A on the North Shore.

Program Updates

OCS

- Housing
 - [Allegheny County CARES Rent Relief Program](#) Update
 - Allegheny County is partnering with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to jointly fund the CARES Rent Relief Program.
 - To date, we have received 5,536 tenant (unduplicated) applications and 2,791 landlord applications. The program requires an application from both parties to move forward.
 - Most applications were sent in without any supporting documentation. We are reaching out to these applicants to help them collect the needed docs.
 - Most applications did not have an accompanying landlord application. We are reaching out to landlords to get the needed documentation. Some landlords are refusing.
 - We faced additional challenges such as a very fast start up, a small application window and eligibility (the arrears must be caused by COVID).
 - We have paid a total of 190 applications. 109 were paid through the original CRRP program, and 81 more through a county-only addendum program that accepts people who don't meet all of the states CRRP documentation standards.
 - The State recently lowered the documentation requirements for CRRP and we are hopeful that they may increase the application deadline into October.
 - If your clients are not eligible for this program, you can refer them to:

- The Allegheny Link (1-866-730-2368) to be screened and referred for Eviction Prevention assistance
 - 2-1-1 for referrals to the URA’s Housing Opportunity Fund (city residents only)
- Congregate setting guidance: please review the [guidance](#)
 - Public contact - allow clients to stay inside as much as possible
 - Meals - avoid congregate meals
 - Distancing - continue physical distancing
 - Masks - Ensure staff and as many clients as possible are wearing masks
 - Symptom checks - Conduct temperature and symptom checks for staff and clients – staff should stay home if they feel ill in any way
 - Cleaning - Maintain cleaning schedule and request cleaning services through form if necessary
- The next Homeless Network provider call is on 9/29 at 9:30 am.
- Also, “Ask a (Housing) Navigator! Office Hours” are being held every Tuesday from 10:30-11:00 am; please see slides for access information.

OBH

- The Out of the Darkness Pittsburgh Virtual Walk is being sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on 10/4. Visit <https://afsp.org/pittsburgh> to learn more.
- NAMI Walks will occur on October 10th, 2020. Visit <https://www.namikeystonepa.org/nami-events/namiwalks/> to learn more.
- If you know someone who is struggling, consider using the [V-A-R conversation guide](#)
 - Validate feelings
 - Appreciate their courage
 - Refer them to skills and support:
 - Resolve: 1-888-796-8226
 - PSAN Warmline: 1-866-WARM (9276)
 - NAMI Keystone PA Helpline: 1-888-264-7972
 - PA Support and Referral Helpline: 1-855-284-2494
 - Text PA to 741741
 - For D&A services or support contact PA Get Help Now: 1-800-662-4357

CYF

- Foster Care Redesign
 - We need more foster homes and we are facing high turnover of non-kin homes.
 - Our vision:
 - Targeted recruitment
 - Diverse array of available homes
 - Enable children to stay in their neighborhood
 - Allow siblings to stay together
 - Loving homes with foster care families who practice cultural humility and cultivate relationships with birth families
 - A network of peer support for foster care families that includes foster care parents who live nearby and can provide advice, resources and respite care when needed

- Aftercare for children
- Providers and foster homes are fairly reimbursed and have the resources they need to ensure a successful placement and aftercare services
- Within each region, some of the homes are therapeutic foster care homes and every foster care home is trained in trauma-informed care
- Stronger partnerships between CYF and provider agencies
- Released the [Foster Care Concept Paper](#) in July with our vision and ideas
 - Received 20+ [Foster Care Public Comments](#)
 - Here's what we heard:
 - Accountability measures should be tied to incentives
 - Need to recognize some things are out of providers' control; CYF and other players (e.g., Courts) should make relevant changes that support providers' work
 - More access to County data and less duplicative data entry for providers
 - Concerns about CYF lack of communication and support of providers and foster parents
 - Need to reassess the language used about the expectation for foster & birth family communication within 24-hour timeframe
 - Concerns about the "one size fits all" model for family support (Mockingbird Model) - suggestions to explore other models and current provider practice
 - Concerns about an expedited certification process
- Reviewing and incorporating feedback into an RFP—where we “re-procure” provider agencies
 - Winter 2020 release

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. 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