

**Updates from the Shelter Task Force:
Week Ending May 22, 2020**

- The Shelter Task Force has been focusing on the re-opening of the community. The Task Force has created two time-limited workgroups that will begin developing specific guidance and protocols that will be added to the next version of the COVID-19 Shelter Guidance Manual. Representatives from any shelter are invited to participate in these work groups. Following is a brief description of the workgroups:
 - **Guidance for outside visitors** entering shelters – The purpose of this group is to develop guidance and protocols for persons entering the shelter who are not employees or clients (e.g., support service providers who need to access shelters to work with residents; volunteers; delivery of donations, et.). Shelters currently have their own procedures in place. This group will develop guidance for shelters to support common best practices.
 - **Guidance for guests coming in and out of the shelters** – The purpose of this group is to develop guidelines to promote common practices among shelters related to clients leaving and returning to the shelter site (e.g. number of times shelter guests can enter and exit; requirements for wearing face coverings, expectations for what precautions guests need to take when they are in the community; procedures for returning to the shelter). This group would be focused on creating a common approach and would include representatives from shelters who are not represented on the Task Force.
 - *If you are a Shelter Provider and interested in participating, please contact Neilia Kelly (nkelly@ccsi.org) and we'll connect you with the group!*

- The Coordinated Entry Landlord Engagement Group has re-convened and its current focus is on creating consistent messaging to landlords about what they can expect from working with housing providers. This includes the steps providers are taking to support tenants and landlords with timely rent payments; processes being used for apartment inspections and move-ins; and the frequency with which providers are engaging tenants and landlords.

- The Shelter Provider Task Force continues to meet to develop and refine strategies to respond to COVID 19 as the community enters the reopening phases. Current work includes:
 - Supporting shelters in continuing to ensure the health and safety of staff and guests
 - A focus on securing permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness to ensure a reduction in hotel guests and to allow shelters to maintain their optimal capacity to allow for social distancing and other safety protocols to minimize exposure to COVID-19.

- The Task Force is also planning to release an updated Guidance Manual in the coming weeks and is working to identify the resources and protocols that will be included in the release. In the meantime, the current version of the **Monroe County Shelter Bed Task Group Guidance Manual**, can be found on the Partners Ending Homelessness website: (https://letsendhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/formidable/31/MonroeCounty_COVID19_ShelterGuidance_v2_4.14.20.pdf)