Statewide COVID-19 Housing & Homelessness Calls

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**SPEAKERS**

Tedd Kelleher, Joey Lindstrom, John Stovall, Rachael Myers

**Rachael Myers** 01:37

Morning everybody. Can you hear me. Great. Well, let's just wait another minute or so and give a few more folks time to sign on and then we'll get started. Right, looks like we've got a good group here. I hope everyone's doing well this morning. I appreciate those of you who are introducing yourselves in the chat that's a great idea. By you to go ahead and say good morning and put your name in your organization. Any other information that you'd like to share in there so everyone knows who's here. We've got a good agenda today we've got some great speakers. JOHN has dropped the agenda in the chat I believe so you can access that there, but I'll go over briefly. After we get started, hear john we'll do a couple of poll questions to see who's on the call today. Then we'll move on. As always, to the State Department of Commerce, for some updates, it looks like I see Ted is here. And then we'll have a speaker from the National Law Center on homelessness and poverty Trisha Bauman Bowman, and she'll be talking about a recent court ruling in Oregon protecting the Eighth Amendment rights of people experiencing homelessness. So we're really glad to have Christiana here with us today. From there we will hear from a couple of folks and local communities who will give some updates about how their communities are implementing the eviction Rental Assistance Program which you've heard a good deal about on these calls if you've been here regularly from the Department of Commerce. So programs are starting to get set up. And so our hope is that by sharing information folks can, you know, learn some best practices and learn some challenges and things to avoid. So we've got Cruz Thompson from rural resources who will be talking about setting up the program in Lincoln Stevens and fairy counties. And then we've got Cassie lens from Grays Harbor who will be talking about implementing the program in Grays Harbor County. And then finally, we've gotten federal advocacy updates I'm sure everybody's on pins and needles, waiting to see what's going to happen in DC I certainly am. And so we've got Joey Lindstrom who we've had with us before from the National Low Income Housing Coalition who will give us an update from their perspective in DC and talk about what we can do to continue to help things move forward there, and then we'll make a couple of announcements and potentially have some time for questions and answers at the end, also wanted to let you know that I mentioned last week that we were probably going to be moving these calls to an every other week schedule. We are going to start that we will not have a call next week, but we'll back be back in two weeks, and we'll continue on and every other week schedule. From there, hoping that that will give everybody more time to work on whatever you're working on in your community for us, it'll give us a little extra space to prepare because it doesn't seem very far away now that the legislative session will be coming up in early 2021 in January and so we're very much in the planning process for that. And related to that we will be filling in some of the time since a lot of people have this time saved on their calendar every other week we'll be filling in some of those times that we're not having this meeting with other webinars and trainings and conversations about things mostly related to the legislative session to help get us all prepared for the 2021 session so we'll be putting out a calendar and a schedule for that shortly so keep an eye out for that. Just a couple of last reminders before we jump in for our speakers, please do try to speak slowly. I'm not trying to modeling that I always think of that after I say that, try to speak slowly and as close to your microphone as you can. We try to make these calls accessible, so also try to avoid acronyms and jargon if you use terms that need to be explained, feel free to explain and we have folks from all kinds of different backgrounds and different levels of experience with housing policy and homelessness policy here with us so we want everyone to want this to make sense to everybody. And I'll also just note that we've got the otter AI live notes that are being taken. That's a button up in the top left of your screen you may notice, if you click on that you can get to a link that will show you the live transcript it's not perfect it's taken by AI. So it's not always correct, but we think that it's helpful for we've heard that it's helpful for folks who have who need transcript to be able to participate in the meeting. We will continue Of course to take notes in these meetings we've got our staff, a couple of staff assigned to taking notes who will also have notes out that we won't totally rely on the other. And we send those out afterwards along with any other resources and questions that come out, or that come up during the call right now with

08:02

AI artificial intelligence.

**Rachael Myers** 08:05

Thank you. Good, good example of not using acronyms or jargon or whatever. Thanks, Peter. I usually call it the robot. So with that, I'm going to hand it to john to do our poll questions.

**John Stovall** 08:20

Sure. Thanks. Good morning everybody. Great to be here with all of you. Once again, I'm going to just jump right into a few of these. So normally we do one that's kind of geographically focused I think I'm going to skip that one today, because it has been a pretty consistent theme in terms of who's represented on these calls but if you are really interested in sort of sharing and like representing where you're coming from today please feel free to type that into the chat as many people have already started doing. But the first poll I want to launch is just kind of around the, the roles that you play in your community. So this one is. It's a you know multiple choice in that you can choose multiple things because many of us wear many hats in our communities. But the options are, you know, are you a person with lived experience or lived expertise of housing instability or homelessness. Are you a housing and homelessness advocate in your community, are you a direct service provider case manager outreach worker, things of that nature. Are you a housing provider, like a housing developer or property manager for affordable housing Do you work for a housing authority. Are you a local government staff person or an elected official from a local government or are you with a state or federal government, either in a staff role or in your elected official capacity, and then are you a legal advocate or a tenant rights advocate, or are you any other kind of are you working in another sector that sort of overlaps with housing, and are here to kind of learn more about that intersection of the work that you do and work around housing and homelessness. And if there's any other things that you do in your community that you feel are relevant to share today, feel free to type those into the chat and shout those out. So this just gives us a good sense of who's on the call today and it gives our speakers a sense of who they're talking to.

10:23

So I'll go ahead and end the poll.

**John Stovall** 10:27

Share this one so as you can see, the majority of us are housing and homeless advocates that is great to hear. Let's see what else we got so quite a few direct service providers today which is great. That's really awesome housing providers local government, state and federal government, roughly even even split there about 13% of folks have direct experience with housing instability. About 13% of folks also are coming from a different sector which that is really exciting and and good to hear. I'm personally interested in hearing like what specific area of work you work in. So, again, feel free to include that in the chat throughout the meeting or just right now. Okay, so I'm going to go on to our next poll, which is related to, to what Trisha is going to share with us today. So this is just to get get a sense of how familiar folks are with the recent Oregon court ruling. The question here is have you been following the recent court decision which ruled that Grants Pass Oregon violated a homeless residents. Eighth Amendment rights by excluding them from parks without due process and citing them for sleeping outside. We'll learn a lot more about this but I just wanted to get a sense of, sort of, where folks are at in terms of knowledge around us today before before Tracy presents. So, the options are Nope, I'm not familiar at all didn't really hear about that yet. vaguely maybe I read an article or I heard someone talk about it but I don't know a whole lot. Yes, I've been tracking it but I'm really interested in learning more and yes I'm basically following this in my day job or like following this very closely all the time.

12:17

Okay, good. It's like 234 or five more seconds.

**Tedd Kelleher** 12:27

Okay.

**John Stovall** 12:29

So, the majority of folks are not familiar with this ruling so it's pretty recent, that makes sense. So, we're happy to bring some new information to you today. Kind of second was sort of I heard a little bit about it I don't know a whole lot about 15% of folks have been tracking it and are interested in learning more, and we've got one person maybe that was uterus, said I'm quite interested or I'm quite versed in this court really. Okay, so I've got just actually you know I'll leave it at that I had one more question, but I think just in the interest of time, we'll go ahead and move on. So I'll pass it back to Rachel.

**Rachael Myers** 13:07

Great, thank you john. So I will quickly then turn it over to Ted from the Department of Commerce for any updates that you want to share.

**Tedd Kelleher** 13:18

Yes, thank you. Good morning. Can people hear me okay. I can hope, so people can. Yeah. Okay, great. Ted Keller, Washington State Department of Commerce housing assistance. So just real quickly you know we're getting grants out there thank you I know it's a big lift at the local level to get these get this money and then go through the contracting and program setup and training and staffing, or working with everyone on that. Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you're running into stumbled, I think some context I wanted to provide about these grants that maybe isn't entirely clear, and a lot there's a lot of unknowns here. But I think one thing that generally when we release a grant at commerce, it's our expectation that, like, two year when your grant that people sort of budget out the money over the two years, even though the need might be huge to budgeted out over the length of the grant this grant is through December 31. But, but our and again there's, it's hard to know how things will play out. But our best case scenario would be that grantees quickly set up the programs, and as long as they're meeting their equity targets and goals, that the money be spent out quickly with the hope of if we can show. And I know it's easier said than done to ramp up a system to spend out the money quickly but to the extent that a county could spend out the money in a couple of weeks, and meet the equity targets that would be a success and it would allow us as an agency and the larger community to ask for additional funding and potentially receive additional funding. So when you're, if you're holding if you're looking at this funding and $100 million for rent assistance. It would be totally okay and acceptable and preferable to spend it out quickly. So that we would be able to potentially get additional funding I can't promise that additional funding would be forthcoming. But I think weighing the risks of what we know administratively and politically. It'd be best to get the assistance out there help as many people as we can as quickly as we can and then take the risk of seeking additional funding and hoping that that pans out, but just wanted to leave it there and interest of time, I'm looking at questions in case there's anything I don't see anything so I will stop talking. Thank you.

**Rachael Myers** 15:48

Thanks, Ted. I do see one question do you see that from Mike Parker has her will OFM changed the deadline for the first tranche of Care's money to December 31 currently it's 1031.

**Tedd Kelleher** 16:04

So I the funding that we're directly talking about right now is the rental assistance money and that does have a December 31 deadline. There is a different set of money out there for local governments but does have an October 31 deadline. I can't, I don't, I don't know that there's any move to extend that deadline at this point. That's as much as i know that i think that's part of what's going on.

**Rachael Myers** 16:32

Thank you. Any other questions for Ted. And that's really helpful context I mean one of the things that we know is that this hundred million, that is going to the emergency Rental Assistance Program, or eviction rent Assistance Program is, is critically important and it's going to help a lot of people but it's really just a very small amount compared to what we know, the need actually is. So whether you spend it all quickly or try to save it and spread it out, there's still going to be people who are not served. So, so yeah I appreciate that information that you know getting it out quickly will give us sort of fodder commerce for being able to go back to, to the governor's office or to, you know, wherever and try to seek additional funds and as an advocacy organization and all of us as advocates. That'll provide you know some really good data about how great the need is, and it'll make our advocacy easier so appreciate that reminder, or that context,

**Tedd Kelleher** 17:35

and I see one question that I want to answer because it provides some context, there's the idea about adding additional second tranche of ESG funding absolutely that's something that's in the works. The Commerce is working on, based on where we are administratively with HUD we're in a better place to do that in the near term. I think though. One thing about that money that's to your money, to the extent when you come into the when I come into the office every morning. The thing I think about is the rent assistance first and I guess I would urge everyone to think about the rent assistance first because if we can work through the hundred million dollars in the next like let's ideally like the next six weeks. Then we could potentially get more than ESG money it's gonna be here for two years and I know, and all things being equal would be do everything at once and then there's the reality of administrative capacity. So I just really emphasize that we should focus in on the rent assistance get that up and going spend that out and then, to the extent there's time in the day. Work on ESG.

**Rachael Myers** 18:39

Got it. Well thanks Ted Are there any other questions for Ted. All right, if anything comes up, feel free to put them in the chat. Oh, there was one question. Um, yeah, I mean, I don't know who riana, we're going to what your role is in the community but somebody's asking what can we do to help spend out the rental assistance. I mean, I assume it's just making sure that the counties and the administrators and the nonprofit's know that that that's the preference is to get it out quickly, and making sure that folks in the community now that that funding is available. Is there anything else you want to add to that Ted.

**Tedd Kelleher** 19:19

No, I think there's a question up above too I think one of the tensions is just what you know as you described there is a lot of need, the exact amount of need, it's hard to determine it's certainly more than 100 million dollars. That's intention with just the administrative capacity of setting these programs up so I want to acknowledge and respect the amount of work that counties are going to do. And also, you know, have everyone working with the appropriate matter of urgency and prioritization around these rent assistance funds. I think one of the things you'll see and you'll hear some more about today, there are some programs that are providing assistance. And I can't tell you the exact number it's a. So one of the things we get I get a daily phone calls and emails may apply for assistance. Unfortunately, there isn't. Most places they're not open for Vittoria where the funding is out there, but it was not a not a place to apply yet. So, kind of, hurry up and wait situation with where people can apply. I'll stop talking.

**Rachael Myers** 20:28

Ted I think we do have a couple more questions if you have just another minute. I missed one earlier and this is related to the last question from Teresa Slusher is coordinated entry still the recommended place to send folks in need generally and she's asking on behalf of staff in DSH s in community services.

**Tedd Kelleher** 20:48

Yeah, I mean that, unfortunately, in most communities the system in almost all communities, there's this money is not available yet, but if someone's presenting with a need for housing assistance, coordinated entry is really the place they would go, but as we all know that resources by design narrowly targeted. So, most people with a housing need aren't going to be held liable separate from the politics or whatever, they just it's just, it's a very strange system so it's not a great answer but coordinated entries where they would go at this point.

**Rachael Myers** 21:24

Um, there's a question from Kirsten joule. What is the mechanism by which you'll be measuring our progress distributing the rental assistance to historically underserved populations if not through homelessness management information system.

**Tedd Kelleher** 21:42

Yeah, so, um, in the, in the, on our website in the program guidelines, there's the inclusion of a form that's required. It's, it's an Excel form doesn't include any identifying information but it does include race, ethnicity, so that will be use it has a second, second tab that calculates automatically the proportions and we'll be compiling that at commerce and feeding it back to grantees we could do it even do it on a daily basis if people really want to do. Once the programs are rolling out.

**Rachael Myers** 22:16

Okay. And last question from Marine Howard and I assume this is a future question because I don't think checks have been cut yet. Unless somebody got set up really quickly. Is anyone planning to track the, the flag the time lag from application to eligibility to check being cut.

**Tedd Kelleher** 22:36

We don't have a system in place to do that. I think one of the things that you'll see in a lot of the way that this program is well, planning, cluding, that it's not using HDMI is is kind of striking a balance between making a program be able to be nimbly set up quickly, especially with grantees that don't have a lot of direct experience with this, so we're not tracking a lot of things we might typically track, we're not doing the level of integration we might typically do, because the goal would be, get it set up quickly get it spent quick fully pricing some of the things that man it's just always that balance how much extra how much investment Are you going to make in performance tracking versus just spending the money. Yeah.

**Rachael Myers** 23:20

Okay. Thank you. All right, well thanks so much again for being here and for all your work on this 10 I know it's a big, a big lift for everybody in commerce as well as for all of you who are implementing this program in your community. This is a lot. And it's much needed. We appreciate you. So we'll move on. I'm really happy to have Tricia Bowman, interesting I'm sorry if I Bowman or Baumann please say your name the correct way if I got it wrong, when you introduce yourself. But Justin is from the National Law Center on homelessness and poverty, and we'll be talking about the recent court ruling so Trisha, why don't you take it away.

24:01

And everyone hear me, you can.

24:03

Great. So my name is Christina Bauman I'm a senior attorney at what was formerly known as the National Law Center on homelessness and poverty, we just changed our name a week and a half ago to the national homelessness Law Center. So if you see national homelessness Law Center. That's us. I'm going to talk briefly about the Blake v Grants Pass Oregon case, it's a federal case it resulted in the opinion at the trial court level. And it interprets Martin V city of Boise, which interprets the scope of our Eighth Amendment rights. So I'll talk a little bit about that but I want to make clear that, while it was a very good decision, in our opinion, it is not binding precedent in the same way that the martin case is binding the martin case is a ninth circuit order. The Blake v Grants Pass opinion is an opinion from a trial court, it probably will be appeal so we don't yet know what its precedential effect will be, but it's certainly persuasive. And I think that the rationale is one that is telling about how courts, look at patchworks of laws that are similar to the laws and Boise leave no lawful place for unhoused people to rest

25:18

at all times of day. So first, just a quick reminder about what Boise found because the Blake case finds that Martin is binding precedent and based its opinion on that. The Martin V Boise case found that the eighth amendments cruel and unusual punishment clause prohibits punishment for universal and unavoidable resting activities performed by people who are involuntarily in public space so if you live outside because you have no housing, and you don't have realistic realistically available and accessible shelter. Then you're in voluntarily and public space you cannot avoid resting and to punish you for that activity is unconstitutionally cruel under the US Constitution's Eighth Amendment, the Boise case was brought on behalf of six individual plaintiffs to challenge two criminal ordinances and so the narrowest reading of the Martin decision is that the eighth amendments cruel and unusual punishment clause only applies to criminal penalties that argument or line of thinking and narrow reading has been challenged and the Blake, the city of Grants Pass case is an example of how that reading is too narrow and in fact may be found to be too narrow even by the Ninth Circuit on appeal certainly was found to narrow by the trial court, so we'll talk about what that means. Ultimately, what that means is that, civil penalties that function as punishment, meaning civil penalties that are not meant to serve a remedial purpose but that serve a deterrent or retributive purpose, like fines for sleeping outside our punishment, and the type of punishment covered under the Martin decision which is binding on courts in the ninth circuit and punishment for Eighth Amendment purposes. That's important because a number of cities enforce a system of punishment that results in at least initially issuance of tickets as opposed to arrests and initial criminal penalties. The court and Blake found that in addition to the tickets being issued as a form of punishment not serving remedial punishment designed to deter or punish people for their resting activities. It also is a matter of statutory construction, and I'll spare you sort of the details on that as to whether or not they would be deemed civil or criminal penalties. So, any city or government of any time that thinks it's okay. and that you're safe from Martin, or able to get around the Eighth Amendment cruel and unusual punishment prohibition by using civil penalties and tickets and fines as opposed to arrest. That is, is not the case. And I certainly suggest reading the opinion here about that. A couple of distinctions between the martin case and the Grants Pass case that I'd note, the Grants Pass case was brought on behalf of the class of people there are around 602 people that are counted as unsheltered living in the city of Grants Pass. And all of them were included in the class and the challenge of patchwork of laws. So in Boise you had the you know the two laws of disorderly conduct to the camping ban. There are a number of different camping bands in Grants Pass that cover different types of public space parks sidewalks and whatnot. And they are enforced with tickets but also with trespass bans and that's going to become relevant in just a moment we talked about the the due process angle, the patchwork of laws was designed just this is mostly an aside, but this is common. Designed as part of an action plan for addressing homelessness and the president of the city council said that the goal of the action plan was to make life so uncomfortable for unhoused people in the city of Grants Pass that they would be encouraged to go elsewhere, and in fact they pointed to the availability of land federal land outside the city, county Land or rest stops, as the alternatives where people could pitch a tent outside of Grants Pass. In the city's defense of itself against the cruel and unusual punishment claims, and the court found that pointing to land outside of the city does not qualify as the type of accessible alternative contemplated by Martin, and because Martin is binding precedent. The city would need to have some other type of alternative in order to levy the type of punishment that it does. But the city of Grants Pass has no alternative shelter and it has a 1% vacancy rate. So there's absolutely no available housing either.

30:04

A few other things that I would point out that I think are important about the decision so one, you know, a patchwork of ordinances can combine to leave no lawful place where people can live outside, that's key so it's not the case that you can only challenge city wide camping bands, you really have to look at the the entire policy scheme. It's also not the case as we said that, leaving the city is an acceptable alternative. That would defeat an Eighth Amendment challenge. Also, the city at one point removed the word sleeping from the ordinances, so as not to directly punish the act of sleeping and the court found that removing the word sleeping does not in fact remove the fact. Remove punishment for universal and unavoidable activities because people have to take at least minimal steps to stay dry and warm. So punishing somebody for using a piece of cardboard for example to sleep on or a blanket or a sleeping bag, which may be seen as an act separate from sleeping is not interpreted as an act separate from sleeping in this Grants Pass case so that's really, that's really key. It's not enough to just remove sleeping or resting from the ordinances. Aside from the cruel and unusual punishment claim just really quickly. The court also found that these punishments the issuance of tickets or excessive fines, because they're grossly disproportionate to the offense, when somebody has no option but to rest outside and are punished for doing so. Even the relatively small fine of $75 for sleeping outside which increases when it's inevitably not paid is excessive under also the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution. And then, because of the use of trespass laws and the lack of process there. The court also found, as a matter of law, that the policy scheme and Grants Pass violates due process under the 14th amendment. Because as soon as a trespass ban is issued against you, it applies for a minimum period of 30 days in all parks, even if you challenge that there is no stay, the 30 day ban remains in place if you are seeing again in that park, even if you're not violating any Park rules, you can be excluded for as long as a year. And that is insufficient process when applying what they call the Matthews balancing test there is a high interest in accessing parks, particularly for unhoused people where that location may be where you go to the bathroom or where you have a table where you can eat, and the burden on the city for offering some additional process was is low. So, as a matter of law plaintiffs won on excessive fines cruel and unusual punishment and procedural due process. So we're excited about this opinion. I do not encourage people to run out and start filing lawsuits under the authority of this opinion we don't yet know how the ninth circuit will treat it. But I am grateful to see it, and I think it's a sign of how courts may interpret these types of laws. Thank you.

**Rachael Myers** 33:20

Thanks Jess Yeah, we do have a question if folks have questions, go ahead and add them to the chat I do see one question here from council member in a local community, thanking you for your work first of all and and asking if you have a white paper or some other kind of document that cities can use to ensure that their homelessness policies are in compliance with current laws and court decisions.

33:44

We don't have white paper per se but we do have a lot of reporting that looks at the type of laws that have been struck down and some of the legal problems with them, as well as case studies of schemes that have worked, not just have been lawful, but also have worked to reduce the number of people living outside and that save taxpayers money as well. I will include in the chat a link to the law Center's resource page where you can find a lot of that material. I also welcome the opportunity to speak with any lawmaker about the policies that you have on the books and how they might be reformed to ensure that the rights of unhoused people are protected and as importantly, that they are the type of policies that are effective at addressing homelessness, both in terms of reducing the number of people living outside and saving dollars.

**Rachael Myers** 34:38

Great. Thank you. Any other questions for interest. Yeah. All right, well I will just note that some of you may be familiar with a resource that we developed several years ago in 2014 I think it is a toolkit on the criminalization of homelessness and what local advocates and other folks can do to prevent that, and alternatives to criminalization policies. We are in the process of updating that document, and we'll have that ready. Probably by about the end of September, so we'll share that when, when we have that and hope that that'll be a resource for you. There's a question from Maureen Howard. Are there any other cases pending.

35:28

There are hi Maureen, there are a lot of other cases that are pending right now and they're all in various stages and not all in the Ninth Circuit so you know the the impact of Martin has been national, and we are seeing cases that are pending now from Florida to California, that are challenging the use of criminal and civil penalties levied against people who literally have no place to go. Great.

**Rachael Myers** 36:00

Any other last questions. There's a question I don't know if you can see the chat from Kirsten jewel in Kitsap County which jurisdictions have had the best success with addressing encampments in public parks that balance the needs of people experiencing homelessness, with the house public's desire to use the parks.

36:21

Yeah, so that's a great question and unfortunately, the answer is an unsatisfying one to give and it's going to be unsatisfying to hear. There is no community that we are aware of that has taken a straight line from, we have bad policies and there's a direct line to the better policies. Unfortunately, this is a really I mean everyone knows this is a politically fraught issue tense outside and public space are very politically unpopular even people that support a human right to housing would support a zero tolerance approach to tents outside. So what we have are examples of programs and policies that have worked, but oftentimes that political pressure will push communities backwards from our perspective. So we have stories of cities that have been on positive trajectories using a combination of different policies that have produced results. Ultimately, the only thing that does work to sustainably keep people out of public space is adequate housing. There are certain housing models that you're all familiar with permanent supportive housing is the most effective intervention for people experiencing chronic homelessness, who are the most likely folks to be inside of encampments and other things that draw the political ire, but there are lots of examples of cities that have taken a constructive approach to particular encampments, but then abandon those policies. When the. When there is political pressure. And the reality that the funnel of people onto the streets is faster than we can move people off of the streets. So you know none of these policies should be seen in a vacuum. And there's, there's no silver bullet, and I know that that you know that's what I always get asked about what's the silver bullet. There isn't that but we, as I said, we do have case studies and a lot of different examples of communities that have shown real tangible results by using certain interventions, even if they're not still in those good places now for clarity reasons.

**Rachael Myers** 38:26

Yeah. Thank you. Well said. And I hope that you can see there's a lot of appreciation for you coming up in the comments for your work and note that you are an awesome explainer from Peter Shapiro. Thank you for that, I agree. One last question before we move on from again from Councilmember Gunther. Is there anything happening on the front to make home people who are experiencing homelessness a protected class at the conversation that is sometimes, you know popped up here and there.

38:58

Yeah, there have been some efforts. And they take different forms so there have been a different homeless bills of rights efforts, which we certainly at the Law Center support. We support the Washington State effort to do that. We hope that that we'll see you know additional legislation to enact a homeless Bill of Rights and prohibit criminalization and to promote some of the policies like right to counsel and housing cases that that actually do work protected status is something that we've seen primarily at a local level. And in different forms as I said so for example right now the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is looking at adding housing status as a protected class under existing law and the city. DC has looked at a similar effort. It is something that hasn't taken hold in the way that we would like, but that is certainly an option, because people do face discrimination and access to public places to housing to employment, based on their housing status alone, and all of that has a disparate impact on black and brown people who are disproportionately unhoused. So there are a lot of great reasons to be looking at that as a policy intervention as well.

**Rachael Myers** 40:18

Great. Thank you so much. There's one last question if there's a link to the website that you would like to direct folks to if you maybe want to put that in the chat and we'll also share it out in the follow up email. Thank you again so much for being here and if we get other questions, we'll send them your way.

40:36

Absolutely. I'll stick around. Thank you. Thank you all.

**Rachael Myers** 40:38

Yeah. So we'll move on now to our next topic, we've got two folks. Like I said earlier, who are going to talk about implementing the eviction Rental Assistance Program in their communities. Do we have Cruz Thompson from rural resources with us. Yeah. Can you hear me, we can, yeah, being here I know you're, you're actually off today so you're joining from a vacation I believe.

41:03

Yeah, so I apologize in advance for any interruptions from a toddler.

41:07

That's okay. Go ahead. Okay, so

41:11

I'm Chris Thompson I'm the emergency and transitional housing manager for role resources for Stevens ferry In Lincoln County. So, how we're intending to administer the eviction rent Assistance Program is we've started with a calling system for all clients in need to call in and leave a voicemail, all these voicemails will go to a single email. And then with that we have five staff, including me who will be responsible for one day a week to view the email. And then we've also partnered with our victim services tribal outreach program to assist with our underserved population in the area. The five staff who will be viewing the email will contact the client by phone to complete the eligibility packet and the staff will be responsible for as many of the columns as they have on their day. Our application packet has our agency intake form the household information and eligibility form. And in that, that form we will be asking for verification of income through pay stubs, Social Security award letters benefits verification. But if they're unable to provide that to us we will ask them if they wish to just self certify and we will take that as their income. We also have our consent form to talk with landlords that'll be signed verbally, and we also have the DSHS consent form. Verify income if applicable. And then we'll have the landlord family or friend payment agreement. We will complete as much of that information on that form as we can with the tenant, and then we will contact the landlord directly to verify their connection. And this form will be sent through either email mail or fax for a signature, or the landlord will be able to stop at one of our offices to sign the form. If our if the landlord is not able to complete any of these we will accept an email verification from that landlord of accepting the payment agreement. W nine will be required on for new landlords we have not worked with. And then we also have our fair market rent charge for each of the counties, and then we will keep proof of income in each client file. Our goal is for each household to call in that is found to be eligible, is to have their application completed and processed within 24 to 72 hours, this timeline is of course going to depend on how long it takes to get the landlord's approval of their forms. Each staff is going to be responsible for completing a report of all the clients they assist on their day watching the email these reports will be done weekly, and then every Friday, each staff person is going to send the report to me to compile, so that way we can review the costs and the demographics of the people that we've done the biggest difficulties on proceeding with this is getting the landlord friend or family member to sign the payment agreement form. And then because we're in a rural area we could also have difficulty getting back into contact with a client after they have reached out to us for assistance. So that's that's our intentions right now for how we're going to administer the program. Of course I'm sure things will change as the grant presses.

**Rachael Myers** 44:32

Yeah, thank you Chris that's helpful. Yeah, dude. Can you tell us how, how much money you've received or you're going to receive. And do you have any estimations of how many people or how many households that will be able to serve.

44:46

So we have budgeted about 380,000 for the rental assistance for Stevens ferry Lincoln County. Even though we don't have the. We don't have the signed contract yet we have about $10,000 ready to sign in the public. We have a. We I reached out to the landlords when we got a notification of this grant. And so they've sent us a couple of tenants, but we are gonna have to spend out about 18,000, a week to spend out the entire grant.

45:22

So we'll just kind of see how it goes.

**Rachael Myers** 45:26

And do you have any kind of rough guesses or estimates about how that amount of money, sort of matches the need that you're expecting to see.

45:36

I expect to spend it out. Every landlord that I've reached out to, they have at least a couple people that have fallen behind in rent. Yeah.

**Rachael Myers** 45:45

Great. Well, thank you. We really appreciate, hear, and appreciate you taking time when you're when you're on vacation, let you get back to your toddler if you'd like to do that. Yeah, of course. You're welcome. But you're welcome to stay as well but thank you.

46:00

Yeah, thank you.

**Rachael Myers** 46:03

So we'll move on to Kathy Lance from Grays Harbor county Catherine thanks for being here. Do you want to give us your update.

46:10

Sure, yeah, thanks for having me and it's also great to hear about what other communities are doing with this program because as most of you probably are doing as well we're doing a little bit of building the plane while we're flying it so also happy to hear different ideas and models. So for our in Grays Harbor County. Our allocation from the irap program is about $825,000. We also have another allocation specifically for youth and young adults that is going to our local community action agency, have another $95,000 so we're just under $920,000 total that we'll be allocating in the community so really significant resource. We anticipate that that will serve about 500 clients, total, give or take, that may turn out to be different depending on if folks only need a portion of their rent or if the rents are for larger household sizes so could bury. And the way that we're planning on implementing the program is to keep ourselves at public health as kind of a centralized resource for processing the applications but partnering with community partners who are going to be working with clients that might have this need. So the will kind of be the hub and then the partner agencies will be this folks who might be encountering people that have this need, helping them fill out the applications and then sending those on to us at public health. And we chose this model for a couple of reasons. One, we really want to make sure that we have a diverse group of partner agencies that particularly are interacting with clients who maybe haven't accessed social services before this might be a new need for them so we want to make sure that we're partnering with agencies who might be capturing folks who aren't going to show up at the front door of our local community action agency, and as well as some other kind of non traditional partners like churches or schools that might be encountering folks who have needs. We still definitely anticipate that a large majority of the applications and the need will come through our community action agency just because they are a known entity in our community and a resource, and they have a lot of experience with working with landlords working with clients processing this type of paperwork, all that piece so they're definitely going to be a big partner for us but we're also looking at expanding that into other partnerships. So we're hiring a temporary staff here at public health to do a lot of the communication planning, working with the partners, making sure they have technical assistance and training for those partners that might be new to doing this sort of paperwork and documentation, all of those things, making sure they're they're ready, and then doing the reporting, because of the requirement about equitable distribution we want to make sure we have eyes on that quickly and early and comprehensively so that if we are needing to reach out to certain subpopulations because we're not getting applications from those groups that we can do some concerted outreach quickly and get those dollars to those groups. And so, the partners as I mentioned, we're working with cap. We also have an information equity task force that is part of our COVID response here at public health that is working with Spanish speaking populations individuals with disabilities, and other folks that might be disproportionately impacted by COVID and or less likely to be accessing the new and fortified safety net programs that have been put into place so we're working with them to identify agencies and avenues that we might be best reaching people in the community. And we're also working with our local Northwest Justice Project. Legal Services and the expansion of the eviction moratorium was of course a win but it also is a little bit of a double edged sword, because we had anticipated that that may sunset and so we've been talking with Northwest Justice Project and our court system to try to incorporate this application process as part of the unlawful detainer filing process so that folks who are headed that route would be asked to pursue this option first. So we just might have to get a little bit more creative about how we encounter folks who might be falling behind in payments or landlords who were

50:42

concerned about non payment, but they're definitely still a partner with us. Um, let's see. Oh, and we're also we've also worked been reaching out to, we have a local neighborworks organization who does housing counseling and they received a grant for to expand their housing counseling and budgeting services so we're looking into how we can offer those resources to clients who might apply for assistance through this program so that if they're interested in, additional counseling or budgeting support that they could have free access to those online resources through this grant that neighborworks has. We also have a local credit union that has some individual development account options and so we are going to be looking at putting information in the application packets for folks who want to reach out to that credit union to talk about asset building, and we've thought about this particularly for the population in our community that is accessing Social Security or social security disability as their primary source of income. So those sources of income might not have been disrupted by COVID per se as much as employment, but those individuals are still rent burdened, they're still in a typically in a situation where rent can be challenging to pay for so how can we use this resource as a way to benefit those clients that might not be as directly impacted by COVID but could still benefit from this resource as a way to build some assets, who are looking at that. And also, I think, just a couple of things about communication. I think one challenge that we've experienced, is that commerce did put out a press release about this resource to let folks know it was available, which is great. But however the press release included a link to contact information for all the counties of so folks who reach out to them and find out how they could get assistance. So, we weren't quite spooled up for a real big influx in calls from folks who wanted to know about how to get this resource. So we've been working with our local media to, in conjunction to that press release, let folks know that the process development is in the works, and where they can go to get information so that there's not a mismatch or of expectations or disappointment or clients feeling like they. That's not an option for them when it's just not an option yet. So we've been trying to manage that. The other thing that we've been really mindful about in messaging about this program is the concern for folks in the community or other partners to see an influx of resources for homelessness, when in fact that this is a very specific resource for eviction prevention so we just want to be real mindful about how we message about this program so that there's not a mismatch of expectations when we have a huge influx of resources and there's still folks who are sleeping outside and and can't access shelter things like that so we're just mindful about that. I think that is the basics of our program so yeah so we're kind of using a hub and spoke model to make sure that people are getting access in the community to this resource but seeing ourselves as public health as the, the centralized where all that information and applications are coming so that we can ensure that we can be responsive if there's populations that aren't getting access.

**Rachael Myers** 54:24

Great. Thank you, Kathy that was really really helpful and thank you for all the work you're doing. It's a like we've said a few times, that's a really big lift. And note Ted's, you know, comment, comment that it was a mistake and the way commerce publicized it i mean this is everybody like Kathy said is sort of building the plane while flying it and we're, it's a balance between you know getting information out to people and and also trying to manage expectations and I appreciate appreciate that note, and also the added sort of challenge that those of you in communities are, are you know working through with people who are just really desperate for help paying their rent, and of course they're going to reach out to you and I don't know that there's a right answer for how we could have, how we could manage getting the information out and also preventing a delusion confusion for folks so

55:18

yeah and also know that it's a very tight timeline so we totally appreciate the desire to get information out about this resource at all levels as quickly as possible because we have such a short turnaround time to get a large amount of resources out into the community so yeah totally appreciate that, that crunch. Yep, yep.

**Rachael Myers** 55:39

Um, there was one note, I just wanted to ask before we move on. Thank you again Trista Cassie I'm sorry if folks have other questions feel free to put them in the chat. There was one note I'll just ask Liz Mills noted a survey that the Eastside Human Services forum is has out to help develop their legislative agenda Liz if you would just in the chat let people know, are you looking if you're looking for feedback from all around the state or from just people in East King County. And then there's also Oh good, someone has offered to help there was a question for someone who's working with someone living in a car and Maureen I see that you've offered to help that person figure that out. Thank you for that. Okay well again thanks Cassie and we'll move on to our federal update now Thank you. Joey from the National local Housing Coalition for being here. I think you've been here for most of this call, but as you know we've been talking about our state eviction rent Assistance Program 100 million dollars of our cares act and how that's getting rolled out. We know that that is a drop in the bucket, not insignificant not unimportant but really a drop in the bucket compared to what's needed in communities all around Washington state so we are working in an ongoing way with NLA hc the National Income Housing Coalition, and others to push Congress to invest significantly added significant additional resources to prevent evictions and prevent the wave of homelessness that will come from the evictions that we expect to see unless we can, unless we can figure out how to solve this. So, Joey we know things have kind of stalled in DC, we want to know what we can do to be helpful so I'll turn it to you to, to give us an update.

**Joey Lindstrom** 57:22

Thank you, Rachel for having me. And thank you for the ongoing excellent advocacy that you all are doing at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. It really is essential and extremely important. So the update is an update on on sort of advocacy and then an update on on where we're at. Um, you know I was saying to one of my co workers earlier that I never really would have expected that they would have left for August recess without passing a coronavirus spending package. And I guess that's just kind of the nature of Washington DC, these days. You should know that if you ever talk to somebody in DC who has a job like mine and they tell you what's going to happen. They're just making stuff up because like there are constant surprises here. I think for those of you who are like me and eager to see a very strong spending package for housing. There's a lot into, there's a lot that's happened, that should make you feel like there's a lot more leverage toward the heroes act that was passed by the House, rather than on the heels act which is being introduced by the Senate, specifically that every day that goes by, with eviction moratoriums being expired and every day that goes by as people without the additional support and unemployment insurance and other incomes can't pay their rent. There's more eviction there's more rise in need and so forth. And that just puts more pressure on legislators to eventually come to an agreement that will be beneficial to more and more people in need. Right. The what what's happening right now actually has very little to do with policy and very much to do with theater and posturing right. It seems that senators want to appear tough on spending, whether or not they actually care about being in the end to tough on spending they're trying to demonstrate that appearance. And so, amidst the theater, as many of you know, 30 million American households face the threat of eviction and upcoming third eviction. And we've calculated A new report with the Aspen Institute eviction lab. The COVID-19 defense project, and I'll share that in the chat and in the follow up. It's a really good report that provides estimates on the tsunami of evictions that we know is coming. If there isn't traditional rental assistance made available and additional assistance made available to state and local governments that report is really helpful for data, but we're also really encouraging folks to share their stories. And I know in Washington story banging on poverty and on housing has been something you've worked on in the past. It's something we're trying to to include in an upcoming day of action that we're doing in partnership with the coalition on human needs. Specifically, you might have seen our call to action earlier today that next Monday. And no you're not learning about this with short notice it was just kind of decided on in the last few days. Next one next Monday. We're going to do a day of action largely around social media, but with as many calls and emails and meetings as possible. Um, but it'll be August 24th and the hashtags we're really using and the emphasis that we're going with is hashtag do your job and hashtag, get back to work. I'll make sure to share this call to action with john and maybe he can get it out to the list if you're not already on our list, but the call to action contains within it some examples of some of the things you might be doing on Monday, and Monday is a particular day because under the federal eviction moratorium. Once the once a moratorium expired landlords were required to provide 30 days notice, and that 30 days ends on Monday, and it's for that reason that we're sort of taking this action. It might be true in the end that the house might come back, also next week very briefly, they will not be coming back to do any work on a negotiated spending package they might come back to do work on a USPS bill, um, that timing might be coincidental. In the end, but we're really focusing on the end of the eviction moratorium as the bite. In our particular week of action. So, we have created with our help with the help from our friends at coalition on human needs a story banking forum where we can collect as many stories as possible about people who are facing eviction and other hardships due to the pandemic. Now I really want to focus on why we're doing some work on stories and it's because many members of Congress are not believing us that there is a tsunami of evictions approaching. There's some concerns that asked and others in the housing advocacy community are being alarmist about what might happen, right. And there are several things that are contributing to the reality that so far. With the exceptions in some cities, we haven't seen the big spike quite yet. There are several reasons for that some are courts need to get their act back together before they can start processing filings landlords, in many cases, have heard about the Act, the potential for future rental assistance, and they're facing a decision now between evicting someone who's accumulated five months of rent arrears that they could potentially recoup through rental assistance or evicting that person, and never getting a dime. In the end, right so there are a lot of landlords who are being really cagey about whether to pursue an eviction if there's a potential promise of rental assistance on the horizon. But it's all contributed to an atmosphere in which there are no journalists writing articles about whether or not evictions are surging, and the truth is, right now, outside of a few communities and states, they're not yet, but they will be. And so, we're in a moment where we are so eager to be able to tell the stories of people who are at risk of eviction or who have gone through eviction in the past, but they were stabilized by rental assistance and that is what provided them with housing stability that enhanced their livelihoods and helped them to secure better health care outcomes and education outcomes and so forth. We're really eager to share as many of these stories as possible so that policymakers can start taking the moment, a bit, a bit more seriously from a housing standpoint. I will say that the leadership and the Democratic leadership in the Congress has been very supportive of housing priorities and they haven't backed down actually at all, we've seen no signs of slipping on housing it's not being traded away for other things that they want. And we have seen several republicans including very significantly Senator Mike crepeau of Idaho, say that rental assistance will be a part of any final negotiated package that took a lot of work and a lot of advocacy from folks in Idaho, but also from folks who are getting their members of Congress like in Washington so fired up about the need for rental assistance that there's a lot of pressure within Congress, but senator Crapo and other Republican senators who wants to negotiate, how much rental assistance will be in the final package can't do so until there's an agreement on the top line number of how much will be spent. And the period of time that the next spending package will cover. And so, Senator crepeau in the Senate Banking Committee might come up with a number anywhere from 10 billion to 100 billion that we know is needed, but they're not really moving on that negotiation until the top line negotiations are complete, and as as you all know, that's at a standstill which brings me back to hashtag do your job and hashtag get back to work, which is really what we're going to be rallying around. Next one day. We've got some sample tweets and some sample script for anyone who's sending in an email or making a call. So we've got a lot of materials that you can use on Monday and please let me know if you have any questions.

**Rachael Myers** 1:05:24

Thanks Joey. Could you talk about. So in Washington state as you know we have two democratic senators. The pushes to get the Senate, you know to follow the house's lead in the house has already passed as you said the heroes act. Can you talk a little bit about why it's important for us to continue to reach out to our senators, I think you touched on this. But, you know, we've.

**Joey Lindstrom** 1:05:48

Yeah. Yeah. And sorry for those of you who are regular attendees and who might have heard me say things like this in the past but the truth is, you know, marketing experts will say in order to get through to someone you need to communicate with them seven different times or seven different touches you know that sort of thing. Um, that's a little bit true when we're talking about advocacy for members of Congress. But one thing you you absolutely need to know is that other advocates who have other priorities in this particular package, whether it's small business loans or whether it's support for national parks or whatever. They're constantly talking to their members of Congress to make sure that they're remaining strong in their resolve to push for those priorities right. So in some cases it's, you know, we need to take our supporters and make sure that they continue to hear from us. We want generally a culture in congress of. When these negotiations are going on oh no you can't get rid of rental assistance, my constituents will be so furious right like I'm hearing from them all the time about witnesses. We want a culture of no no no the eviction moratorium is essential. We need that we can't trade that away in a final package like that's got to be something where we hold the line right. This is something that's continually established through your ongoing discussions. And if you've already been in touch with your members of Congress, sometimes the most helpful thing to do is to provide new information that supports your previous asks, So if there's a news article that tells the story of someone going through a homelessness as a result of job loss and so forth, share that article with the staff person who you might have recently exchanged emails with or done a virtual meeting with right. If there's a new data report that comes out, share that and sort of think of your advocacy, as an ongoing conversation where you're continually offering more data more narrative and more expertise to the assets you've already made. If your members of Congress are very supportive and indeed in Washington that will normally be your your posture, most of your members of Congress are pretty supportive. The staff will just be grateful for all of the additional information that you give them because that gives them more tools to then advance these priorities when they are being advocates with other members of Congress, right. So remember that your member of Congress isn't done with their work when they sign on to what you want. We also need them to wrangle other members of their caucuses other members of their committees and other members of Congress other staff members they need to be advocates so in some ways, we need to make our supporters become our champions, and in other ways we just need them to know that their constituents care, a whole hell of a lot about housing, such that they don't start negotiating on those priorities like you've already heard you know Speaker Pelosi is willing to come down from, you know, $3 trillion to $2 trillion, and so forth. You know what's getting cut in that process. There's been some questions people have asked you know should we modify our asks to reflect you know what needs to be negotiated in a final deal. And my answer to that is a strong No, right, our role in all of this is being the strongest advocates that we can be on the issues where we have expertise and perspective right and those are housing issues and other people will be the strongest advocates, they can be on their issues. It's really the job of the members of Congress to figure out what rolls off the table in the final conversations and and I really hope what you'll be doing is just making sure that they know their constituents care very deeply about emergency rental assistance and eviction moratorium that's comprehensive and nationwide and covers all renters 11 point 5 billion in emergency solutions grant money for homeless service agencies, and then additional revenue, including 100,000, new emergency vouchers that will help people remain stable in their housing, moving forward. Um. Other questions.

**Rachael Myers** 1:09:41

Thank you. There are a couple of questions in the chat one person is asking if you have a link to the story collection form that you mentioned,

**Joey Lindstrom** 1:09:49

I will drop that in right away.

**Rachael Myers** 1:09:50

Yeah, if you can add that and then also drop in the link and we'll, we'll follow send these in the follow up email to also add the link to the new report that you did with the Aspen Institute and others, and then can you see the chat Joe and there's a couple of comment in a question from Kirsten jewel in Kitsap County. First just a note please continue to push for an extension of the time to spend the cares Act funding, do you have any response to that.

**Joey Lindstrom** 1:10:15

Yeah. Um, so we've heard this from a couple of organizations and advocates throughout the country. And it's specific to the coronavirus Relief Fund, most of the time when it comes up, I'm not sure if that's specifically what you're referring to, um, and so for those of you who might not know the coronavirus Relief Fund is a lot of money that's very flexible that went to states and states have to expend that money by the end of the year, right, um, a lot of states a lot of Governor's offices and a lot of advocates feel like the, the pandemic and the recession are dynamic and a lot of their response will change and evolve over time and they want some flexibility into the next year. Um, we haven't really taken a position. We think it's very appropriate. If the coronavirus Relief Fund timeline is extended but we haven't really made that a part of our advocacy, and here's why. One of the key pieces of pushback we're getting from so many Republicans on Capitol Hill is that, why do we need to pass another spending package. Look at all the money that's lying around from the last one, indeed one of the ways that states can strengthen the policy ask for the next spending package is by showing that when they get resources from the federal money from the federal government that they immediately and effectively deploy those resources to address the needs of communities that strengthens our ability to say look, the resources are running out more is needed, right. So, I can understand very easily the, the reasons we would want more time flexibility but there's a political analysis to that which is it really threatens the next spending package so hopefully all that money is being expended as quickly as possible.

**Rachael Myers** 1:12:04

Yeah, thank you for that context, that's very similar to something we heard from Tedd Kelleher from Congress about the eviction rent assistance program funding that they're putting out one more last question, also from Pearson. Do you have any influence our ability to advocate for FEMA to respond better to the National Emergency I know you're doing a lot of work with FEMA. So she's saying to her knowledge zero jurisdictions have actually gotten any FEMA funding for public assistance quarantine isolation or homeless, non congregate sheltering and scheme is now saying that they're going to discontinue pre approval for these activities, and I don't know if you met in Washington jurisdictions haven't gotten that because my understanding is that a number of states have received FEMA or approval to use FEMA funds for that so do we do you want to you want to respond to that.

**Joey Lindstrom** 1:12:53

Yeah. So first of all, Christine you should know we do have a FEMA working group that meets every other Tuesday at three o'clock, where we dig into these issues, specifically, and no a patent on our team tracks this very closely. We have had really for many years long before the coronavirus pandemic. A lot of frustration with the way FEMA has been handling housing issues. As you know, several states have been able to use their FEMA money for hotel sheltering that allows for isolation and quarantine. And a lot of states have been doing that, you might be pointing out in your question that many of those states have not yet received the funding from FEMA to reimburse the expenses that have come from the program. That might be true but I would need to, I would need to check frankly, but it is true that they are now are putting time ended dates on their willingness to pay for this whole hotel sheltering through their funding. So we're working to see that FEMA expands, those, those approvals and allows for longer periods of hotel sheltering through their monies. But honestly, we think a much more likely results, and a much better path is to continue to push for the rental assistance in the heroes act to be a part of a next spending package. I will share with you the registration link for the FEMA working group in the chat box I encourage you to. Oh, it's already there Rachael Myers everybody. Well done. And so that's a working group I think you might really appreciate that question.

**Rachael Myers** 1:14:32

Great, thanks Joey and just I noted that three o'clock is actually 12 123 noon here for us in Washington. Sorry. That's all right. It's three o'clock for you. All right, well I think we're just about out of time we really really appreciate you joining in We so appreciate all the work that nlsc is doing, and we will continue to work with you until we get the get the response that we need from Congress, and we'll put some information out about next weeks or next Monday's day of action and plan to participate in that. So thank you. So before we wrap up, we just have a couple of quick announcements. So we saw I think most of you. Oh yeah. And just a reminder Joey there were a couple of other links you were going to drop in the chat. Yep. In the atomic on that. One thing is that the conference on ending homelessness that we do every year is happening this year it will be remote, of course, it's happening October 7 and eighth. The good part about it being remote is that it will be, I think, much more accessible to a lot more people in our state who may not be able to travel and also have very very significantly reduced registration fees. So we hope that we'll be able to deliver the content and the great information to a much broader audience. JOHN has dropped in the chat there. A link to registration and also to find out what's on the program so there's a lot of information at that link so feel free to take a look at that I hope that you can join us in October, and share it with your networks if there are other folks that you think would be interested in the conference. And then finally, we are also we have just put out many of you probably received an email from us earlier this week, we're doing a survey on our public policy priorities for 2021. The survey will be closing on October 31 at 5pm. So, not a whole lot of time that's the end of next week. First, please feel free to fill out that survey and let us know what you think we should prioritize there's obviously going to be a lot of work that needs to be done a lot of things that we're going to want to ask the legislature to respond to. And we're going to have to prioritize things, because we won't be able to do everything so we do want to hear from you. Did I say something other than August 31 a survey ends August 31, thank you john Thank you Mindy and john has dropped the link in the chat so again you can share that with other folks in your community who you think might want to share their opinions. And with that, it's 1115, and so I will just say thank you again everyone for being here, we'll wrap up, and see you again in about in two weeks. Thank you Bye everybody.

1:17:20

Thank you everybody so much.