

## **BMC Housing Committee Notes – COVID-19 Info Sharing**

April 2, 2020

People attending via GoToMeeting: Erin Karpewicz (ACDS), Amy Wilkinson, Angela Cameron, & Jan Goslee (HABC), Marsha Parham-Green & David Skinner (Baltimore County), Lanita Hillen (HCAAC), Peter Engel (HCHC), Barbara Richardson (Harford County), Steve Janes (Baltimore City), Adria Crutchfield & Pete Cimboric (BRHP), Chelsea Hayman (MDOD), Tiwanda Moore (Md. DHCD), Jessie Keller (MMHA), Greg Countess & Gabriel Garcia (Legal Aid), Miranda Darden-Willems (MAHC), Barbara Samuels (ACLU), Kathy Ebner (Homes for America), Carolyn Johnson (HPRP), Lisa Cooper (JHU), David Prater & Randi Ames (Disability Rights Md.), Chuck Martin (M&T Bank), Dan Pontious, Mike Kelly, & Blake Fisher (BMC).

### Info Sharing re: Property Management Policies/Practices

- Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC)
  - COVID-19 page, including Property Management Committee notes at: <https://www.mdahc.org/COVID-19>
  - Property Management Committee meeting weekly
  - Urging visitors to sign in
  - Urging residents to only have essential visitors, but not restricting access.
  - Extra cleaning
  - Limited manager time in office/on site; rotating on-site staff.
  - Referring seniors to phone numbers (e.g. Maryland Access Point) for assistance.
  - Have generally been informing local health departments when they hear of positive tests, rather than being notified by local health departments.
  - Also notifying other residents of a positive test without identifying person.
  - Generally keeping laundry facilities open, but with additional cleaning and posts advocating social distancing.
  - Some managers using blue painter's tape around offices and outdoor smoking areas (marking out six-foot squares) to encourage social distancing.
  - Some managers posting notices urging solo use of elevators.
- Baltimore County Health & Human Services has a hotline and is doing verbal screening of visitors.
- Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) does have 24/7 security, even if managers are not on-site, who can manage access.

### COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Package (CARES Act)

- 15% public service cap on CDBG funds lifted for CARES Act
- Hopefully local governments can use in current Program Year (ending June 30) – will have to amend current Annual Plan.

- New Annual Plans (for fiscal year starting July 1) have an extension; now need to be submitted by August 16.
- Md. Multi-Housing Association (MMHA) is interested in discussing ideas for how Maryland can best deploy funding; has suggested it be administered with less red tape & verification than usual.
- MAHC advocating that Md. DHCD deploy a rental assistance program:
  - Easy/little paperwork
  - Allow landlords to apply on behalf of tenants.
- Discussions have begun about this at DHCD (Carol Gilbert).
- ACDS will manage part of the relief funding in-house, sub the rest to partners.
- Harford will likely work mostly through nonprofit partners; PPE for health workers and temporary hospital have been some suggested uses.
- Baltimore City will likely use for tenant assistance.
- **Emergency State rental assistance:** We discussed a potential request of Secretary Holt – potentially jurisdictions and private stakeholders – requesting an ambitious temporary rental assistance program so tenants can stay current on rent and owners can keep paying their mortgage obligations. Dan will coordinate.
- Nonprofits:
  - Qualify for small business loans to be forgiven if workforce maintained.
  - Reimbursement to be done through a Grants.gov-like portal.
- [FEMA will be funding non-congregate shelter requests](#) from local and state public health officials. Should locals make a request that the State act on this?
- CARES Act [\\$150 billion relief fund](#)
  - Aid to states and local governments with populations over 500,000 for COVID-19-related expenses in calendar year 2020.
  - [Maryland likely to receive \\$2.3 billion](#), with potentially \$1 billion of that going to five largest local governments.
- PHA waiver requests to HUD re: voucher program: Adria Crutchfield and Peter Engel have been discussing – how to operate voucher program & continue to issue vouchers under these restrictions?
- Cooperative purchasing of PPE for PHA housing inspectors? Dan will check at BMC.

#### Next Housing Committee Meeting

- Thursday, April 16, 1:00 pm at <https://www.gotomeet.me/DanPontious>