

## NOTES | GC Learning Collaborative | April 29 2020

### What is the federal response to COVID and what it means for your community? Part 2

#### Presentation from Kevin & Terrance:

- 4 billion in ESG from CARES Act. 1 bill went out using the “regular” ESG formula. Should have received the first amount.
- By June 2020, the other 3 billion will be distributed. ESG is different than other grants.
- For example, SAC might get money to the city, the county, and a state allocation. The state might have different priorities than the city or county. First step is to know where it’s going (the “who”).
- How can funds be used?
  - Street outreach- what’s already going on? Anymore capacity needed? Is this an opportunity to go to outreach (especially for young people)?
  - Emergency shelter- Making sure that unaccompanied minors have access to some of this. Is non-congregate a priority for your community?
  - Homeless prevention- How does it need to be shaped? The qualifications? How flexible is the support (e.g., support for young people not in literal homelessness situation)?
  - RRH- What will the prioritization look like? How can young people get into that scheme?
- What does your community need?
  - For example, Richmond already put out an RFP.
  - Some of your communities have already done systems modeling. This could be a good guide for prioritization.
    - Joi- in SF trying to get young people emergency housing. They are even considering a young people only motel (Hotel Abigail). Food is another response. Hazard pay for providers. Larkin doesn’t get much ESG funding.
    - Beth- in Hennepin haven’t seen the money yet for ESG. They value street outreach. More places closed (like night rail). TOG (outreach group). 77 encampments identified (in addition to other street outreach sites). Have tried to expand youth shelters. ESP funding application for 18-24. Also trying to open two other minors spaces shelters (Catholic Charities for those with symptoms). Lots of requests for rental assistance. RRH would be amazing.
    - Kevin talked about thinking through progress on making under 18 shelters more accessible and get licensing easier.
- Mobilizing youth-directed actions.
  - Creating a list of demands/priorities.
  - RFP’s staffing
  - What is the direct action taking place?
    - Richmond- Alex talked about letters to the CoC, city, and state. They are waiting responses (already got one from CoC). Emailed the person at the



city over the RFPs. How will it uphold best practices and support. They have no youth shelter beds.

- In Sac, the youth council is meeting weekly. Emergency bridge housing program. Tried to switch it from TAY to senior, so they sent a letter. They are currently confirming a response. One of their Dream Team (RoD) is working on Core Principles. Will turn into a certification process for providers driven by youth.
- Recognize that folks have different baseline knowledge. Defining terms (street outreach, shelter, prevention- follows housing/ed definition instead of HUD, RRH is similar in the ESG world to the CoC world).
- What is youth collaboration looking like?
- COVID Waiver
  - Allows you to do something different with funding- both ESG and CoC.
  - How do you go to the non-youth dedicated projects and ask for waivers to be prioritized for youth.
  - For example:
    - CoC
      - Rental and utility
      - Less than 12 months lease
    - ESG
      - Rent reasonableness
      - Evaluation
  - Kevin showing slide with critical questions associated with CARES Act ESG and Waivers (CoC & ESG)
- What's next?
  - RR Teams should have reached out to each community.
  - Concrete tools like Power Mapping, strategic demands, strategic demands, etc.
  - Multiple decision makers for ESG than for CoC.
  - Sarah Hunter was answering questions in the chat. Are there any other questions that need to be answered?
  - Will ESG be putting out RFPs?
    - in most places yes
    - some are just adding money to existing contracts but most will put out RFPs
    - especially for the second allocation
  - For SF, for example, they pour 20 million in homelessness services. This is in contrast to the 5 million from the first ESG allocation. That's helpful, but is a smaller percentage than other communities.
  - We have to think about different messaging for different audiences.