

## Updates and Discussions

### Renter Protection Measures

- Texas Supreme Court and Bexar County have suspended eviction hearings until April 30; however, landlords may proceed with filing
- CARES Act prohibits federally insured or funded properties from filing evictions and once lifted requires 30 day pre-eviction notices.
- Texas Realtors Association released guidance to landlords on working with tenants on accommodations.
- Austin & Dallas passed 60 pre-eviction notice requirements. Does not wave obligations or stop eviction proceedings.
- COSA considering a similar order. Local orders expire April 30.

### Working Group Public Engagement

- Coordinating uniform process with other working groups.

### Shelter

#### Property Tax Updates

- Bexar Appraisal District (BAD) has not adopted special provisions for property tax payments. Stopped eviction/foreclosure for delinquent taxes through May and likely to extend through June.
- Payment plans are available.
- Important for business and residential property owners to know that BAD will work with them on payment.

#### COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance

- City Council approved \$25 million assistance package to include rental, utility (including internet), and cash assistance for groceries, gas, and prescriptions.
- Bexar County will begin taking applications for emergency rental assistance May 1, 10:00 a.m. Housing Assistance Fund is currently \$4 million and the County is working to identify additional funding and ways to help residents in unincorporated areas and suburban cities.
- Bexar County anticipates receiving additional CARES Act Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funding to provide emergency utility assistance to Bexar County ratepayers.

#### Homeless Shelter

- Haven for Hope moved over 300 high-risk homeless to City contracted hotel. Housing team placed 2 individuals in permanent housing.
- City placing high-risk individuals who are unsheltered and newly homeless in City's isolation hotel – accepting referrals or direct requests through Homeless Hotline.
- There has not been a COVID-19 positive case reported at Haven for Hope or any other homeless shelter in the community.
- Reports of increased youth homelessness. City and County staff indicated minors must be reported to CPS who is charged with care/shelter. County will coordinate with Child Welfare Board.

#### Student Housing

- College students told to return home or unable to work experiencing problems paying rent.
- Councilmembers Andrews-Sullivan and Trevino sent letter to Governor's office requesting the State waive all leases for college students.
- City considering PSA to small private landlords not members of apartment association.

**COVID-19 Community Action Working Group**  
**Food Security & Shetler – April 25, 2020**

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**Food Security**

**Food Bank**

- Households requesting food has doubled to 120,000 since March 16.
- Anticipates receiving \$1.8 of \$24 million in State funding to Texas food banks.
- STAR application, \$9.6 million, still pending – would provide 4 weeks of food.
- Currently not enough of the right variety/mix of food to distribute.
- Initiated an aggressive campaign to encourage SNAP enrollment.
- Pushing State to create Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (PEBT) to add the value of school meals to families’ SNAP benefits.
- Continuing to stock community food pantries.
- Healthy Food Box Initiative with Big State Produce to increase produce distribution. Reservations online or by phone with pick up at certain retail locations. Could be operational within a week.
- Homeless Hubs providing meals to homeless from 4 locations including a new site on the South Side at Walmart on Goliad and Haven for Hope delivering 450 meals daily to homeless in encampments across the community.

**Action Items**

Item	Status	Lead
STAR Disaster Request	\$9.6 M request is still pending	Eric Cooper/Com. Rodriguez
Identify youth shelter options	Demand for youth shelter increasing	Com. Rodriguez/CW Andrews-Sullivan
Extend Rental Protections	Apartment Association on next call	CW Andrews-Sullivan

**Referrals to Other Working Groups**

- None

**Success Stories**

- Haven for Hope – hotel individuals placed in housing.
- Risk Mitigation Fund