

LIGHTLY EDITED FILE

Survivors Housing Rights of Domestic and Sexual Violence

During COVID-19: What You Need to Know About Eviction
Protections

National Alliance for Safe Housing

Remote CART – March 25, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT

* * * * *

CART Access lightly of
This text is being provided in a lightly edited draft format, and is the work product of the CART captioner. Any reproduction, publication, or other use of this file without the express written consent of the captioner is strictly prohibited. Communication Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility, and this edited CART file may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. Due to the live nature of the event, some names and/or terms may be misspelled. This text may also contain phonetic attempts at sounds and words that were spoken and environmental sounds that

occurred

during the event.

* * * * *

CART Provided by Jayne Carriker, RPR, CRR, CRC
Paradigm Reporting & Captioning, a Veritext Company

612.339.0545

captioning-paradigm@veritext.com

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

2

>> Hello, everyone.

I am Debbie Fox.

I'm with the National Network to End Domestic
Violence,

and I'm the senior housing policy and practice
specialist here at NNEDV.

We're going to go ahead and get started.

It looks like we have a good group of people that are
starting to come into the room.

So I just want to thank you for joining us today.

The webinar you have joined is housing rights domestic
and sexual violence survivors during COVID-19, what
you

need to know about eviction protections.

the

So hopefully you're in the right place, and I'm joined here today with some of my colleagues and experts in field around COVID-19 eviction protections and housing protections for survivors.

I'm joined by Renee Williams, senior staff attorney at the National Housing Law Project, Mariel Block, staff attorney at the National Housing Law Project.

And Karlo Ng, director of legal initiatives at the National Alliance for Safe Housing.

So during their section of the webinar, they will introduce themselves and tell you a little bit more about themselves but I will go ahead and get us started.

And just so everybody knows we are going to record the

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

3

afterwards webinar and we will be sending it out to you

so you will have all the information in the recording and the slide deck as there's a lot of really great information and there's a lot of really great

resources

especially at the end so you'll be able to have all those resources to access quickly, and I see there are some hellos in the chat box that are happening and please introduce yourselves in the chat box, and we encourage you to ask questions in the chat box during the presentation.

We all will be answering them in realtime, and if for some reason we don't happen to know the answer to a question you might have, we will definitely get back to you and do some research and send it your way.

Good to see everybody and all the chats that are happening in the slide deck in the chat box.

I was going to say could you move the slide deck, please, to the next slide.

One more.

Yeah, so what I'm going to talk a little bit in my section here for about ten minutes is how survivors and

housing insecurity has been impacted by the pandemic.

So if we could have the next slide, please.

I'm sure there is not a surprise to a lot of folks on the call if you are -- if you have been working in the

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

context of domestic and sexual violence and in particular housing, but we have seen some real impacts how the pandemic has impacted survivors, so there's definitely additional housing challenges for the needs of survivors.

Additional barriers for survivors of color and we are seeing more and more research that's coming out over time that there's increased incidents of domestic violence during COVID-19.

So we're going to be talking a little bit more about how to keep survivors safely housed and the long-term impacts of eviction but what we do know is during this time not only from the health perspective in the pandemic is we're saving lives by keeping people housed during this time, but there's also -- we're providing safety for survivors and we're also, you know, the long-term impacts of the eviction even without a pandemic and quote unquote normal times, we know there's long-term impacts around mental health and increased

context

stressors for survivors when they are impacted as a result of domestic violence or sexual assaults. So just a little bit to give you a little bit of about the field, you know, we all -- it's been a year now. We all mobilized very quickly to start addressing the

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

5

so

hotels

linings

needs of survivors during a time that was filled with much uncertainty. So we saw programs and DV, SA shift their services quickly and rapidly to provide services in either or motel or making housing programs more socially distant and we just saw really quick changes and mobile -- and people mobilizing to meet the needs of survivors and we know that while there's silver and there's hope with the vaccine and things are changing in terms of some of the health responses we still have a ways to go and we're not out of the woods

yet, so it's super important for us to still keep survivors housed during this time.

of And we knew -- you know, before the pandemic there was really still quite a bit of -- there was quite a lot

gaps in terms of survivors having access to housing.

We do an annual count, the National Network to End Domestic Violence does an annual count.

housing The count report and in that one day it's typically in September and that day typically there's about over 11,000 requests for services that are unmet, and the majority of those, 70% of those are request for

and shelter.

So that was in pre-pandemic times so we're seeing some of that exacerbated during the pandemic.

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

6

we're So fortunate we have seen just the field responding making changes, turning things very quickly to be able to keep survivors housed during this time and what

now

hearing and what the research is starting to tell us

is there is -- there is increased violence and impacts on survivors.

So if we could go to the next slide, please.

There's just so much additional stressors.

While it is the right response for us to socially distance and to encourage the stay-at-home orders to curb the spread of COVID-19, we're also seeing what we call -- what has been called a shadow pandemic that

for

survivors this has been a real challenge that they're very much at risk for additional violence in their

homes

if they're isolated from their services, their workplaces, if -- with their abuser at home and seeing increased violence.

So we're seeing some of the research.

There was a study that just came out recently, a national study, let me pull it up really quick, from national commission on COVID-19 and criminal justice, CCJ.

the

They have -- they just released a study which you'll have in the link on the slide when you get the slide deck, but just basically what we have heard and kind

of

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

7

and
whether
look
that
there's
home
there's
and

assumed anecdotally but they have done some research
looked at different access points for survivors
it's hotlines or health records or other police logs,
they have seen about an 8%, over an 8% increase in
domestic violence as a result of stay-at-home orders,
and so while there's a lot of evidence to support the
increase, it's still -- people are still trying to
at all the different factors that are exacerbating
whether it's economic impacts or family stressors,
unemployment stress and obviously for those who are --
who are home schooling and taking care of kiddos
also additional stressors for people working in the
with their abuser.
And so we also are seeing during this time that
additional risk and housing insecurity for survivors

survivors of color and immigrant survivors and LGBTQ survivors.

We're seeing higher rates of housing insecurity and evictions and poverty.

We're seeing the impact of the gender wage gap and we're, you know, hearing and learning more about the increased rates of sexual harassment and domestic violence as it relates to the pandemic.

So, you know, these times like similar to natural disasters when there's limited resources or additional

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

8

stressors there's often oppressive practices that come into place in workplaces and in the home that impact survivors and in particular survivors of color.

The next slide, please.

So just here's another slide just to touch base too on the impacts of sexual violence during COVID.

issues

As we know, prior to COVID there was concerns and

as it relates to vulnerabilities to housing and

landlord

landlords in terms of landlords harassing survivors in their housing, and they can be, you know, be left with no choice, experiencing the harassment by their

or trying to stay in their housing, so we're seeing increased vulnerabilities there.

40%

So the National Network to End Domestic Violence also surveyed their programs, the programs and found that

of rape crisis centers have seen increased demand for services.

and

And due to the health-related issues around COVID-19

the health care facilities being maxed out, there are fewer sexual assault exams and there's been decreases around that.

there's

We're seeing at this time there is -- you know,

survivors

a need for additional services but often with the isolation during COVID it's sometimes hard for

to have access to those resources.

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

responses

So I do want to leave us on, you know, somewhat of a positive note, and the other presenters will also tell you the great resources and different federal

that are happening and state and local responses that are happening as a result of the pandemic.

COVID-19,

But there is a recent study that came out of Harris County around relationships and the impact of

and so what we're seeing is there is -- there is increased domestic and sexual violence but what we're seeing is the domestic and sexual violence programs, advocates, all of you, the support that you've given, the programs are vital life line, so there was really good information in this recent study out of Harris County talk about how DV and SA programs were life lines helping survivors get through these challenging times, and as we know and as the other presenters will talk about more in-depth, just cash assistance, money, resources to pay their rent, any kind of supports

around

child care and just access to resources really makes a big difference in the lives of survivors and helps mitigate some of the increased stressors that happen during COVID-19 as it relates to survivors.

in

So there's a lot of resources on both of those slides
terms of stats and the impact of COVID for SA and DV
survivors.

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

10

is

going

really

and

so

So definitely take a look at those, and I think Renee
next, so I'm going to pass it over to Renee who is
to talk more about the eviction moratoriums.

>> Renee: Thank you so much, Debbie, and, you know, I
think the framing that Debbie provided is really,
important.

I guess I'll introduce myself really quick.

My name is Renee Williams.

I am a senior attorney at the National Housing Law
Project, and I work a lot with folks who are my
copresenters as well as folks who are tuning in on
really advocating for the housing rights of domestic
sexual violence survivors who live in rental housing,

know, that's a lot of what I focus on at NHLP, and, you
underscore I do want to take a step back and just really
because we're talking primarily about evictions today
just something that Debbie said about a lot of the
structural issues in place, structural racism,
are structural economic inequality, all of those issues
really coming to a head during the pandemic, and it's
really magnified the need and has really demonstrated
how many folks are really, you know, always just short
of the edge of losing their housing, and that's
particularly true for survivors.
So I'm just going to speak really briefly on, you

know,

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

11

place the -- the COVID eviction protections that are in
and just gave some updates, the latest information.
very I will say, you know, this information is changing

quickly.

local

The landscape, you know, as things develop on the national level, you may also see at your state and

slides

levels, so there are a lot of resources that are compiled at the end of the presentation, and the

COVID-19

are going to go out to folks after the webinar.

You know, at NNEDV, NASH, and NHLP, we all have

resource pages, and so I would definitely encourage folks to visit those pages just to get the most recent updates because in a week some of this information may not be as up to date, so I just wanted to note that.

Next slide, please.

it's

So one thing that I wanted to speak to and I think

just as the country has really struggled and grappled with this undress dented and at least in modern times health emergency is how to not only keep folks in

their

homes who are already vulnerable but also connecting that to the overarching public health objectives of,

you

know, containing the spread of coronavirus.

housing

So probably the most visible intervention in the

space that, you know, that has been taken on by the federal government is the CDC has issued a moratorium

on

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

12

and,

out

evictions, and so that moratorium first took effect in September of 2020, and it has actually been extended a couple of times, once in December, once in January,

you know, it's had to be extended because we're not

of this crisis, right?

And so right now the current moratorium is set to expire, the current extension of the moratorium is set to expire on March 31.

But what I wanted to do is let you know a little bit about what we know right now.

So as far as we know, the signs are really pointing to there being an extension of the moratorium after March 31, but the information is really limited.

We just this week started to see, you know, stories in the news about the administration considering the extension and, you know, there have been steps taken

by

the
so
moratorium
been

the White House, by the administration to go through
process within the federal government that would --
that's necessary to, you know, proceed any extension,
that's working its way through, you know, right now.
But as of right now, all we know is that the
is set to end on the 31st, so that goes to my earlier
point of just making sure that you check the web pages
and resources that will share just to get the latest
information about whether or not the moratorium has

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

13

is

extended.
So what the moratorium does, and we've done a few
webinars on this.
I don't want to kind of retread old territory.
But what it does is it says that while the moratorium
in place, you know, there can't be evictions, so if
folks are having trouble paying their rent, they can't

be evicted on that basis, right?
They can't be evicted, you know, because they're
having trouble paying rent.
And, you know, so a couple of just important things to
remember, one is that, you know, if folks are having
-- if clients that you're working with are having trouble
and paying their rent, if they're getting behind on rent
that's they haven't filled out the CDC moratorium form,
something that they should do to protect themselves.
You know, just to make sure because that is a
housing prerequisite for exercising the protections and
the providers are not required to share the existence of
fact that the moratorium is in effect with tenants.
And so there is still this information gap, right,
that, you know, the word is not necessarily getting to
everybody, you know, that the moratorium is in place.
There have also been -- so that's number one.
Number two is there have been some legal challenges to

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

the moratorium, and what I wanted to share, you know, and there are a couple court decisions, you know, that basically sort of cast the moratorium in a negative light basically says that it was not -- you know, it was an expansion too far of federal authority, and what the Department of Justice has said is -- and I included a couple of links here just for you to see -- is that in their view the moratorium is still in effect. It applies, and that the decisions in those cases are limited to the parties that are involved. So if you're getting questions locally, you know, is the moratorium still in effect, I heard about these court cases, you know, you can look at these particular decisions that speak to DOJ's view on the matter. And if folks have legal questions, you know, or questions about where the litigation is at, again, please feel free to reach out to me at NHLP, happy to talk more about that.

Let's see.

Okay.

So could we do next slide, please.

important

So, you know, I think one of the things that's for survivor advocates to know is that there are, you know -- there are exceptions to the moratorium, and including things like criminal activity, you know,

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

15

evicted

potential damage to the unit, etc., and a lot of times these are the grounds, right, that survivors are under because of the abuse that's committed against them.

know,

applying,

So which there are protections in place which I will touch on really quickly for the purposes of time. But the real takeaway here is, you know, one, you we have heard of evictions that are still moving forward, and even though the CDC moratorium is it's really, really important that if you're working with a client and they say, oh, I got an eviction notice, please do the referral to legal aid as soon as

eviction possible because even if perhaps they can't physically
aid be removed from their home, some portion of the
depending on state and local law may be going forward,
and we have a couple links here of contacting legal
offices.
I'm sure a lot of folks on the line, you know, have
relationships with their local legal aid, and so
the upshot is don't -- just because the client may
think, oh, there's a moratorium in place, I'm okay,
sort of eviction notice really needs to be looked at
referred to an attorney.
Next slide, please.
So there also -- in addition to the federal
moratorium,

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

16

of there are also state moratoriums as well, and because
the nature of how landlord/tenant law works across the

different country, those are going to look different in states.

to So just wanted to provide a link for folks to look at effect see if there is an eviction moratorium that's in list in their state or in their locality, and then that are also speaks to moratoriums on utility shutoffs which also happening as folks are having difficulty paying utilities.

And then to the earlier point that I made about, you know, there is an eviction moratorium in place, but because of the exceptions in the moratorium, survivors may still be being evicted because of the abuse committed against them, and so it's really important for folks to have, you know, a really good grasp of if your client is living in any of the federally subsidized housing programs, the federal programs covered by VAWA, Violence Against Women Act, housing protections, there's also the fair housing act which can provide protections for survivors.

A lot of states have protections as well against the

eviction of survivors of domestic and sexual violence,
and you can go to our website, you know, to find out
more about these various protections, but again just

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

17

keep that in mind.

Next slide please.

Okay.

And let me look just really quickly.

Thank you, Karlo, for sharing the eviction declaration
form in English.

The CDC also has a Spanish version and then other
advocacy groups have, you know, have translated in a
multitude of other languages as well.

Am I correct that it's only for non-payment.

So, you know, there's a lot of discussion about this,
and I don't want to, you know -- the moratorium is
focused on non-payment of rent, but there are

arguments,

you know, legal arguments that could be made that the
moratorium applies in other contexts and I don't want

to

aid,
have
through
from

derail us too much because we only have an hour but if you have specific questions about the moratorium and some legal arguments that you may want to make for survivors or tenants, when in doubt refer to legal aid, and if you're working with legal aid folks and they have questions, they can reach out to National Housing Law Project and NASH as well like we're all thinking through these questions, but that's a really good question from the audience member who posed that. So I'm probably way over time so I'm going to kick it

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

18

over to Karlo and keep your questions coming.
Thanks.
>> Karlo: Thank you so much, Renee.
That was really, really helpful and really great information about the status of the eviction moratorium.
And yes, for folks who are just joining, the

PowerPoint

and the recording of the webinar are all going to be circulated after we're done with the presentation, and usually that takes about 24 to 48 hours, so no worries there.

So now I'm going to provide some updates.

Really I'm going to provide an overview of the latest COVID relief package and tell you some of the

different

components in that package, and then Mariel is going

to

provide a more detailed -- provide more detailed

of

information about how folks can be eligible for some

the emergency rental assistance relief that is part of

the last COVID relief package and also the packages

before that.

So I'm going to start with the emergency rescue plan

act.

signed

Many of you know the American rescue plan act was

into law by President Biden on March 11.

It is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package that's

designed to speed up the country's recovery from COVID

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

as well as the ongoing recession.

Like I said there's a lot of different parts to this package and they're all interrelated really designed again to help us get out of the pandemic and help us economically.

But for our purposes today I'm just going to focus on providing high-level takeaways related to domestic violence sexual assault programs as well as the

housing

and homelessness if you understand that's part of the rescue plan act.

If you want more detail we really encourage you to

take

a look at NNEDV and NASH's fact sheet where we really hone in on the part of the American rescue plan act

that

apply to DV, SA programs as well as survivors trying

to

access the housing and homelessness assistance.

So if someone could post that link that would be

really

great in the chat box.

Thanks so much.

So the American rescue plan act provides about \$450

million in funds that are specific to domestic and sexual violence.

This includes \$180 million under the family violence prevention and services act.

And these funds as many of you know is for emergency shelter and flexible funding for domestic violence

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

20

programs.

There's another 18 million for tribes and that's in addition to the 10% allocated from the 180 million of the FIFSA fund.

There's another 49 and a half million for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and this is a

new

program.

It's a brand-new program and the funds are designed to go directly into the hands of culturally specific organizations that serve survivors of color.

There's also 198 million for rape crisis centers.

There's another \$2 million for the national domestic

the

violence hotline of which 1 million is allocated to
strong hearts native help line.

the

In terms of the housing and homelessness assistance,
package provides 21.6 billion dollars in emergency
rental assistance that is going to be administered by
the treasury department.

rental

Now this amount is in addition to the 25 billion that
was provided last December through the emergency
assistance program so that's the actual name of the
program.

ERAP that is also administered by the treasury
department and Mariel will talk about more about what
that program is and how folks can be eligible.

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

21

Just know that this 25.5 billion is in addition to the
earlier amount.

So these funds are being distributed to states,
localities and territories throughout the country that

will either run their own programs, run their own
emergency rental assistance programs or they're going
to designate organizations in their communities who will
run these programs.

There is a treasury an FAQ that's come out of
treasury.

It's been updated a few times.

The last version was published recently on March 16.

There's a link to it had that we can provide to you in
the chat box and basically it answers a lot of
questions

that folks have in the field about how exactly -- who
is going to be eligible for this money.

There were a lot of questions about what services and
housing-related services does it actually cover, what
about folks in manufactured housing, etc. Etc.

So if you would like to see that and get answers to
those kinds of questions please do take a look at the
FAQ which will be linked in the chat box.

There's -- as part of the housing and homelessness
assistance and the emergency plan act there's also \$5
billion in emergency housing vouchers.

So these vouchers are available to anyone who is at
risk

22

or experiencing homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness.

to This includes survivors who are fleeing or attempting

violence flee domestic violence, sexual assault, dating

and human trafficking.

allocations The money equates to about 65,000 vouchers nationally which would be administered by public housing authorities or PHAs and HUD is going to notify the public housing authorities of their voucher

within 60 days.

So we're looking at about May 10.

HUD should be providing these vouchers to the public housing authorities.

formula, HUD is going to distribute the vouchers using a

PHA. a brands new formula that ensures geographic diversity and it also takes into account the capacity of the

is What's really important to know about these vouchers

there's something unique about them.

And what's different about these vouchers is that because they are really vouchers created in response to the pandemic, starting April -- I'm sorry -- starting October 2023 public housing authorities cannot be issued voucher when families that are using them no longer need them, so basically come October 2023 they can sunset if the vouchers are not being used by the family or the

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

23

vouchers that the families are using they no longer need them. HUD should be coming out with guidance about these vouchers and we are actually going to be speaking with HUD about how survivors as well as domestic violence and sexual assault programs can access these vouchers. If you have any initial thoughts about how these vouchers can serve survivors better, please feel free

to

share them with -- those thoughts with us now in chat box or e-mail me because we really, really want to

bring

your feedback and suggestions to HUD as much as possible.

public

We also encourage you to reach out to your local housing authorities to see how survivors can access these vouchers.

You know, practically speaking the housing authorities are likely waiting for their marching orders from HUD. They need to know how many vouchers, how much COVID vouchers they're going to get and how they should be administering them.

a

But it's never too early to reach out to your local housing authority and give them a heads up that you as

would

local domestic violence and sexual assault program

need

really like to work with them to ensure that these vouchers are actually reaching survivors who really

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

them.

So please do that and if you need some tips or advice

or

have questions about where your local housing agency

may

be please feel free to reach out to us.

So continuing on with the different components of the

America rescue plan act and the housing and

homelessness

assistance grants, there is going to be -- there is

another \$5 billion that is for homelessness

assistance,

so that is different from the 5 billion that's for
emergency vouchers.

This is 5 billion devoted for homelessness assistance
and mainly for capital investment.

The assistance is going to go to quote unquote
participating jurisdictions, which are states and low
cattle and territories basically in the FAQ sheet that
NNEDV and NASH created there's an link to the

estimated

amounts that these state and territory participating
jurisdictions will be receiving.

The funds will be distributed within 30 days using the
fund programs allocation formula.

So this is an interesting kind of mix of different

programs, so this is clearly homelessness assistance, but the way that it's being doled out is using a home program formula which home is not typically thought of as a homeless assistance as a stream for financing but

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

25

in this context home is being used because it was a political decision.

There's been a lot of holdup in terms of using a grant as a way to get out the money because right now I think

there's only been 10% of the COVID money that's been doled out so there was a political decision made to use

another funding stream to get this money out quickly. So like the emergency vouchers I talked about before, these homeless assistance grants can be used for survivors who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic

violence, sexual assault, dating violence and human trafficking.

This assistance is supposed to be flexible in that it

can be used for a variety of different purposes including developing supportive housing, developing non-congregate shelters, developing regular affordable housing as well as providing rental assistance.

The coalition has a fact sheet about all these different kinds of housing and homelessness assistance so feel free to look at that and again we are speaking with different offices at HUD to see how we can work with them to ensure that survivors and programs like yours can access this assistance in a way that's truly equitable.

If you have thoughts about how this can be done or even

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

26

stories about the challenges you've faced trying to access these COVID funds please share that in the chat box or e-mail me later.

Very quickly to quickly outline the other components of

is the housing and homelessness assistance grants, there
an a \$750 million in flexible block grant housing assist
rental for tribal and native Hawaiians, \$100 million in
financed assistance to rural households living in U.S.D.
properties, \$9.96 billion to help homeowners avoid
foreclosure through the homeowner assistance fund,
\$4.5 billion for utility assistance through the low
low income home emergency assistance program or LAHE and
emergency another 500 million for water assistance through the
income household drinking water and wastewater
assistance program.
direct There's also a lot of other assistance including
impact payments and enhancements to unemployment
insurance, the earned income tax credit and the child
tax credit, all really, really important issues and
enhancements for the people that we serve.
So please definitely take a look at NNEDV and NASH's
fact sheet if you want more information about that.
And with that I'll turn it over to Mariel.
>> Mariel: Thanks so much, Karlo.
So I'll be talking about other sources of emergency

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

27

up

rental assistance, I think more about the ERAP program and also will show you some resources for how to look the local rental assistance program in your area. So there were three sources of federal assistance dollars during the pandemic.

The first was the CARES Act in 2020 and this provided funding to multiple streams of funding, so that's a little bit confusing for some people.

It added funding to CBDG funds.

Emergency solutions grant funds, home and some other funds, and it also created the coronavirus relief act which was a very large fund that at the time of enactment due to the CARES Act could be used by states and large localities for a number of purposes

including

emergency rental assistance.

So some older emergency rental assistance programs earlier established in 2020 are funded by CARES Act funding and very often coronavirus relief funds.

assistance

In December of 2020 the congress pass would the consolidated appropriations act of 2021 and this act committed \$25 billion to the emergency rental program or ERAP funds.

And then as you heard from Karlo, the American rescue plan act added an additional \$21.55 billion to the emergency rental assistance program.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

28

programs.

So right now you're likely to be seeing a lot of emergency rental assistance programs being launched using ERAP funds, using new programs.

I'll quickly go over the eligibility for these

A person is eligible if they meet three requirements. First at least one member of the household has -- must have early qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other types of COVID-19-related financial hardship, and directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 outbreak.

less
The second is that a member of the household must be able to demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability and third, the household income must be less than 80% of the area median income.

with
The ERAP program also has to prioritize households with 50% AMI or less or people who have been unemployed for at least a 90-day period preceding the date of application.

under
ERAP funds cover broadly three different programs under the consolidated appropriations act, three different purposes. One is financial assistance, two is housing stability services and three are administrative costs.

The American rescue plan act also added a fourth

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

29

which
allowable use for those -- for that 21.55 billion
be
also includes eviction prevention services which can

funded -- which also can be covered by ERAP funds. Financial assistance covers rent, rental arrears, utility and home energy costs and utility and home energy cost arrears as well as other housing expenses that were incurred directly or indirectly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of those other expenses include relocation expenses, security deposits, rental fees, application and screening fees, internet service and reasonably accrued late fees.

So this is all important to know for people you're assisting, these are all covered costs that can be covered by ERAP funds.

In regard to housing stability services, a pretty wide array of housing stability services can also be funded.

This includes housing counseling, case management, housing counseling, relevant to this audience is related services for survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Legal services, and other specialized services for individuals with disabilities or seniors who need support services to access or maintain housing.

Now I think we can go -- let me see if I can share

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

30

screen.

Yeah, great.

Let's see.

Okay.

Can you see my browser now?

So these are some resources.

We included the links on the slide which you'll get.

But these are some places where you can go to look up your local rental assistance program.

The first is national council of state housing agency has a emergency housing assistance web page that is tracking ERAP programs by state, so it's really convenient.

You can just click on your state, and it will link to the latest information.

Again this is specifically for ERAP funds and not earlier CARES Act programs.

And another resource is the national low income

housing

website. coalition, emergency rental assistance program

And this also has a number of views where you can look up your local program in your state or locality.

I think it's being updated right now unfortunately so you can't see all of the views right now, but there's

a

bunch of good information there.

We have this link for you too.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

31

With that I think that's all I have.

Stop the share.

>> Renee: I think Karlo is going to talk about immigration

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

32

>> Karlo: Great.

Yeah, thank you.

I was just waiting for the slides to come back up.

Always so much tech that we need to be mindful of.

So we are going to talk about immigration issues --

sorry.

Let me start my video so you can see.

Hello everyone.

So there's some really great questions in the chat box and please keep them coming.

We're trying to answer them as they come.

I didn't realize there was a chat box and Q and A so we're trying to look at both and answer questions as they come up.

So yeah, Jenny, I don't know who can actually see my answers or other folks' answers publicly.

that If folks can't see it, Jenny, if you could fix that

would be great.

Thanks so much.

So there was a question in the chat box about housing choice vouchers and if folks want to learn more about how to access those vouchers there is a fact sheet we provided -- there's a link to it in the Q and A, and I think it would be a resource that will be helpful for

anyone who is unfamiliar with vouchers.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

33

The only caveat I would say in that fact sheet we talk about immigration status requirements which is a big part of accessing federal housing resources, and a lot of programs the immigration status requirements.

I do want to highlight for the COVID relief assistance,

you know, Mariel talked about the housing assistance that is available under the CARES Act or the COVID relief funds as well as the ERAP, Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

immigration Those dollars do not have federally imposed

restrictions, and it's very clear in the statute that there are no federally imposed immigration restrictions

comes in those programs and the housing assistance that

out of those funds.

cannot So what that means is state and local government

prohibitions and should not be creating immigrant access
that for these programs either directly or by requiring
tenants for example have social security numbers.
So if you're experiencing something different locally
they like you're seeing that some of these COVID dollars
are -- there are some of these attachments being
funds attached to some of those in order to access those
please let us know and contact us.
In terms of the American rescue plan act housing and
homelessness assistance, it's too early for us to know

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

34

for sure whether or not the immigration status
restriction attach to those funds.
of There are none that appear in the statute but because
the way that the funding is being allocated and
distributed, there might be but it's really unclear
right now.

So what we would really encourage you to do is take a look at the FAQ.

So NASH and the national immigrant women's advocacy project we put together an FAQ about housing assistance

that's available for immigrant survivors during COVID and in that FAQ there's a series of questions about sort

of what generally immigrant survivors are eligible for when it comes to housing assistance things like HUD programs and rural development programs and then what kinds of immigration restrictions exist for programs during COVID, so anything related to the COVID relief packages, and so we sort of outline all of that.

We also talk about emergency shelter and transitional housing as well.

So please do take a look at that.

There's a lot of detailed information in there and I want to provide a quick word on public charge because

I

know that's been a big issue on everyone's minds who work with immigrants not just immigrants survivors but

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

immigrant all across our country.

On March 9, 2021 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security DHS did announce that the agency would stop implementing the 2019 public charge rule and this

means

that the 2019 public charge rule is no longer in

effect.

Remember though that even though there is no 2019

public

charge rule anymore there is still a public charge

test,

and this test was -- was there before the 2019 public charge rule, and so there's still a public charge test that applies but this test is very, very different.

So this public charge test, which again is the

pre-2019

public charge rule test, does not apply to legal permanent residents.

The public charge test does not apply to U.S.

citizens.

It does not apply to survivors applying for or who

have

been granted immigration relief under VAWA or other programs.

The test also does not impact survivors who are

seeking

or having granted asylum or refugee status.

The test also does not impact anyone who is seeking or has been granted special immigrant juvenile status or IJS.

applying
they
they

So what that means is survivors who have or are for one of these immigration statuses they can and should continue to use any government programs that

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

36

okay.
certain

qualify for.
If folks have questions about that, let me see --
So it sounds like there are issues coming up in localities about immigration restrictions.
Yes, so let's definitely talk about that after the webinar, and we'll follow up with you for sure.
Okay.
And then is there another section or are we in Q and A now, Debbie?
Okay.

We have resources.

So here are some resources that we have.

There's quite a bit of information about the CDC moratorium.

If folks need to contact legal aid offices we have a couple links there for you to contact folks in those offices.

There's also more information about state eviction and utility shop moratorium through the eviction laws.

Really helpful fact sheet on the American rescue plan and of course there's NNEDV and NASH's fact sheet

about

the American Rescue Plan Act as well.

The FAQs from the treasury department on rental assistance and there's a couple of informational

sheets

about -- and trackers of resources about the emergency

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

37

rental assistance programs.

Next slide.

Okay.

And here are more resources.

I think folks were wondering about some of our COVID resource pages.

So they are all there for you to look at.

We also provide a couple of additional links to background studies that we mentioned in our presentation.

Next slide.

Okay.

So it looks like we have about 8 minutes for Q and A

if

there are some questions.

Debbie, did you want to facilitate this part?

>> Debbie: Yeah, I'm trying to -- I think so far I think we've responded to all the questions in the chat box so far in realtime.

So if anybody has any other questions that you would like to have us while we're here answer for you,

please

just put it in the chat box and we can respond.

And then also if we -- you're also welcome, you have

all

of our contact information just to reach out to us individually as well if you think of something later.

We're happy to be a resource ongoing.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

38

All these new resources and changes are happening with eviction moratoriums, so we're all kind of learning as we go because things are changing every quickly like everyone had mentioned.

up

>> Debbie, just there was a question sort of further that I thought would be helpful for kind of all the panelists to maybe chime in.

And it's this issue of, you know, because there's an eviction moratorium in place it's really hard for clients who aren't already housed to be able to locate housing, and so is there any -- are there strategies that folks can think of about, you know, sort of addressing that issue if there isn't, you know, affordable housing inventory where folks have their service areas.

about

Which I think is a really good question, and I don't know if some of the other panelists have thoughts that piece.

>> Debbie: Some of the conversations I've heard about some of the challenges like some landlords wanting to take some of the money so there are challenges potentially to work around and this is in limited cases but have the person pay directly. There's conversations around that. But I do think that, yeah, we're in the Nexus in these

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

39

communities rural and cities of just we know an affordable housing crisis and there is a lot of work that's happening at the national level to try to address that as we move forward. But yeah, if anybody has any ideas, obviously building lots of relationships with landlords is really critical but if anyone else in the panel or in the box, if you want to share some of your strategies to get landlords engaged and on board to house folks, that would be super helpful.

>> Karlo: Debbie, it looks like there's a question about social security numbers.

assistance

So right, for housing assistance from the CARES Act or the emergency rescue -- the emergency rental

plan, there should not be any kind of -- there are no federally imposed requirements when it comes to immigration requirements.

make

So what is happening is that locally we're seeing some of those restrictions being imposed, and so there are different advocacy strategies and arguments you can

shouldn't

with your states and localities about why that

be.

They are primarily legal arguments.

And so we're happy to share that with you afterwards.

>> Debbie: Yeah, I think, yeah, Kara mentioned the

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

40

place

issue of having people in motels, yeah, we're at a

where people are needing the transition to permanent housing out of motels and have vouchers but are having challenges trying to find housing.

motels

We are hearing of models in some cities where -- and this could be possible with the home funds where

are

are being converted into permanent housing, so there's -- that is a strategy that some communities doing is taking some of those funds and obviously -- those motels, hotels would be to have the ability to cook and all those things, so they would have to be either already kind of like an extended stay or something that would be able to be converted to longer term housing.

So we have another question from Rebecca.

Do states and localities have the discretion to limit who is eligible for ERAP funds?

Maribel or Karlo, do you want to take that?

>> Maribel: I can answer that.

further

States and localities do have discretion to set prioritization categories for emergency rental assistance.

However, for things like immigration status, we argue that states do not have discretion to exclude undocumented immigrants, for example.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

41

federal

still

And the main sort of justification for that is a

court case Ponder versus City of Phoenix, but we're

working on that sort of advocacy enforcement there.

>> Karlo: And just to piggyback off of Mariel I was trying not to get too technically it's essentially a preemptive argument.

occupies

Immigration is an area that federal government

and states and localities should not be adding

immigration restrictions where the federal government

has been silent or hasn't said anything about it so

that's part of the rationale as well.

>> Debbie: So we have about one or two more minutes.

Any last minute questions?

access

Yeah, with all these resources, just however people, your organizations and you all can be part of any

or having those conversations to try to get access to

time. some of those resources is really critical at this

Let's see.

We have something from Rebecca.

Is there a similar argument for local enforcement of immigration law by LEO, is there a document out there that exists to distribute?

ahead. >> I was going to point to NHLP resources, so go

about >> Mariel: Yeah, we do have some memos that talk

to immigration restrictions and have some legal analysis

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

42

help local advocates advocate against any immigration restrictions they're seeing in their programs, and we can add the link to the chat.

for >> Renee: Yeah, the link for folks who are looking

those, if you look I think it's the second resource slide where it says National Housing Law Project resources, the first couple of bullets, it's the slide

that's up right now, those are the two memos that NHLP has produced, and then, you know, also NASH and NNEDV have done a really deep dive into shelter and rental assistance.

questions

So there are resources but if folks have more

or want to talk through legal arguments, please let us know, and then there was one more question just about has anyone successfully used the CDC eviction

moratorium

to stop an eviction.

And so there have been, you know, at least for initial -- taking an initial look, it has been shown that the CDC order has, you know, prevented, you know, folks from being evicted, and has helped limit the spread of COVID-19.

I

I think one of the issues, and I just wanted to -- and

place,

know we're over time just reiterate is that folks -- whether or not there's an eviction moratorium in

folks should always, always, always if there's an

CART captioning file

NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

there

eviction notice refer to legal aid, and so -- and are some, as I mentioned before, some gaps in the moratorium that, you know, where survivors can be vulnerable to eviction if the eviction is premised on things like criminal activity, etc., so it's always really important to know what protections exist for survivors where you are.

throw

Yeah, and I know we're over time, so Debbie, I'll it back to you.

>> Debbie: Thank you, Renee.

Yeah, I just to want thank my copresenters.

all

I think Mariel had to get off already, but thanks to Karlo and Renee for all the welcome information and the resources.

housing

I'm appreciative of you all in the field as you're working on the ground to get these resources to survivors who really need all the financial and resources as soon as possible, so thank you all. We will send out the slides, all the information, and then we're always available for resources and I appreciate Rebecca for appreciating us for how we put this info together, yeah, so kudos to everyone.

Hopefully it will be of good use to you all.
And yeah, that's it.
Thanks and take care.

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT

44

>> Bye, everyone.
>> Thank you, bye.

CART

Access

lightly

of

[This text is being provided in a lightly edited draft format, and is the work product of the CART captioner. Any reproduction, publication, or other use of this file without the express written consent of the captioner is strictly prohibited. Communication Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility, and this edited CART file may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. Due to the live nature of the event, some names and/or terms may be misspelled. This text

may also contain phonetic attempts at sounds and words
that were spoken and environmental sounds that
occurred
during the event.]

CART captioning file
NOT A CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT