
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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NCSL COVID-19 WEBINAR — HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Webinar Series. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is holding a series of webinars related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The latest webinar addresses housing, homelessness, and youth homelessness issues. The information contained in this article is current as of the webinar on April 24, 2020. The webinar was recorded and has been [posted](#) on the NCSL's webpage.

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Assistant Secretary for Housing Commissioner and Federal Housing Commissioner Brian Montgomery provided an overview of what the HUD and the federal administration are working on related to housing, homelessness, and COVID-19.

The March 27, 2020, enactment of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([H.R. 748](#)) provided over \$12.000 billion in new appropriations to the HUD:

- \$5.000 billion: Community Development Fund
- \$4.000 billion: Homeless Assistance Grants/Emergency Solutions Grants
- \$1.250 billion: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- \$1.000 billion: Project-Based Rental Assistance
- \$685.0 million: Public Housing Operating Fund
- \$300.0 million: Native American Programs
- \$65.0 million: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
- \$50.0 million: Housing for the Elderly (Section 202)
- \$15.0 million: Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Section 811)

National Council of State Housing Agencies. Jennifer Schwartz, Director of Tax and Housing Advocacy for the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA), provided an overview of what state housing agencies are doing related to COVID-19. The NCSHA provides additional information [here](#).

State Legislation. The states have introduced 21 bills addressing housing and homelessness.

- There have been 11 bills introduced to establish programs to aid either tenants, landlords, or both.
- There have been 9 bills introduced to address evictions.
- There has been 1 bill introduced to suspend interest payments on collections.

Of those 21 bills, 2 have been enacted:

- Arizona has enacted [Senate Bill 1690](#) (Budget Procedures; Budget Reconciliation; 2020-2021). The Act establishes the Crisis Contingency and Safety Net Fund. The Fund can be used for a number of things including housing assistance, payments to prevent eviction or foreclosure, and support of entities that provide services for homeless persons, including shelter, food, clothing, and transportation.

- New Jersey has enacted [Assembly Bill 3859](#) (Moratorium on Removals of Individuals Due to Evictions or Foreclosures). The Act provides that enforcement of all judgments for possession, warrants of removal, and writs of possession are stayed, unless the court determines on its own motion or motion of the parties that enforcement is necessary in the interest of justice, during the time a public health emergency or a state of emergency has been declared by the governor.

The NCSL provides a [database](#) for state legislation on housing and homelessness.

Youth Homelessness. Patricia Julianelle, Director of Program Advancement and Legal Affairs, SchoolHouse Connection, provided information on the causes of youth homelessness and actions being taken to address youth homelessness. SchoolHouse Connection provides additional information [here](#).

Additional Webinars and Information. The NCSL will hold webinars on continuity of state government and elections, fiscal and economic issues, and more topics in the coming weeks. More information on COVID-19 is available from the LSA upon request and from the following webpages:

- Iowa COVID-19 Website: coronavirus.iowa.gov
- Iowa Department of Public Health: idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus
- NCSL COVID-19 Resources for States: www.ncsl.org/research/health/ncsl-coronavirus-covid-19-resources.aspx
- NCSL Blog Entry: Labor, Economy Provisions of Second COVID-19 Relief Bill: www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/03/19/labor-economy-provisions-of-second-covid-19-relief-bill.aspx
- National Governors Association (NGA) COVID-19 Page: www.nga.org/coronavirus
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) COVID-19 Page: www.astho.org/COVID-19
- NCSL Blog Entry: Human Services and Housing Analysis of Third COVID-19 Federal Package: www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/04/06/human-services-and-housing-analysis-of-third-covid-19-package.aspx
- NCSL CARES Act Analysis: Housing Funding: www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/publications-and-resources/cares-act-analysis-housing-funding.aspx

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