

Updates and Discussions

Shelter

Property Tax Updates

- Bexar County Tax Office emphasized again they are willing to work with any resident or business on payment plans

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.
- Covid 19 is striking most vulnerable folks along ethnic and racial/socioeconomic – making existing barriers and inequalities worse
- 50% of renters are already rent burdened.
- 23,000 calls for City's housing assistance program.
- \$5.5 million additional in utility assistance for Bexar County through CARES Act (CEAP program)

Housing

- Bexar County's rental assistance program opened May 1 at 10:00 am
- Gordon Hartman asked Henry Cisneros and Leilah Powell (LISC) to help think big on housing, homelessness, rental/mortgage assistance, and food - Nationally \$50B owed in rent. Leilah provided a presentation.
- Henry Cisneros: LISC can bring resources to bear in San Antonio to help with affordable housing
- Leilah Powell: three phases – relief, response, and recovery, over several years
- LISC works with local housing providers such as Prospera, Merced, Alamo Community Group
- Committee consensus to move forward with working with LISC. CW Andrews-Sullivan will lead housing advisory group to develop concrete steps with Leilah over next few weeks and identify resources
- Shortfall of 150K affordable units in the city before Covid-19. Housing at the core of issues for people to remain healthy.
- CW Andrews-Sullivan looking to focus federal advocacy around the definition of affordable housing (AMI threshold)

Homeless Shelter

- 10 individuals placed into more permanent housing situation out of Haven for Hope's hotel (300 in hotel total)
- City emergency shelter opened Monday, April 27 with 36 now sheltered there
- Haven for Hope has taken Covid-19 prevention measures which include closing intake to new clients, taking temperatures, and setting up isolation areas. 22 people tested at Haven, half of them staff. As of May 1, there has not been a COVID-19 positive case reported at Haven for Hope

Food Security

Food Bank

- Large scale distributions continue
- Philanthropy committee fund drive with News 4 and Fox 29 raised \$5.5 million in two days
- STAR request to the State was approved for \$3 million, with additional requests allowed directly
- Working with state to remove personal vehicles as an asset test for SNAP eligibility for a couple of months - still pending
- Worked with suppliers to reply to RFP for USDA program that will purchase surplus food for food banks. RFP – closed May 1, 2020

COVID-19 Community Action Working Group
Food Security & Shelter – May 1, 2020

- Serving 150K families a week
- Overall, the supply chain for food is resilient

Action Items

Item	Status	Lead
Identify youth shelter options	Potential options through nonprofits; requires continued follow up	Com. Rodriguez/CW Andrews-Sullivan
Extend Rental Protections	Apartment Association was not on call	CW Andrews-Sullivan
SNAP Asset Test Removal	Pending state approval	Eric Cooper

Referrals to Other Working Groups

- Leilah Powell, LISC, Referred to State and Federal Legislative Working Group regarding affordable housing policy needs.