

1. How much COVID-19 relief funding has the Department received so far and what has DOH done with it?

- **Emergency Rental Assistance grant from the Department of the Treasury:**

The State of Connecticut, acting through DOH, has been awarded \$235,870,000, and is finalizing plans to implement UniteCT, a rent and utility relief program.

- **CRF Funding from the Department of the Treasury:**

Acting through DOH, OPM has provided \$26,572,000 in CRF funding, which DOH used to stand up and administer the Temporary Rental Housing Assistance Program (TRHAP). More than 6,700 households received assistance under this temporary initiative.

- **Community Development Block Grant – COVID (CDBG-CV):**

DOH has been awarded \$30,365,085 under the original Cares Act. These funds have been made available to both entitlement and non-entitlement communities to prepare for, to prevent and to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All CDBG eligible activities that prepare for, prevent or respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic are eligible for award. In addition, the CARES Act allows the Department to take direct action with some of these funds, rather than act as a pass through to municipalities. The Department recently submitted its latest Action Plan to HUD for approval, which includes \$13,500,000 in direct activities, as well as more than \$16,000,000 being made available to entitlements and non-entitlements. The Department anticipated expending more than 80% of these funds before the end of the fiscal year.

- **Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID (ESG-CV):**

DOH has been awarded \$20,750,885 under the original Cares Act. These funds have been used to address a variety of ESG eligible activities, as detailed in our Action Plan. The Department has provided a detailed breakdown of these activities to date.

- **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV):**

DOH has been awarded \$38,662 under the original Cares Act. These funds have been provided to the two existing facilities that are subsidized by the Department under the HOPWA program. These funds will be fully expended before the end of the fiscal year.

2. Of the new federal dollars for Emergency Rental Assistance from the December stimulus bill: UniteCT- Emergency Rental Assistance for Connecticut's Economy

- a. Has the agency received the expected funds yet and what was the amount? **We have been informed that the state has received the full \$235,870,000 dollars.**
- b. How will the program operate? **The Department will be accepting electronic applications utilizing an automation solutions provided by Yardi Systems, Inc. In coordination with our not for profit community partners, tenants and landlords, will be able to apply directly or with live technical assistance through this automated system. The application can be accessed anywhere at any time through a computer**

or smartphone. The program has internal scanning, training and videos to help with questions. Anyone can help another person apply if there are barriers to comprehension or technology. The entire process from application to underwriting to funding is done electronically through one coordinated system, with technical assistance at all levels.

Describe how the program will be staffed. Will it be enough to make the program easy for tenants and landlords to access funds? **The Department will utilize staff specifically hired to administer this program, as well as, contractual services provided by our not for profit partners and other interested organizations. This will include technical assistance, both live and recorded. The program is very clear, comprehensive and user friendly for the tenants, landlords and staff, building on the lessons learned from the roll-out of the Temporary Rental Assistance Program last year.**

- b. How long until DOH will start to disburse the funds to renters and landlords? Describe the timeline for the program's implementation. **There were 2,500 applications to the TRHAP program that did not complete the application process before the program closed. Those households will be emailed a letter and offered the opportunity to apply on or about March 10th. The overall program is targeted to be available to the public to begin applying on March 15th. From the time of a complete and vetted application, the process to fund is anticipated to take ten days.**
- c. Is there a specific phone number people can call (if so, what is it?) **The call center phone number will be 1-844-UniteCT or 1-844-864-8328.**
- d. Please lay out the application process, including what is required from tenants and/or landlords to meet requirements for disbursement. **Guidelines, application processes, and eligibility requirements are being finalized and will be provided to the legislature.**
- e. Aside from rental and utility payments and arrears to be paid on behalf of tenants, please provide detailed information on the other intended uses of the funds and how much has been designated for each (i.e. administration, technology, housing counseling, legal assistance for tenants facing evictions, etc.).

DOH-UniteCT	
Direct Assistance	\$235,870,000
DOH Admin	\$ 5,000,000
Software	2,500,000
Housing CA (12)	2,500,000
The Workplace-Call center & Bus	900,000
Legal Aid	1,000,000
Project Management,QC,Oversight	200,000
Marketing/translation	80,000
Admin Total	\$ 12,180,000

Please note, the above estimates are subject to change upon further guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

- f. Can you provide any simple marketing materials that legislators can disseminate to their constituents? **The flyers and marketing materials are in the process of being translated to Spanish and Portuguese. These materials will be made available to the legislature upon completion.**
3. Describe what DOH is doing with funds that are associated with the Community Investment Act (CIA), including funding amounts (estimates for FY 21 and FY 22). **Attached is a spreadsheet detailing activities under the Community Investment Act. Historically, we receive between \$850k and \$950k per quarter. We have no information that would lead us to believe that these estimates will not continue.**
4. Homeless Youth Grant match –does taking funds for the state match out of the Housing/Homeless Services account or the Homeless Youth account reduce the access to services for people who are currently served from those accounts? How many dollars are we taking out of RAP, and does that translate to less people receiving assistance? **Taking funds out of the Housing/Homeless Services account does not reduce services for those who are currently served, as this source comes from underutilized RAP funds from certain subpopulations. This funding will preserve access to over \$3 million in funding for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program grant, so it actually allows DOH to serve more homeless youth. With approximately \$400,000 being transferred in SFY 22, that would translate to 40 RAP certificates and the approximately \$700,000 for SFY23 would translate to 70 RAP certificates. This however will not translate into a reduction in the number of people receiving assistance as referrals for these subsidies from certain subpopulations does not meet the funding level appropriated.**

5. Provide input on how we can stop funds in Housing/Homeless Services from lapsing when there are referral-program delays? **DOH views the budget as legislation that must be followed. The budget authorized RAP certificates to certain subpopulations, therefore DOH honors the intent of the legislation. If certain subpopulations - specifically the Money Follows the Person program and the CHESS program - do not meet the appropriated funding level, DOH believes it cannot use this funding for other purposes without seeking additional approvals. If legislation was written more broadly to allow for flexibility of DOH to allocate RAP funding based on documented needs, a lapse will likely not occur. This fiscal year, DOH approached OPM, and was granted approval to utilize available funding to support undocumented households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide 150 RAP certificates to homeless families to move them out of shelters and into stable housing.**

6. Provide metrics on the number of clients served through each budget line item FY 19 – FY 21 and estimated FY 22 – FY 23.
 - a. Also (where appropriate) please provide numbers for clients served by each major subprogram under Housing/Homeless Services (e.g. RAP specialty programs, security deposit guarantee program, homeless shelters, CAN funding, etc.)

As of February 1, 2021 here is the following numbers served of RAP specialty Programs:

Regular RAP – 1491
Scattered Site Homeless RAPs - 558
Project Based Homeless RAPs - 645
Other Project Based RAPs - 204
DMHAS RAPs - 129
Family Reunification RAPs - 870
Money Follows the Person RAPs - 1532
Veteran RAPs - 44
High Medicaid/Homeless RAPs - 122
DDS RAPs - 10
State Sponsored Housing Authority RAPs - 940
397 SDG applications accepted totaling a guarantee amount of \$588,292; 121 SDG payouts for a total of \$170,260.

Here are the number of clients served under each major subprogram:

- **Total served by ES/Shelter projects in calendar year 2020**
 - 5,167 Households (6,258 people) served by shelters in 2020
- **Total scheduled CAN appointments in 2020**
 - 25,898 scheduled appointments
 - 21,623 scheduled for individuals
 - 4,274 scheduled for families
- **Total attended CAN appointments in 2020**
 - 16,802 attended appointments
 - 13,638 attended by individuals
 - 3,164 attended by families
- **Total served in Thames River Youth TLP in 2020**
 - Thames River-DOH(YHDP)(RRH)(CT0317E) – 48 households served (37 individual, 11 family)
- **Total served in Operation Hope Street Outreach in 2020**
 - Operation Hope - ESG Street Outreach – 11 households served (11 individual, 0 family)
- **Total served in DOH-Funded RRH**
 - 1552 households served (1,061 individual, 491 families)
- **Total served in DOH-Funded AIDS programs**
 - 208 people (195 adults, 13 children)
 - 182 households (174 individual, 8 family)