



COVID-19 Information for the Detroit Continuum of Care

Hello Detroit CoC Members and Partners,

On behalf of the Detroit Continuum of Care (CoC), we are writing to share details to inform your planning in the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The CoC Board, HAND, and the City of Detroit are working collaboratively to address your questions and concerns. Over the next few days and weeks, you may receive additional emails as new information arises. Additionally, you may receive multiple copies of this email as we reach out to various groups within the CoC.

With two confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Michigan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has instituted a state of emergency. As we recognize that homeless programs provide a safety net for one of our state's most vulnerable populations, we thank you for making plans to continue operations albeit with some changes to ensure the safety of all impacted. We know that you likely have many questions about how COVID-19 will impact your daily functioning as an organization and your interactions with clients.

We have pulled together some guidance around the major question topics we have received. The City of Detroit also created [this excellent list of resources](#). We highly recommend that you engage with this document as you all work to develop protocols within your individual agencies and programs. We also recommend that you consult michigan.gov/Coronavirus for state-wide updates on COVID-19.

Home Visits

HUD has communicated the following around home visits:

- “Home based services in transitional and permanent housing is essential to residents and **should be continued**”
- In addition to working to continue home-based services, agencies should develop “strategies to provide these services **with modifications** to adjust for public health concerns and safety”
 - In regard to modifications, we look to your agency to develop plans based upon the needs of your employees and clients. However, below you can find some recommendations from a fellow provider on how you may want to proceed:

If you (staff person) are going to a client's home or are transporting a client, please ask the following questions before entering or seeing them for the transportation appointment. If there is a yes to any of the below questions, please do not enter the home and encourage the individual to go to a nearby hospital or to their primary care physician to be assessed.

- Are you (the client) experiencing any of the following symptoms?
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath
- In the past 14 days have you traveled anywhere?
 - If so, where?
- Have you been in contact with anyone who has recently (2 weeks) traveled internationally?
- In the past 14 days have you had close contact with anyone who tested positive for the coronavirus?

Keep in mind that if you (staff person) have a fever, cough, and sore throat you should not be coming into work. If you have any questions, please reach out to your supervisor.

Meetings

MDHHS recommends the limiting of large work-related gatherings. It is suggested that these gatherings be postponed or cancelled whenever possible. We are taking this seriously as we think about CoC Meetings here in Detroit.

- **Meetings at HAND's offices:** As HAND's office is located in residential building which houses a population that is highly vulnerable to COVID-19, we will not be hosting any meetings here at HAND for the foreseeable future. We are looking to either postpone or switch the platforms from in-person to online for these meetings. Additional details will be communicated to those impacted.
- **General Membership Meetings:** Please be on the lookout for additional communication about the General Membership Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, March 17th. We are having discussions about whether to cancel or reformat this meeting and we will make sure to share the decision once it is made.
- **Other CoC Meetings:** As discussion proceed around the format of other CoC meetings, details will be communicated with those impacted.

Handling Situations with Clients in Close Proximity

The Detroit Health Department is putting on a **WEBINAR** in conjunction with the City of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department **TODAY at 2:30pm**. We understand that this is extremely short notice, but hope that you will be able to join for some useful information. The webinar will be recorded and shared if you are unable to attend.

The meeting registration information can be found below:

<https://zoom.us/j/785599900?pwd=ckY0MkpmZDhrTnc3bzlsU2RWTEZ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 785 599 900

Password: 081693

The city of Detroit has also created interim guidance for shelter and congregate care providers which is linked in a button at the bottom of the email.

Salvation Army, as the Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) Fiduciary also wants providers to

be aware of the following updates:

- **90 Night Shelter Policy:** The 90 night billing limit per fiscal year for shelters will be waived until future notice. This change in policy is effective immediately. We are working to update the ESP billing report so clients with stays over 90 nights will continue to be counted. This update should be completed by the time March billing reports are submitted in April. We will keep you posted on the name of the new report once created. The waiver of this policy is done in hopes that movement of clients from one shelter to another will be limited to help prevent any possible spread or carry of the coronavirus. Clients should not be exited due to reaching any sort of 90 night limit as funding will continue beyond that time frame.
- **ESP Regional Manager Travel:** ESP Regional Managers have been instructed to limit travel for at least the next two weeks. This will mean the rescheduling of monitoring visits and other meetings that were previously planned for March 13 - March 27. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding. As you know, the ESP staff regularly travels to different areas in the state and this will limit the chances of carrying the virus from one place to another. Regional Managers will be available via phone and can provide TA via GoToMeeting as well so please continue to reach out for assistance as needed.
- **CDC Resource:** I'm sure a number of you have already seen this, but I wanted to make sure everyone was aware of a CDC website which includes Guidance for Homeless Shelters. Please utilize this resource as you are able:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>

We appreciate your flexibility in this time as we work to take precautions that we hope will prevent COVID-19 from spreading. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Click on the links below to:

Consult this resource compilation as you make plans for your agency

See the City of Detroit's Guidance for Homeless Shelters

Stay in the loop regarding state-wide COVID-19 updates

Visit HUD's website for updates and resources