

Using American Rescue Plan and CARES Act Housing Resources to Support Reentry: HUD and Community Perspectives

Second Chance Month Fieldwide Webinar

The Council of State Governments Justice Center

April 20, 2022

This project was supported by Grant No. 2020-CZ-BX-K011 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



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The Council of State Governments Justice Center

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.



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Presentation Outline

- Welcome, Introductions, and Organization Overview
- Message from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Resources for Housing: Key Funding Streams, Uses, and the Importance of Partnerships
- The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (MT): Using CARES Act Funds to Develop Permanent Supportive Housing
- Austin & Travis County (TX): Answering HUD's Call to Prioritize Emergency Housing Vouchers for People in Reentry
- Questions and Answers

Presenters

- **Charles Francis**, Project Manager, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center
- **Richard Cho**, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Ann Miller**, Managing Attorney, Tribal Defender's Office, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- **Dylan Shubitz**, Director of Intake and Special Programs, Housing Authority of the City of Austin
- **Victoria Perez**, Housing Manager, Housing Authority of Travis County
- **Jennifer Sowinski**, Clinical Operations Manager, Downtown Austin Community Court
- **Melissa Shearer**, Director, Office of the Travis County Mental Health Public Defender

Attendee Introductions

Please introduce yourself using the chat function:

- Name
- Agency/Jurisdiction

Message from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Richard Cho, PhD, Senior Advisor for Housing and Services

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Resources for Housing: Key Funding Streams, Uses, and the Importance of Partnerships

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The American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- **\$1.9 trillion** wide-ranging economic stimulus bill
- **More than \$12 billion** dedicated to housing development, rental assistance, and supportive services
- Rare opportunity to prioritize people for housing resources who are reentering the community
- Broad range of funding streams and potential uses

Key Funding Streams (HUD): Emergency Housing Vouchers

- **Funding:** \$5 billion nationally, allocated via formula by HUD
- **Recipients:** Public Housing Authorities (PHAs); referrals via Continuum of Care (CoC) coordinated entry system
- **Target population:** People experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- **Eligible uses:** Rental assistance and supportive services such as housing search, owner outreach, security deposit assistance, and other moving costs
- **HUD Secretary Fudge's 2021 guidance** encourages prioritization for people in reentry

Key Funding Streams (HUD): HOME-ARP

- **Funding:** \$5 billion nationally, allocated via formula by HUD
- **Recipients:** State, county, and municipal governments
- **Target population:** People experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- **Eligible uses:** Construction of new affordable and supportive housing, supportive services, and shelter expenses
- Jurisdictions submit **allocation plans** to HUD detailing community needs, gaps, and proposed uses of funding

Key Funding Streams (Treasury): State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

- **Funding:** \$350 billion nationally
- **Recipients:** State, local, and tribal governments
- **Target population:** People experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- **Eligible uses:** Wide discretion; Treasury guidance specifically allows funds to be used for housing in Qualified Census Tracts, including development, vouchers, housing navigation, and supportive services

Tips to Engage Housing Partners

- **Create buy-in** by emphasizing shared population across systems
- **Build partnerships with:**
 - ❑ Local government, to emphasize prioritizing funds for housing among competing needs and populations
 - ❑ Developers, to prioritize population and allocate housing units
 - ❑ Landlords, to make essential private inventory available in the community
 - ❑ Affordable housing providers (Public Housing Authorities, private multifamily owners, etc.), to examine and revise admissions policies for people with justice involvement
- Partnerships can help **leverage additional funding sources** to fill gaps and expand ARP impact

Using CARES Act Funds to Develop Permanent Supportive Housing

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, MT

The Tribal Defender's Office Pilots Permanent Supportive Housing

- Homeless tribal members were among the most vulnerable to COVID-19
- The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) used CARES Act Funds to purchase a motel on the Reservation and convert it to 14 housing units
- These units house single, adult CSKT members who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

The Morning Star: Permanent Supportive Housing Project



- Residents are income eligible and pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. The Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority partners with CSKT to provide rental subsidy.
- The Tribal Defender's Office is the lead services provider for residents at the Morning Star. Residents who would otherwise be unable to obtain or sustain housing have a stable place to live along with seamless access to critical services.

The Morning Star: Permanent Supportive Housing Project



- The Morning Star is staffed by a caretaker and a services coordinator who are part of the Tribal Defender's interdisciplinary team.
- Other service providers at the Morning Star are Tribal Health, CSKT Department of Human Resource Development, along with any other community service providers recruited by the services coordinator.

The Morning Star: Permanent Supportive Housing Project



Answering HUD's Call to Prioritize Emergency Housing Vouchers for People in Reentry

Austin and Travis County, Texas

History of Partnership and Collaboration

- Who are the key partners across systems?
 - ❑ Housing Authorities (City and County)
 - ❑ CoC Lead Agency/Coordinated Entry System (ECHO)
 - ❑ Continuum of Homeless Service Providers
 - ❑ City of Austin Homeless Strategies Office
- How Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) spurred collaboration
 - ❑ HUD Guidance and Requirements
 - ❑ PHAs Deeply Embedded in the CoC

Existing Case Management Infrastructure Supports Collaboration

Mental Health Public Defender (MHPD)

- ❑ Outreach and Engagement Partners
- ❑ Trained Assessors for Coordinated Entry System
- ❑ Connections to Local Mental Health Authority Programs

Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC)

- ❑ Outreach and Engagement Partners
- ❑ Trained Assessors for Coordinated Entry System
- ❑ ESG-CV Recipient

Prioritizing People in Reentry for EHV's

How the decision was made

- Community-wide stakeholder engagement process
 - Survey published and distributed by ECHO
 - Targeted service providers, equity advocates, people with lived experience
 - Result: Fill the permanent supportive housing (PSH) gap

Prioritizing People in Reentry for EHV's

Crafting and executing the MOU

- ❑ MOU between PHAs and the CoC Lead
 - ECHO identifies service partners and coordinates referrals to PHA
- ❑ MOUs between service providers and the CE System
 - Enroll and assist the next most vulnerable person

Prioritizing People in Reentry for EHV's

Mandate: Create New PSH

- ❑ Align with local standards and national best practices
 - Eliminate traditional barriers to entry
- ❑ Identify Service Providers
 - DACC volunteers to provide 60 beds
 - ECHO and county government ask MHPD to create 24 beds
 - Prioritization within the target population

Preparing for Implementation

- Staffing, policies, procedures, etc.
- Changes in roles for MHPD/DACC staff (more housing focus)
- Opportunity to create much-needed PSH

Key Implementation Issues

- Progress and process: From referral, to engagement, to placement
- Key Issues
 - ❑ High need population requiring significant support
 - ❑ Tight rental market, landlord stigma
- Strategies to increase success
 - ❑ Landlord outreach/database building
 - ❑ Flexible funding for move-in costs

Questions and Answers

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