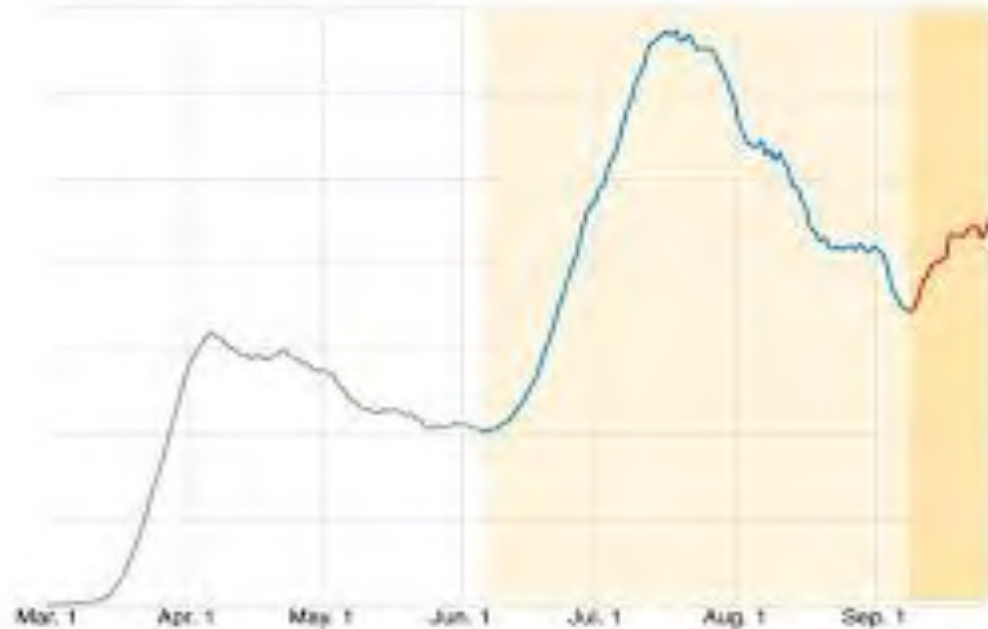




# BOS COVID-19 Office Hours

October 23, 2020



# ***MOMENT OF SILENCE***



# Agenda

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- Welcome & Announcements
- Updates
  - CT DOH
  - CT DMHAS
  - CT DSS
  - US HUD
  - CCEH
  - CT BOS
- Next Steps & Resources





# **New** – Framework for Enhancing Safety in Homeless Response System

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Compilation of **critical guidance** and **best practices** for:

- Coordination with public health and health care providers
- Preventing virus spread within congregate settings
- Maintaining essential services for unsheltered people
- Deploying targeted coronavirus testing
- Ensuring the availability and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Accelerating rehousing processes, especially for the people with high COVID-19 risk
- Keeping people out of the shelter system and off the streets through prevention and diversion

# Share Information to Reduce Risks at your Facilities

[CDC Guidance on Reducing Risks of COVID-10 Spread via Holiday Celebrations](#)



# Updated CDC Guidance - Close Contact

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## New Definition of Close Contact:

Within 6 feet of an infected person for a **cumulative total** of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period



# Updated CDC Guidance- Discontinuing Isolation

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**Persons with symptoms** may discontinue isolation when:

- At least 10 days\* have passed since symptom onset **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms have improved.

\*For patients with severe illness, duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset may be warranted. Consider consultation with infection control experts.





# Updated CDC Guidance- Discontinuing Isolation(2)

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A test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue isolation, except in certain circumstances:

**Persons who never develop symptoms** may discontinue isolation 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

[Supporting Homeless Individuals Exiting Isolation or Quarantine](#)



# New – What to Expect from Remote Case Management

Handout for clients, including tips on:

- Using Technology
- Privacy
- Communicating with your Case Manager



# IRS Extends Economic Impact Payment (EIP)

## **NEW Deadline** – 11/21/20

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- Additional time solely for those who have not received their EIP and don't normally file a tax return.
- For taxpayers who requested an extension of time to file their 2019 tax return, the deadline to file remains October 15.

### [Non-filers tool & Instructions](#)

### [A Step-by-Step Guide to Using the IRS Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here Tool to Get an Economic Impact Payment](#)

How Do I Get An Economic Impact Payment When I Don't Normally File Taxes? [English Version](#) [Spanish Version](#)

# Eviction Prevention Info

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CT Fair Housing Center - Eviction Moratoriums Updates Presentation from 10/20/20 [Recording & Slides from Presentation](#)

[FAQ on moratoriums](#)

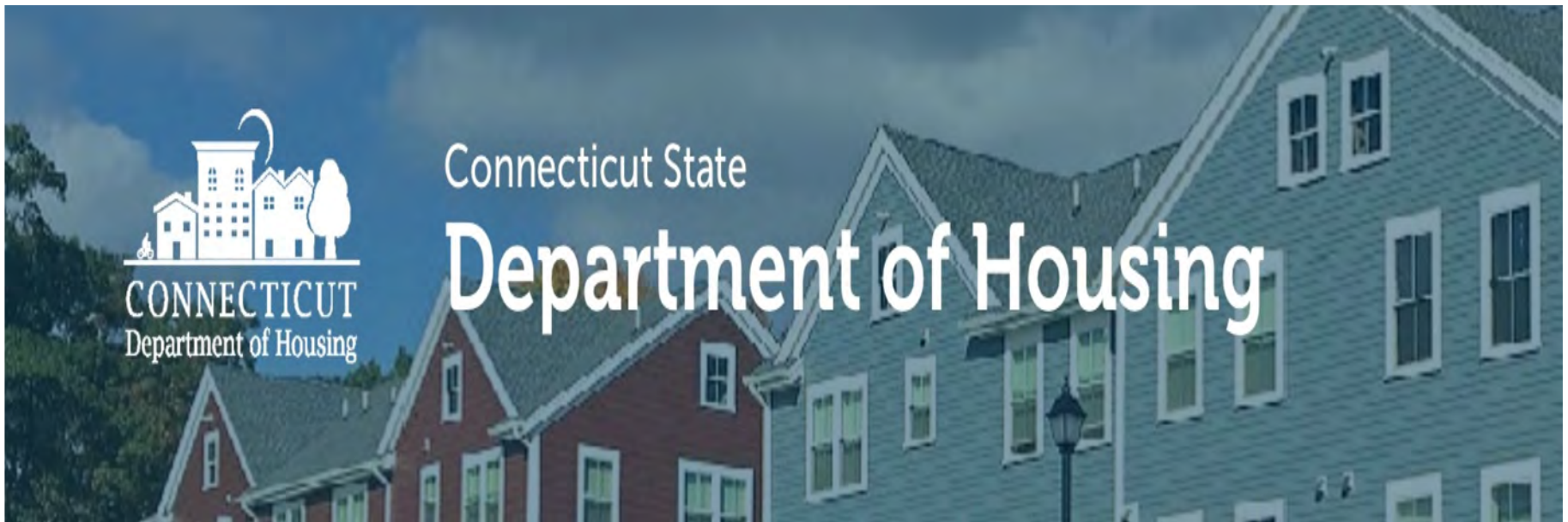
If tenant receives eviction papers, immediately apply for free legal assistance by calling **Statewide Legal Services**

1-800-453-3320 (Monday – Friday, 9 am to 12 pm & 1 to 2 pm)

For more legal information, visit -- [www.CTLawHelp.org](http://www.CTLawHelp.org)

# Department of Housing Updates

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# DMHAS Updates

# DSS Updates

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# DSS Updates on Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kristin Dowty

Social Services Program Administration  
Manager

[Kristin.Dowty@ct.gov](mailto:Kristin.Dowty@ct.gov)



# Public Health Emergency Extended

- Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Department of Health and Human Services has allowed states to maintain the enrollment of most individuals who were enrolled in HUSKY Health (Medicaid/CHIP) as of March 18, 2020, or after, for the duration of the PHE.
- Effective October 23, 2020, HHS extended the PHE for up to an additional 90 days (through late January 2021).

# PHE Extended

- Exceptions to the HUSKY Health extension through the PHE period include:
  - Voluntary disenrollment
  - Relocation outside of Connecticut
  - Ineligible immigration status
  - Aging out of HUSKY B
  - Death of an individual

# Federally authorized disaster-related enrollment flexibilities:

- **Extending renewals and delaying Certain Changes-DSS** will not take action on cases on certain changes that would result in a change to a lesser level of eligibility or termination; e.g., a change in family income.
- Allowing more time for individuals to send verification documents across all programs
- For HUSKY A, B and D, which normally have a 90-day, post-enrollment, the reasonable opportunity period to send in verification documents was extended.

# Enrollment flexibilities Continued:

- For HUSKY A, B and D, we have adopted a broader reasonable compatibility standard to evaluate income. **The income compatibility threshold had been 10% and now is 20%.** This will allow more individuals to enroll or auto-renew without needing to submit verifications.
- *IMPORTANT - If individuals are asked to renew or submit documents, please follow-up as soon as reasonably possible regardless of the PHE extension. This will allow DSS to consider eligibility for 12 months rather than just the PHE extension period. If the individual fails to establish ongoing eligibility, enrollment will continue during the PHE.*
- **Covering testing and treatment for COVID-19, without co-pays, in Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program/HUSKY Health**

# HUSKY Health Waiver Flexibilities

The Department submitted a Section 1135 public health emergency waiver request to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and has been approved for the following:

- **Increasing access-to-care flexibilities** by giving DSS the authority to waive various prior authorizations and serve HUSKY Health members in alternate settings such as a shelter or vehicle.
- **Removing barriers for providers** by allowing deferred provider enrollment revalidations and creating flexibility to enroll new providers.
- **Streamlining administrative processes** via the modifications of various processes around fair hearings.

# NEW! COVID-19 Testing Coverage

- The Department of Social Services implemented an optional Medicaid coverage group, “COVID-19 Testing Group” for uninsured Connecticut residents effective March 18, 2020.
- This optional eligibility group, a HUSKY Limited Benefit group, only provides coverage for the testing for COVID-19 and the office visit related to testing for COVID-19.
- To qualify, individuals must have no other health insurance and must be a resident of CT, a U.S. citizen, or a non-citizen with a qualifying immigration status. Non-citizens with qualifying immigration statuses include, but are not limited to: legal permanent residents (“green card holders”) who have been in the US for at least 5 years, refugees, and asylees; or
- Be a resident of CT, **without** a qualifying immigration status and meet Medicaid income requirements for your household size

# HUSKY LB COVID-19 Testing Coverage

- To apply for HUSKY Limited Benefit COVID-19 Testing Coverage, individuals must complete a HUSKY Health application. Please go to: [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com) or call 1-855-805-4325
- If denied HUSKY Health, all applicants will be considered for HUSKY Limited Benefit COVID-19 Testing coverage separately. Applicants will receive a separate notification of eligibility. Individuals who qualify will receive the following ID card:



SAMPLE A SAMPLE  
123456789

*No cost share*

COVID-19 TESTING

***HUSKY***

**LB**



# HUSKY Health – How to apply

➤ For HUSKY A, B and D:

- *On-line at [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com)*
- *Phone Access Health CT at 1-855-805-4325*
- *Mail application form 'AH3,' available upon request*

➤ For HUSKY C or other DSS Programs:

- [www.connect.ct.gov](http://www.connect.ct.gov)
- *Mail application form 'W-1E' (<https://ct.gov/dss>)*

➤ In-person – Limited services available (slide 13).

# SNAP Updates

- 6-month extensions for those cases not previously extended whose recertifications were due Nov/Dec. Waiving the PRF requirement for Nov/Dec cases.
- Waiving the required interview for most SNAP applications and recertifications including postponing applications for Expedited cases.
- We will continue issuing SNAP emergency allotments for as long as allowed. These are for households not receiving the maximum benefit. We have done this monthly since April and will be doing it again in November.

# DSS Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

## HUSKY Health

[www.ct.gov/husky/covidinfoformembers](http://www.ct.gov/husky/covidinfoformembers)

[www.ct.gov/husky/covidinfoforproviders](http://www.ct.gov/husky/covidinfoforproviders)

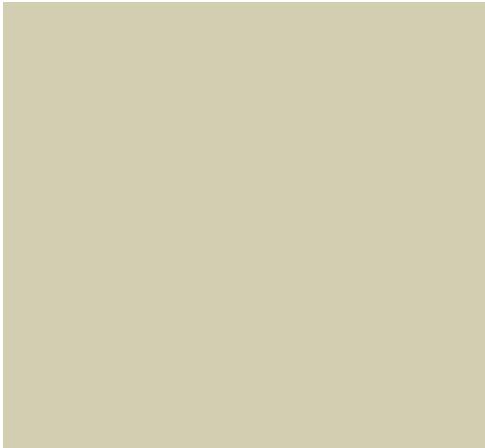
# DSS Office Hours

**\*\*All 12 DSS Field Offices are now open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** for pick-up and drop-off of applications/forms; filling out applications/forms on-site; general information; questions & answers; and picking up of EBT cards & income verifications. For your convenience, secure drop-boxes are located outside each Field Office. Locations at [www.ct.gov/dss/fieldoffices](http://www.ct.gov/dss/fieldoffices).

**\*\*Field Offices and our telephone Benefits Center are closed on Wednesdays** to allow us time to process the paperwork you submitted to us. On Wednesdays, customers can check document status and get benefit information by calling our Client Information Line at 1-855-6-CONNECT. You can apply for benefits, obtain DSS forms and view information about your DSS benefits at [www.connect.ct.gov](http://www.connect.ct.gov)

**\*\*Due to pandemic safety guidelines**, in-person assistance such as interviewing and eligibility determination are not currently available at Field Offices. All visitors must wear masks and observe safe social distancing.

**\*\*24/7 access:** Customers can access benefit and application information, at [www.connect.ct.gov](http://www.connect.ct.gov) and [www.ct.gov/dss/apply](http://www.ct.gov/dss/apply); or 1-855-6-CONNECT. Information and updates about child support are available at [www.ct.gov/dss/childsupport](http://www.ct.gov/dss/childsupport). Please also visit [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus) for latest State of Connecticut updates; and [www.ct.gov/dss/covid](http://www.ct.gov/dss/covid) for DSS-specific updates.



# HUD Updates

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# CCEH Updates

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# Questions

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# CT BOS Updates

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# NEW: Additional HUD Waivers & Extensions

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- [9/30/20 new HUD memo](#) authorizing additional waivers and extending existing Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program waivers.
- [10/7/20 CT BOS Memo on CoC & ESG Waivers](#) provides summary and instructions



# New – Participant self-certification of Income (CoC)

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- May rely on participant self-certification of income when calculating rent.
- Documentation that third-party verification was unobtainable is not required.
- Continue to obtain third-party documentation of income when possible.
- Effective through 12/31/20.



# New- Owner certification in lieu of initial HQS inspection (COC and DOH ESG)

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- Requirement to inspect for Housing Quality Standards (HQS) before any assistance is provided is waived.
- Owner certifies no life-threatening conditions exist in the unit.
- Recipient or subrecipient has written policies to physically inspect the unit within 3 months after health officials determine special measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are no longer necessary. [Updated Sample Emergency Policy](#).
- When feasible, conduct an initial remote HQS inspection.
- Effective through 12/31/20.



# New – Suitable dwelling size requirements waived (CoC RRH)

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- Requirement to have at least one bedroom or living/sleeping room for each two persons is waived for CoC RRH leases executed between 9/30/20 and 12/31/20.
- Required to follow any State and local occupancy requirements.
- Balance risks and use precautions (e.g., only units that will house one family household, portioning units for privacy and distancing).
- Extends until the later of 1) the end of the initial term of the lease; or 2) 12/31/20.



## New – Literal Homelessness Retained for up to 120 Days for People Exiting Institutions (CoC & ESG)

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- Retain literal homelessness status if:
  - Exiting an institution where resided for 120 days or less; &
  - Resided in an emergency shelter or unsheltered immediately before entering that institution.
- Effective until 3/31/21.
- Only applies to HUD Homeless Category 1 (i.e., literal homelessness) - no waiver to extend beyond 90 days the period during which chronic or DedicatedPLUS homelessness is retained.



# Waiver Extensions

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- Apply in the next CoC Competition based on the Budget Line Items before any **amendment** - Applies to amendments executed between 3/31/20 and **12/31/20**
- Requirement that CoC Leasing project and ESG RRH project units must rent at or below **FMR** is waived until **12/31/20**.
- **Disability Documentation for PSH** - A written certification by the client is acceptable to initiate assistance - Effective **until public health officials determine no additional special measures are necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19**



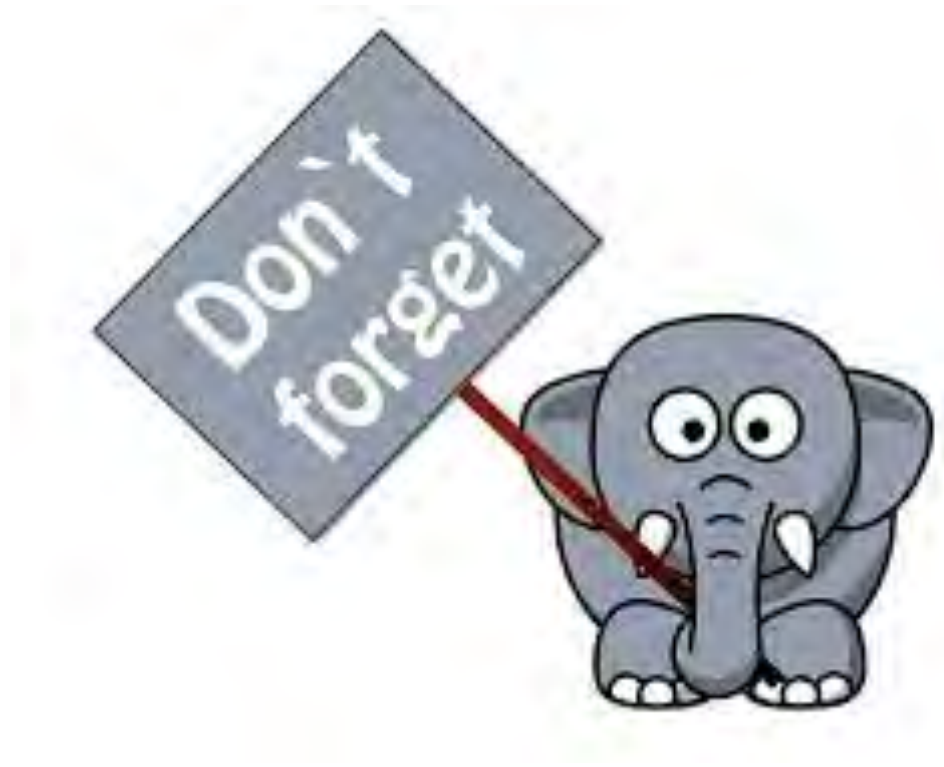
## Waiver Extensions & Clarifications

- Requirement that RRH projects provide **case management at least monthly** is waived until **12/31/20**.
- CoC & ESG RRH & PSH project units may have an initial **lease term** of any period that is at **least one month** until **12/31/20**.
- **MUST NOTIFY HUD AGAIN TO USE AN EXTENSION.**

Other  
waivers  
still  
apply...

For a complete list of  
waivers and  
expiration dates see:

[10/7/20 CT BOS  
Memo on CoC & ESG  
Waivers](#)





# Notify HUD & CT BOS of Intent to Use Waivers

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- Grantees must notify HUD & CT BOS of intent to use new waivers and extensions.
- Notify Hartford Field Office in writing no less than two days before using the waiver flexibility



## **SUBMIT TO HUD:**

[CPD\\_COVID-19WaiverHAT@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19WaiverHAT@hud.gov)

## **Submit Copy to CT BOS:**

via Zengine -instructions for [Creating an Account](#) and [Submitting Documents](#)



- [Updated CoC, ESG, Waiver Notification Template](#)

# Recipient vs. Subrecipient Notification Obligations

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- DMHAS & DOH notified HUD of intent to use all available waivers/extensions:
  - **Subrecipients of DOH/DMHAS should not submit waiver notification.**
- Agencies receiving CoC funds directly from HUD need to submit their own notification.
- Agencies receiving ESG or CoC funds from a recipient other than DOH/DMHAS should coordinate with that recipient.



# Record Keeping & Policy Requirements

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- Updated Emergency Policy required by HUD to **enable use of new COVID-19 waivers/extensions**.
- Waiver use requires record keeping in participant files (details included in sample policies linked above).



## CoC Grant Recipient & Subrecipient Waiver/Hazard Pay Obligations

	<b>Waiver Notification Submitted to HUD</b>	<b>Policy Authorizing Waiver Use</b>	<b>Documentation in Participant Files</b>	<b>Policy Authorizing Hazard Pay</b>
<b>Recipient</b>	Y	Y	Y (if maintain files)	Y
<b>Subrecipient</b>	N	N	Y	Y

Recipient: Signs grant agreement with HUD

Subrecipient: Has a contract with recipient (usually DMHAS or DOH) not directly with HUD

# Next Steps & Resources



# CT BOS Meeting Schedule Steering Committee & COVID-19 Office Hours



## SC Meeting Schedule for 2020

(generally 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month)

- November 20, 2020; 11-12
- December 18, 2020; 11-12
- January 15, 2021; 11-12;
  - Semi-annual meeting
- February 19, 2021; 11-12
- March 19, 2021; 11-12

## Zoom Info for all SC mtgs

[Meeting link](#)

Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479

Password: 414595

Call-in number: 646-876-9923

## BOS COVID Office Hours

November 5, 2020 9:30-10:30

Community Health Center Inc:  
Vaccine Hesitancy &  
CCEH: CT COVID-19 Testing Data

[Meeting link](#)

Meeting ID: 835 9800 9733

Passcode: 528689

646-876-9923

# Questions?





# Reminders

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Let us know what you need, how we can help & questions you have – submit to:  
[ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)



# COVID-19 Webinars

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[CCEH COVID-19 Webinars](#)

CSH: The Supportive Housing [Field Responds to COVID-19](#)

NAEH COVID—19 [Online Learning Series](#)

[USICH COVID-19 Webinars](#)



# COVID-19 Resources

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**CT BOS** - <http://www.ctbos.org/covid-19-resources/>

**State of CT** - [www.ct.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ct.gov/coronavirus)

**CCEH/DOH** - <https://cceh.org/2020/03/13/11330/>

**DMHAS** - <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Newsworthy/News-Items/DMHAS-Response-to-COVID-19>

**HUD** - <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-community-planning-and-preparedness>

**CDC** – [homelessness landing page](#)

**National Healthcare for the Homeless** – <https://nhhc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/>

**USICH** - <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources>

**CSH COVID-19 Supportive Housing Community Platform** - <https://csh.csod.com/>

# CoC Support - Contact Info

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CT BOS CoC

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