KEY TAKEAWAYS

Four core values should inform every community's work to use new COVID-19 federal relief funds.

Reduce Homelessness:

Focus all your energy and strategy for implementing these resources by asking, "How can we use these funds to dramatically decrease homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness, in our community?" This helps people who are literally homeless, and it also helps create greater system flow.

Focus on People with High Needs:

People experiencing homelessness with the greatest barriers to stability are often the ones who have been left behind in our efforts to end homelessness. Now that we have a vast increase in funding, it is imperative that we make this group our priority. This is the right thing to do for these households, but it also improves system flow because these are the people who remain homeless the longest.

Reduce Racial Disparities:

While racial disparities in homelessness are often the result of historical and ongoing structural racism in other systems (like criminal justice and child welfare), the homelessness system itself should structure these new resources to ensure equity in their distribution and outcomes – especially for Black and Indigenous people experiencing homelessness. Use data to determine where and how these resources can be most effectively targeted to serve the people of color who are disproportionately experiencing homelessness. Continue to monitor the data to ensure equitable outcomes as a result of the housing and services funded by these new resources.

Create Partnerships:

Many of these new funding streams are not dedicated exclusively to homelessness systems or for people experiencing homelessness. Therefore, it is imperative that Continuums of Care (CoCs) form meaningful partnerships with other systems, especially other HUD-funded systems (like public housing authorities (PHAs) and HOME agencies) and healthcare agencies that can fund the important services required to ensure stability for people housed with these new resources.

National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

Maximize these new resources by **strategically prioritizing** them:

Do Not Use These Funds for Prevention:

Most people who experience evictions do not actually become homeless, so using dedicated homelessness resources to try to prevent evictions will not reduce homelessness. There are other new COVID-19 resources available to use for homelessness prevention, but even those funds should be very carefully targeted to ensure they reach the people who, but for this intervention, really would become homeless.

Use the Core Values to Inform Prioritization:

Prioritize resources based on level of need, ability of the prioritization plan to really move the needle on literal homelessness (especially unsheltered), and ability to reduce racial disproportionality. Use your data to inform how you assess the ability of your prioritization plan to achieve those goals.

Create "Buckets" of Households to Serve:

Instead of having a single line of households waiting to get assistance, group households into categories of those most in need and/or most likely to create real impact on homelessness numbers by serving them, regardless of their level of acuity. These "buckets" could include:

- People who are unsheltered and/or in encampments

- People who have disabilities

- Long-term shelter stayers

- People over 55

- Families with very young children

Groups Who Should Not Be Prioritized:

In addition to households with low needs, communities should not use the new resources to prioritize people currently in rapid re-housing (RRH) **UNLESS** they were purposefully placed in RRH as a "bridge" to permanent supportive housing. Additionally, communities should also not prioritize people who were placed in motels as part of the pandemic quarantine **UNLESS** they are very high need.

The resources in this series are aligned around a set of core values and priorities to guide implementation.

ALLIANCE RESOURCE SERIES
Using COVID-19 Federal Funding to End Homelessness

CORE VALUES   **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS