

# COVID-19's Impact on Housing and Connecticut's Response: A Discussion with DOH, HUD, CHFA and HomeConnecticut

Monday June 1, 2020

## Question and Answer Summary

**1. Q: Regarding Executive Order 7x:**

- a) Will the eviction moratorium under EO 7X be extended or allowed to expire?
- b) Will the extended rent payment grace periods under EO 7X be announced for June, July or later months?
- c) Will the range of permitted evictions under EO 7X be broadened to cover all non-payment related causes, similar to the CARES Act?

A: Per Department of Housing, there is a group reviewing Executive Order 7x alongside the Governor's office and will have additional information in the next week.

**2. Q: Why did the Emergency Support Function-14 working group do an informal survey? Is there more precise data available as presented today?**

A: Per Department of Housing: Department of housing is working alongside the Governor's office and the data analysis team at the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to look at data from the Department of Labor and other data sources to develop a CT specific model that will provide an accurate estimate on CT's need which is necessary to make decisions on allocations and investment. Per HomeConnecticut: data presented during this presentation is primarily national data and based on models versus CT specific and on the ground data.

**3. Q: How many landlords have answered the landlord survey from the Emergency Support Function-14 working group? How many units do those responses represent?**

A: Per Department of Housing: 462 responses from CT based landlords. We currently are evaluating the information and plan to present information to the Emergency Support Function-14 working group on Wednesday June 3. Survey results will give us an idea on the scope of the issue and potential solutions. The survey responses represent roughly 35,000 units.

**4. Q: What is being done to provide assistance to private housing owners that have been impacted by non-payment of rent and utilities? And would such assistance be tied to any conditions?**

A: Per Department of Housing: We are working diligently with Office of Policy Management, Office of the Governor and ESF-14 on a comprehensive response to housing issues as a result of COVID-19. That includes rent relief, foreclosure prevention and eviction prevention. Landlords and advocates are included in the ESF-14 working group.

**5. Q: How are we preparing for a potential wave of COVID-19 in the fall?**

A: Per Department of Housing: Within the state's emergency response framework, we are working collectively and independently in a series of emergency support response functions not just for what is happening today but what may happen in the next 3, 6 12 months. ESF-14 is a long-term recovery workgroup and has subcommittees including a housing subcommittee. The Department of Public Health and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection are working to address what is happening on the ground today and what will be happening in the future. Expanded testing is an extremely important component to the state's re-opening plan. The Department of Housing will do everything they can to deal with it.

**6. Q: What is being considered to assist landlords suffering loss of rental income and utility payments?**

A: Per Department of Housing: Based on conversation with landlords that are participating in ESF-14. If landlords are paid for the rents they have not collected from tenants. The intent is to keep landlords stable through rent stability or temporary rental assistance to tenants. Details are still being worked out.