

## Food Security & Shelter Working Group

UPDATES: APRIL 9, 2020

### SHELTER

#### Homeless Resource Hotline

- Line is functional. Call 210-207-1799. DHS, SAMM, and SARAH staff currently being trained

#### Shelters

- Haven and existing shelters no longer accepting clients
- Staff is visiting encampments/downtown streets to distribute meals and resource kits to unsheltered
- City contracted for 300 room hotel for 400 high risk and 200 rooms for overflow shelter for those not exhibiting symptoms
- Also securing hotels and developing protocols to accommodate COVID positive individuals that do not require hospitalization; currently have 2 hotels under contract that have a combined 285 rooms
- Have 5 "on call" contracts with hotels to access 546 rooms; negotiating 6 more contracts to add 851 rooms

#### Rental Assistance

- COSA has identified \$14,250,00 for housing assistance – rental and utility
- COSA has increased program staff and are working to streamline application process
- Bexar County shared an initial proposal for rental assistance that is still under review
- Looking at system/data coordination with community providers to improve & maximize services and resources

#### Other Protections

- Developing protocol to assist with domestic violence for all resource hotlines
- Considering how to expand assistance to provide groceries, childcare, and digital access
- Considering proposal for orders to require landlords to provide tenants with a "notice of proposed eviction" issuing an order to vacate; prohibiting issuance of Notice to Vacate; prohibiting taking of a tenant's property to takedown debt; and the placement of locks that bar tenants entry to premises

### FOOD SECURITY

- STAR application request is pending with the State
- Need to work with HEB to try to get SNAP Benefits for Curbside & Delivery
- Piloting healthy food boxes via Healthy Corner Store Initiative in District 3 for those who can afford groceries but not delivery or curbside
- Requested support to expand food access to disabled and vulnerable at SAHA Public Housing Sites

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS/ACTION

Item	Status	Lead
STAR Disaster Request	\$12 million FEMA Request is pending with the State	Eric/J. Rod.
Housing Protection Ordinances	DA & City Attorney to explore Proposed Orders	J. Rod

### OPPORTUNITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION/PENDING

- Accessing and coordinating FEMA resources like pre-paid gift cards for groceries, toiletries, etc.
- Considering making available Domestic Violence talking points for community partners
- Addressing how to reach/inform those who aren't paying rent because they know they won't get evicted
- Preliminary discussions on strategy for long-term shelter needs once hotels are no longer used

## **REFERRALS TO OTHER COMMITTEES**

- **Need to coordinate with Philanthropy group on giving strategy for food resources**