

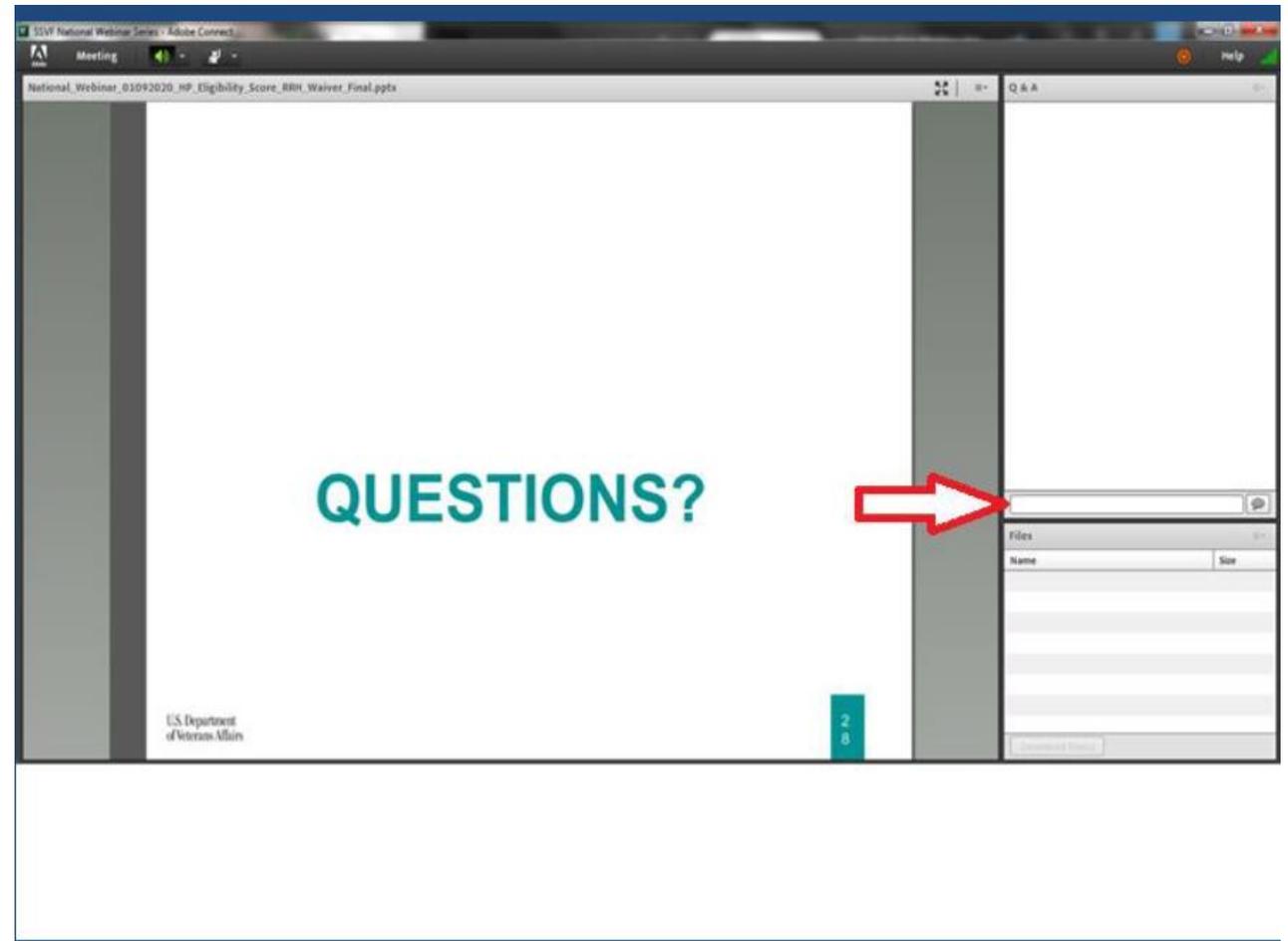
COVID-19 Planning for VA Homeless Providers

Wednesday, March 25, 2020
1pm Eastern/11am Pacific

Adobe Connect

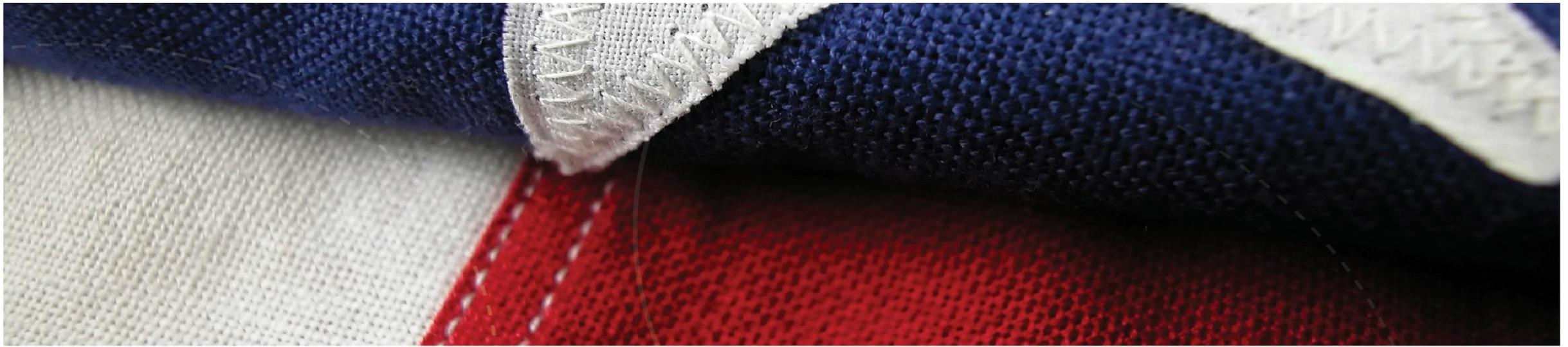
Call Logistics

- Webinar will last approximately 90 minutes.
- Participants are muted due to the high number of callers.
- Questions can be submitted through the “Q&A” feature.
- Call is being recorded, and information will be sent after the call.



Agenda

1. Welcome and Logistics
2. National Update from CDC
3. VA Acknowledgement of Pandemic Experiences
4. National Updates
 - HUD
 - USICH
5. Overview on Guidance of COVID-19 for VA Grantees Providing Homeless Services
6. Practical Applications, Community Perspective, and Discussion
7. Question and Answer
8. Next Steps



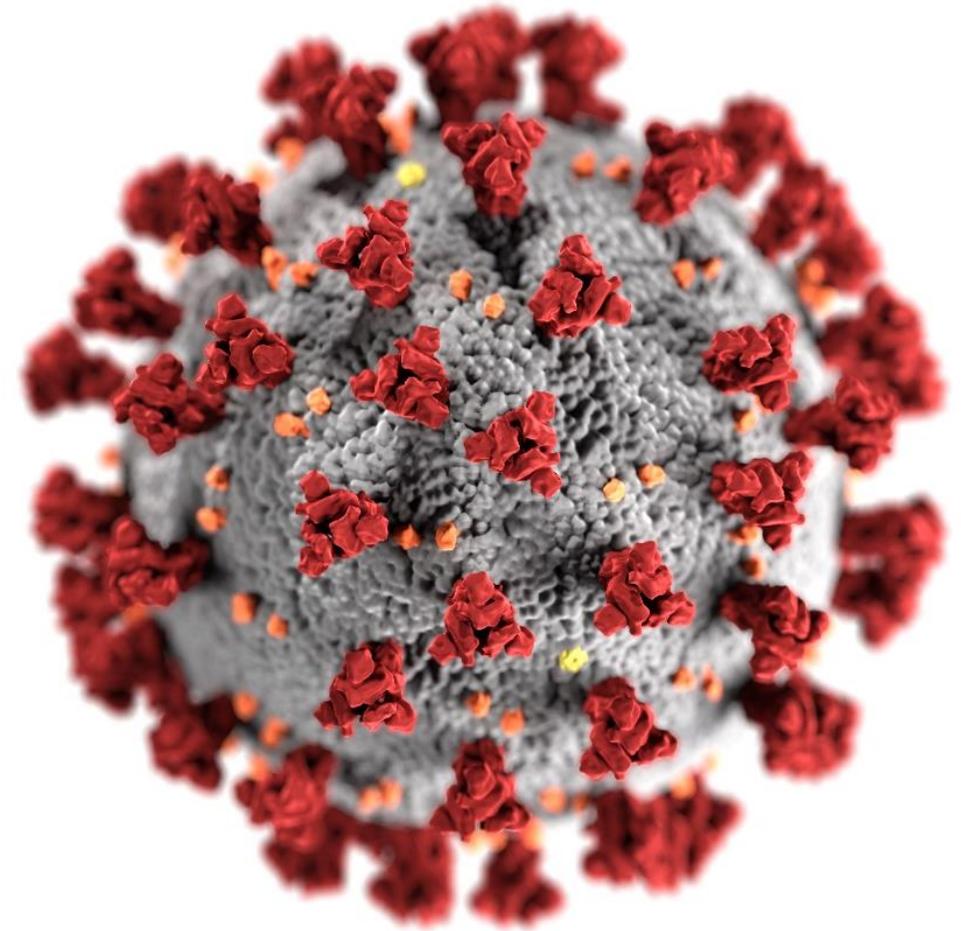
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Emily Mosites, PhD, MPH, Epidemiologist and Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Sapna Bamrah Morris MD, MBA, Co-Lead Public Health and Homelessness Workgroup; Lead, Medical Officer Team; Division of Tuberculosis Elimination; CDC

Emily Mosites, PhD MPH
At Risk Population Task Force
COVID-19 Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

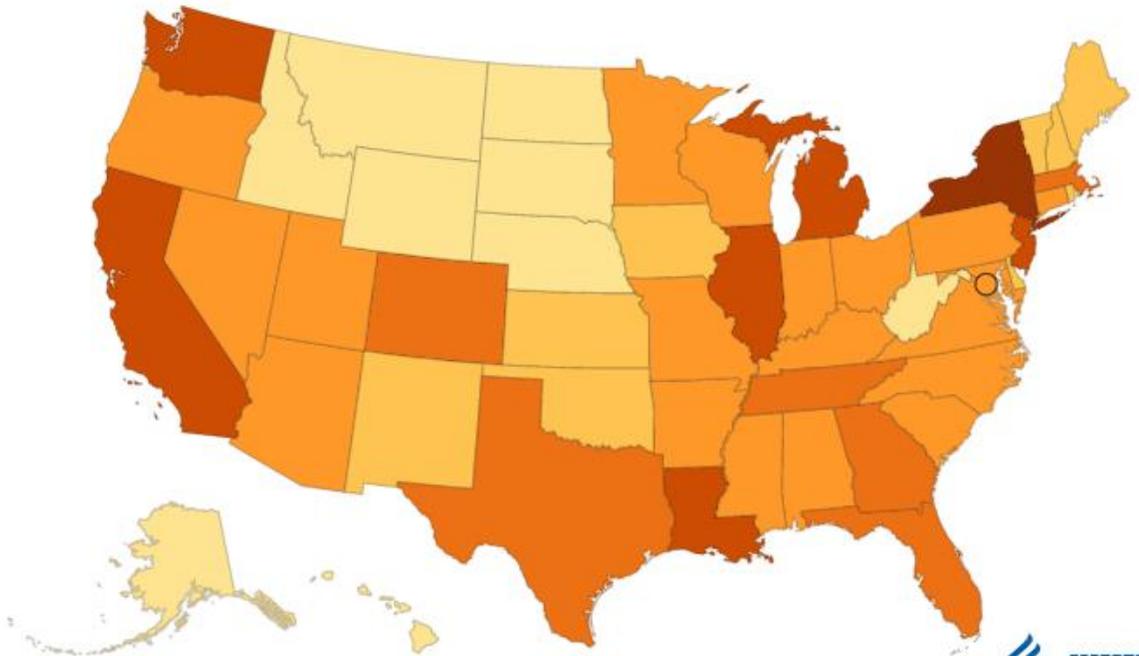
March 25, 2020



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Over 44,000 cases reported to CDC as of 3/24/20

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC*



Reported Cases

(last updated March 23, 2020)

- None
- 6 to 50
- 51 to 100
- 101 to 500
- 501 to 1000
- 1001 to 5000
- 5001 or more

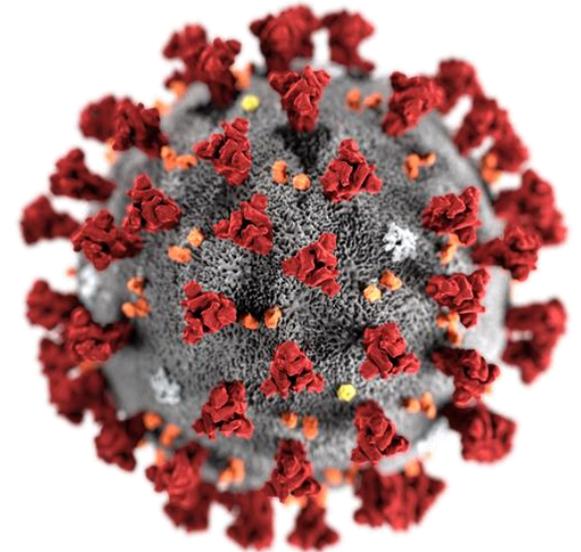
Territories

- AS
- GU
- MH
- FM
- MP
- PW
- PR
- VI



How it spreads

- Close contact between people
 - Respiratory droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Possibly by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes



COVID-19 and homelessness

People experiencing homelessness might be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19

- Congregate shelters, food services, and other service facilities

People experiencing homelessness might be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19

- Older adults
- High prevalence of underlying medical conditions



CDC guidance related to homelessness

Under “Schools, workplaces, and community locations”

Guidance for shelters and other service providers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>

Guidance for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>



Shelter and service provider guidance key points

- Community-based coalition for comprehensive plan
- Screen incoming guests for respiratory symptoms
- Increase space between beds; head-to-toe sleeping
 - At least 3 feet in space where people don't have symptoms
 - At least 6 feet in space where people do have symptoms
- Identify where people who test positive or are awaiting test results can stay
- Cleaning and disinfection recommendations



Spaces needed

Separate/isolate
people from
each other

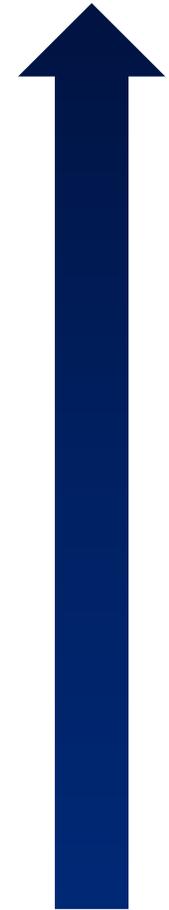
Isolation: for people who are confirmed to be positive who do not need to be hospitalized*

Consider: areas for people who are pending testing or are close contacts of confirmed cases

Symptomatic Area: for people with symptoms (after screening at shelters is implemented)

Consider: locations for people with no symptoms who are at highest risk

Overflow: for people without symptoms (because of bed spacing)



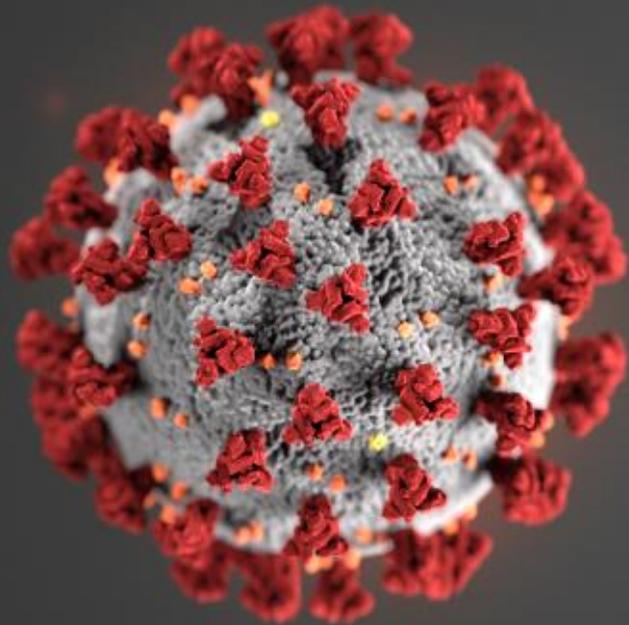
Separate/isolate from
general population



Unsheltered homelessness guidance key points

- Continue housing linkages
- Communicate clearly with people sleeping outside
- Avoid clearing encampments
 - Encourage people to increase space- 12ft x 12ft per individual
 - Ensure access to hygiene facilities

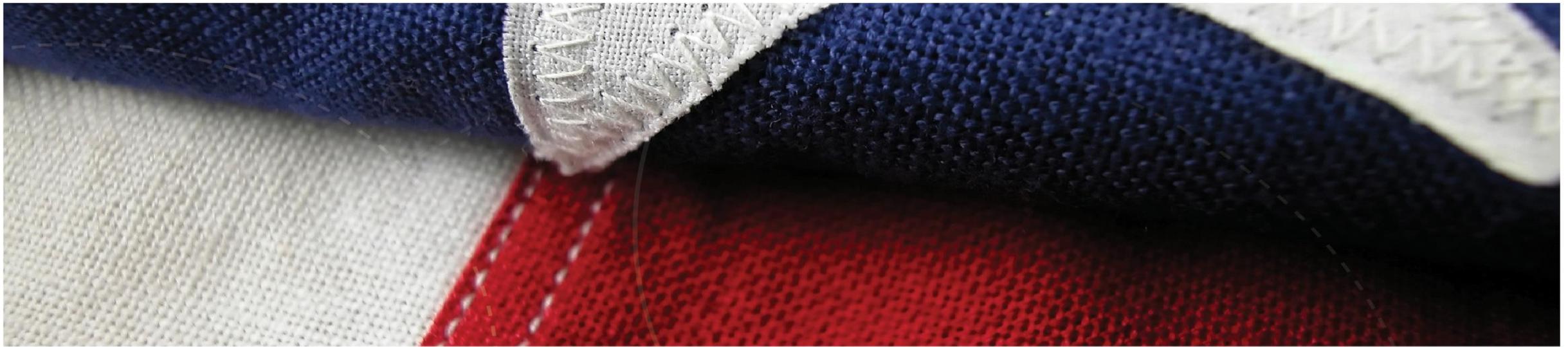




For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

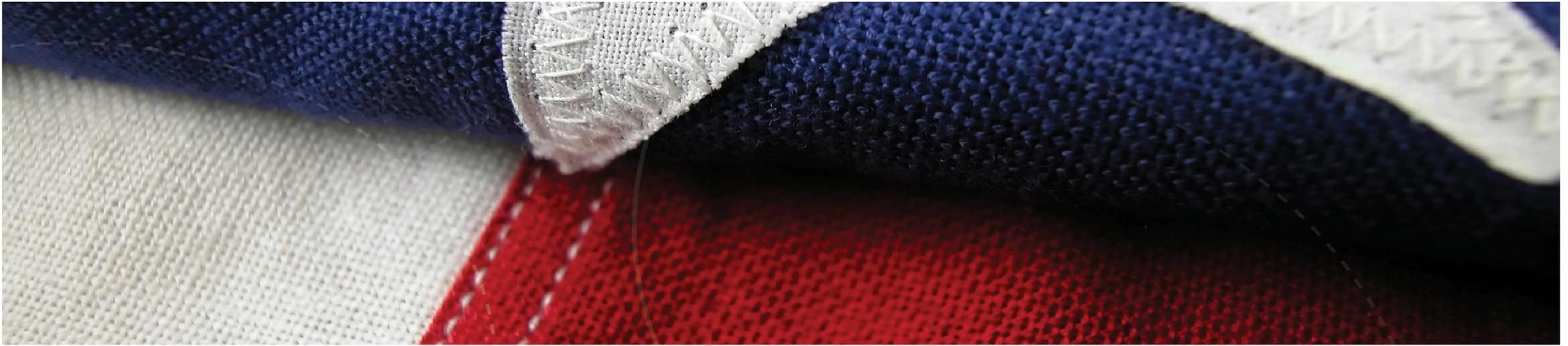
The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





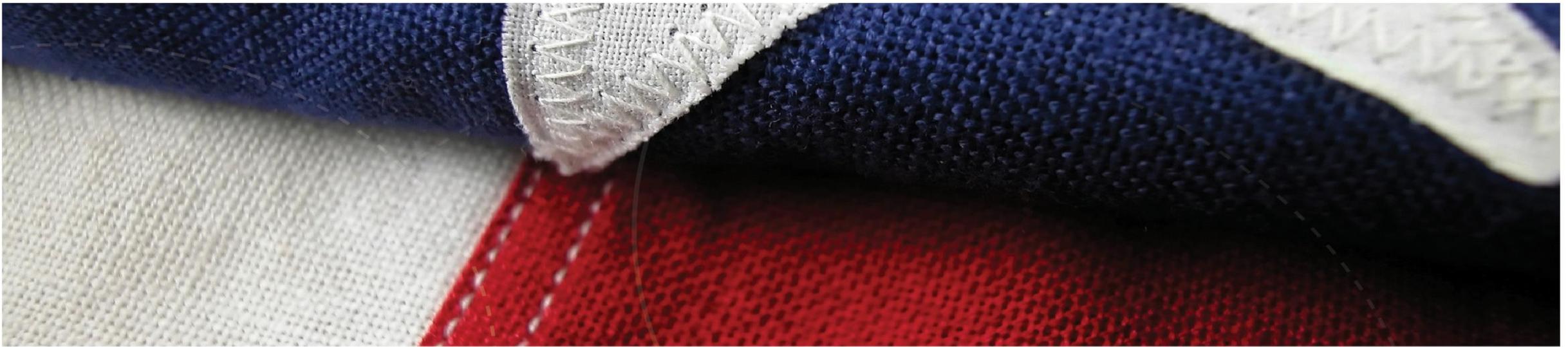
Grant and Per Diem (GPD) National Program Office

Jeff Quarles, National Director, MRC, LICDC
Chelsea Watson, Deputy Director, MSPH



Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) National Program Office

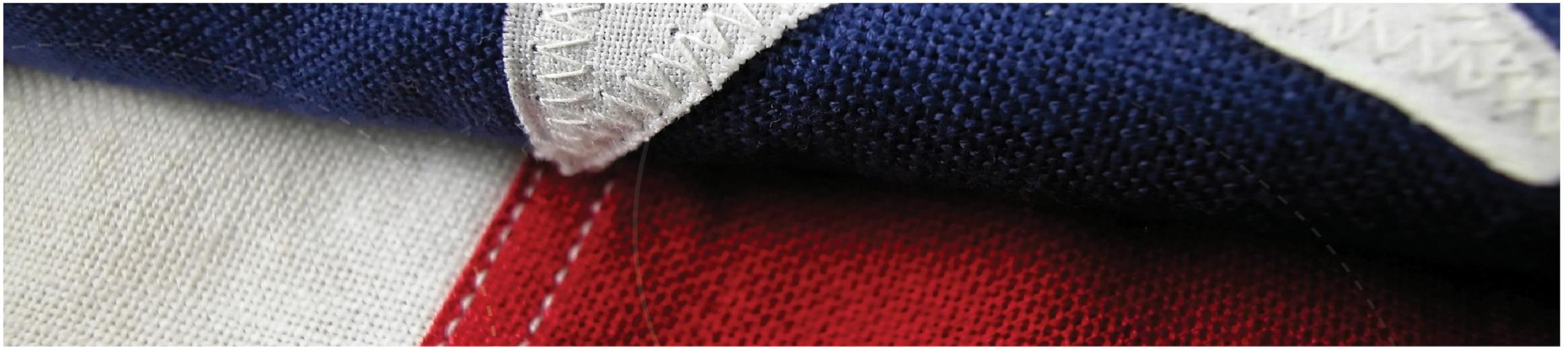
Eileen Devine, National Director, LCSW



VA Homeless Program Office: COVID-19 Leads

Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center), VHA Homeless Program Office

Jillian Weber PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Program Office



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)

Marlisa Grogan, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS, HUD

Resources for CoCs and Homeless Assistance Providers on the HUD Exchange

Home > Homelessness Assistance Programs > Disease Risks and Homelessness

Disease Risks and Homelessness

People experiencing homelessness often have a higher risk for exposure to communicable diseases and have little access to health care systems and treatment in their communities. Common communicable diseases that often affect homeless populations more severely than other populations include influenza, strep throat, gastroenteritis, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. This page provides research, tools, and guidance for homeless service providers looking to prevent and treat communicable diseases, as well as resources for people experiencing homelessness to access local health care centers.

COVID-19 Infectious Disease Prevention & Response

The recent emergence of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) calls for enhanced cooperation between public health authorities, homeless service systems, and other partners at the local level. To support these partnerships and the vulnerable households served, relevant federal agencies are issuing guidance from subject matter experts on lessons learned from previous response efforts to infectious diseases. HUD strongly encourages CoCs to contact their local public health departments, Healthcare for the Homeless agencies, and other local health partners to ensure the unique needs and opportunities related to the homeless service system are incorporated in plans to prevent and respond to infectious diseases like COVID-19. CoCs can take steps now to develop preparedness and response plans to protect against infection.

Check back frequently to access the latest posts.

The contents of these documents, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. These documents are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Key Resources

- ▶ [CDC: Interim Guidance for Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness](#)
March 22, 2020
 - ▶ [CDC: Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
March 22, 2020
 - ▶ [Infectious Disease Preparedness for Homeless Assistance Providers and Their Partners](#)
March 10, 2020
- Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs:**
March 2, 2020
- ▶ [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease for People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
 - ▶ [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Shelters](#)
 - ▶ [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments](#)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/infectious-disease-preparedness-for-homeless-assistance-providers-and-their-partners/>

COVID-19 Community Planning and Preparedness

[COVID-19 Site-Specific Emergency Operations](#)

[COVID-19 Client Support and Care](#)

[COVID-19 Webinars and Office Hours](#)

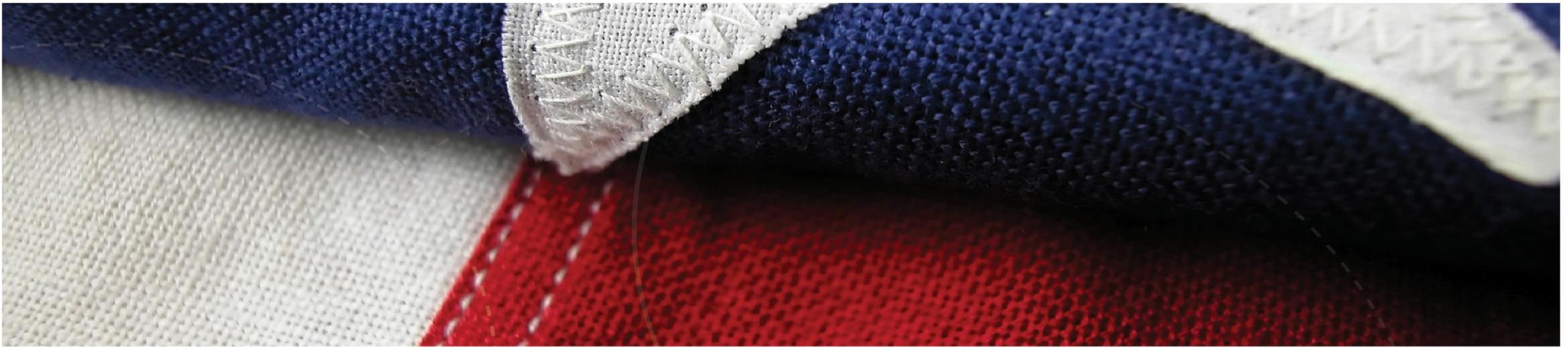
[COVID-19 News Announcements](#)

[Other Disease Risks Resources](#)

COVID-19 Community Planning and Preparedness

- ▶ [COVID-19 HMIS Setup and Data Sharing Practices](#) (HUD - March 21, 2020)
- ▶ [COVID-19 & the HCH Community: Needed Policy Responses for a High-Risk Groups](#) (National Health Care for the Homeless Council - March 17, 2020)
- ▶ [Seattle & King County Interim Guidance - COVID-19 Homeless Service Providers](#) (Seattle & King County - March 16, 2020)
- ▶ [Questions to Assist CoCs and Public Health Authorities to Limit the Spread of Infectious Disease in Homeless Programs](#) (HUD - March 9, 2020)
- ▶ **Grant Funds and Eligible Costs:**
 - [Using a Disaster Policy to Fund Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response with ESG](#) (HUD - March 18, 2020)
 - [Using CoC Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response](#) (HUD - March 13, 2020)

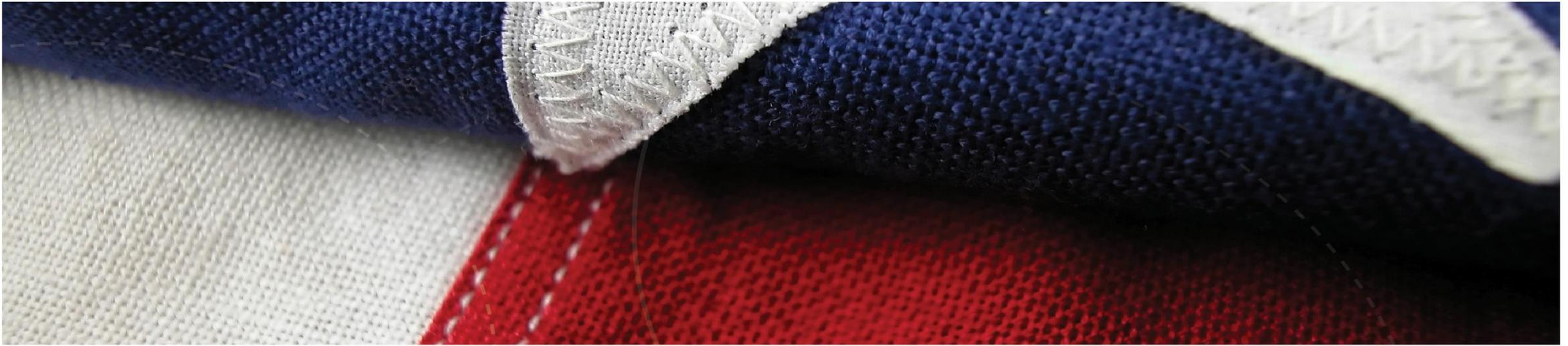




U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

Bev Ebersold, Director of National Initiatives

Katie Jennings, Policy and Program Analyst



Overview of Guidance on COVID-19 for VA Grantees Providing Homeless Services

Adrienne Nash Meléndez, Program Specialist, Grant and Per Diem Program Office

Janine Griggs, Clinical Program Specialist, Grant and Per Diem Program Office

Developing an Agency and Programmatic Response Plan

- **Step 1: Understand current community planning, mitigation, and response efforts**
- **Step 2: Identify your agency's internal plan and program plan**
- **Step 3: Review your plan**
- **Step 4: Implement plan**
- **Step 5: Tweak plan as needed and as information evolves**
- **Step 6: Reflect on the plan and debrief for future public health emergencies/disaster response**

Planning Considerations

- **Overall Goals**
 - Goals and priorities
- **Lay of the Land**
 - What do we know
- **Coordination**
 - Who do we need to coordinate with
- **Staffing Plans**
 - Coverage and Continuity of Care
 - Prevention
 - Communication
 - Safety
- **Education**
 - What information is available and how will we share it and with whom
- **Adapting Standard Operating Procedures**
 - Sustaining core operations



Specific Planning Considerations by Grant Type

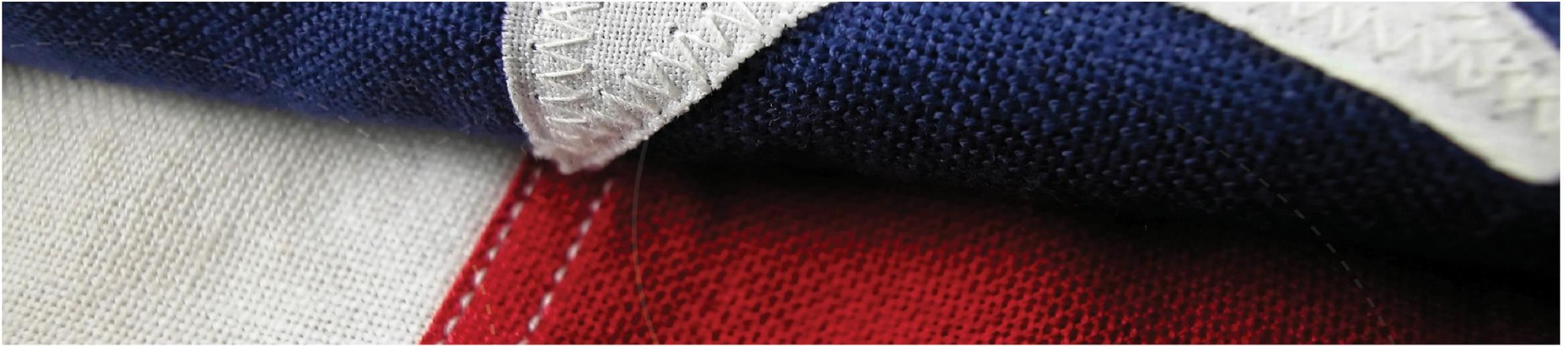
(Not all-inclusive)

Scenario 1: Contract Bed or Transitional Housing is Provided in a Congregate Setting

- Communication & Emergency Contacts
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Staffing
- Services
- Food
- Supplies

Scenario 2: Contract Bed, Transitional Housing, or Permanent Housing in an Apartment-Style Setting

- Communication & Emergency Contacts
- Hygiene and Sanitation
- Staffing
- Services
 - Wellness Checks
 - Household Emergency Preparedness Plan
 - Family Dynamics/Stress/Trauma
 - Services in a Virtual Setting
- Food
- Supplies



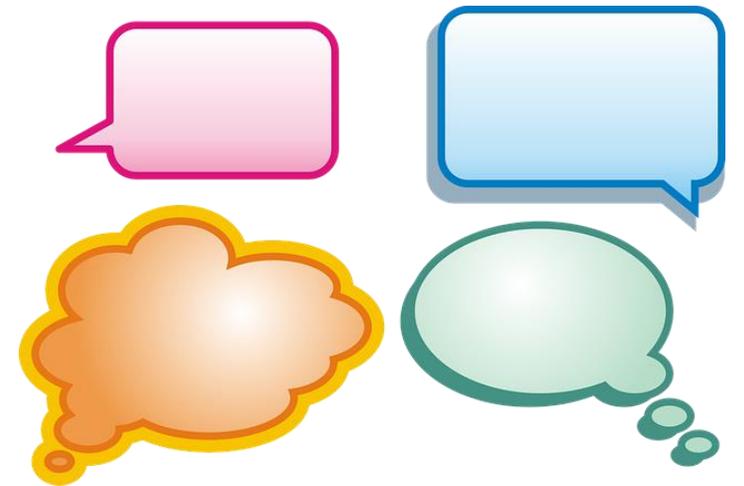
Grantee Experience

Kelly O'Sullivan, Jericho Project, Managing Program Director, LCSW, MBA (NYC)

**Steve Culbertson, Swords to Plowshares, Associate Director for Programs and Operations, MCP
(San Francisco & Alameda County)**

Conversation on Key Topics: Practical Applications

- Education
- Screening
- Isolation
- Staffing and Supplies
- Supportive Services
- Coordination and Planning Support





Resources

- https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
- <https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/>
- [CDC and Guidance for Homeless Shelters](#)
- [HUD Exchange](#)
- [USICH: COVID-19 resources](#)
- Contact your USICH Regional Coordinator using our [State Data and Contacts Map](#)
(click on your state to find your RC)