RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING COVID 19

1. **DHS Expands Telemedicine Services**


2. **DHS authorized Child Welfare Targeted Case Management**

   Bulletin TCM FINAL 3_27_20.pdf - see document at teh link below.
   [https://mn.gov/indianaffairs/documents_covid/HS_Childwelfare_face_to_face_info.pdf](https://mn.gov/indianaffairs/documents_covid/HS_Childwelfare_face_to_face_info.pdf)

3. **Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants**

   As part of their COVID-19 Response Supplemental Budget proposal, Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan proposed $30 million in funding for emergency grants for licensed child care providers serving essential workers during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Child care providers and educators themselves are expressly listed as essential.

   here is the link to more information:

   [https://mn.gov/mmb/childcare/providers/](https://mn.gov/mmb/childcare/providers/)

   And, the more information about the grant application process, etc.

4. **Homeless Service Funding**

**Emergency Services Program (ESP) Funds**

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) at the Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for administering the ESP funding. The team has developed a survey that will be used by non-profit organizations, tribal governments, or local units of government to request funding.

The process will work as follows:

Complete the survey linked below. The survey will stay open on a rolling basis for providers to request funding as needs arise. Providers can request funds multiple times through the survey.

- The survey will ask questions about the level of funding needed, the activities/supplies you plan to purchase, and how the funds will be used. Responses to the survey cannot be saved while you are filling out the form. The PDF of the survey questions is linked below so you can plan out your responses ahead of your submission.
- The OEO team, in partnership with the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH), and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will review requests. If funding request is accepted and the entity requesting funds is an eligible entity, funds will be sent to the provider approximately two weeks from the date of survey submission.

**Survey to Request Funding**

**PDF of Survey Questions**

**Frequently asked questions and answers**

Please direct any questions about the survey, eligibility, funding process, etc. to Katelyn Warburton (katelyn.warburton@state.mn.us). The OEO team will work as quickly as possible to provide a response.

Funding can be used to:

1. Maintain or expand shelter capacity that promotes the health and safety and quarantine options
2. Purchase hygiene or sanitation supplies so providers can comply with CDC guidance
3. Support staffing needs for homeless programs to maintain and hire staff necessary to protect the health and wellness of participants and staff

Grantees of these funds DO NOT need to be current ESP grantees, nor do they have to be current grantees of any funding from the DHS, or OEO. The primary grantee eligibility requirements are that the applicant is:

- A Tribal Government
- A Local Unit of Government, or
- A Non-profit Organization

Providers applying for these funds must:

1. Target homeless persons as defined by the State of Minnesota which is defined as: “Any individual, unaccompanied youth or family that is without a permanent place to live that is fit for human habitation. Doubling-up is considered homeless.” AND
2. Must be either a drop-in center, overnight shelter-rotating church, congregate overnight fixed-shelter, overnight shelter – motel voucher, congregate transitional housing, and/or street/mobile outreach program.

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5. **Housing Support Rate Increase**

Housing Support providers will be receiving more information through their county and tribal partners this week about the increase to room and board and standard supplemental service rates approved by the MN Legislature. A 15% rate increase was approved for March, April, and May expenses. Housing Support providers should start keeping track of their COVID-19 related expenses to ensure the health and safety of people they are serving.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Housing Support rate increase.

For more info contact Kristine Davis at [Kristine.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:Kristine.davis@state.mn.us)

651-431-3845
6. **DHS Contract Flexibility**

In light of COVID-19, DHS’ Contracts Division is encouraging flexibility in modifying grants and contracts to the extent allowable under state and federal law, which includes any emergency law or declaration related to COVID-19.

Grantees and contractors will be in compliance with their grants and contracts if they follow the guidance below.

**Non-budgetary changes during COVID-19**

1. The grantee or contractor must provide the state’s contractual Authorized Representative with written notice of all non-budgetary grant and contract changes that are directly related to COVID-19.
2. If the state’s contractual Authorized Representative agrees with the grant and contract changes, the identified state authorized representative, working with DHS program contract staff, should respond with written approval of the non-budgetary changes.
3. Any agreed upon non-budgetary changes need to be formally incorporated into the grant or contract the earlier of: (1) the grant or contract expiration, or (2) the next time the grant or contract is amended.

An example of a non-budgetary change is moving an in-person meeting to an online meeting.

**Budgetary changes during COVID-19**

1. DHS staff must continue following standard amendment process if budgetary changes are required. Some grants and contracts may allow flexibility under the current scope of the grant or contract.

2. **Cancellation fees:** If a grantee or contractor incurs cancellation fees for a planned conference, speaker, etc., DHS staff should review the grant or contract to determine if the budget can accommodate this. DHS staff should work with their Administration’s finance staff to address this issue.

**Travel**

- All programs should follow current state and federal guidelines in approving travel whether it be in-state or out-of-state for any reason.

- Grantees should not engage in any non-essential travel until directed otherwise.

**Further information**

- All grantees and contractors should follow guidance from the [Minnesota Department of Health](https://www.health.state.mn.us), [Gov. Walz’s Executive Orders](https://www.governor.mn.gov/) and the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information and resources are available at the [BeReadyMN](https://www.readymn.gov) website.

**Questions?**

Contact your Contract Coordinator and Contract Attorney with any questions.
7. **Additional food assistance funding**

$9 million has been appropriated to the commissioner of human services to address food bank, food shelf and transportation needs in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be available to approximately 400 food shelves, transportation organizations to distribute food and supplies between food banks and food shelves, and food banks that distribute food to food shelves. Food banks will receive at least $3 million of the funding. HungerSolutions will distribute the funding to eligible entities by a combination of formula allocation and competitive grant processes. The appropriation is for fiscal year 2020, and funds are available until June 30, 2021.