

SPRING CONFERENCE 2021 VIRTUAL FORMAT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 th	TRACK A: VOUCHERS	TRACK B: COVID & BEYOND
10:00am – 10:30am	Conference Kick Off & 2021 Legislative Update	
10:30am – 12:20pm	PLENARY: Unwinding COVID & Planning for the New Normal: Implementation, Funding & Tracking Issues for Housing Authorities	
12:20pm – 1:00pm	Break for Lunch	
1:00pm – 2:20pm	Using Your HCV Dashboard to Maximize Your Vouchers	COVID Vaccinations & Other Employment Issues in a “Not So Post Pandemic” World
2:20pm – 2:30p	Break	
2:30pm – 4:00pm	PLENARY: State Eviction Moratorium Off Ramp & Other Legal Issues for Housing Authorities	
4:00pm-5:00pm	Networking HH	
THURSDAY, MAY 20 th		
10:00am – 11:00am	PLENARY with NAHRO Candidates	
11:00am – 12:20pm	New Emergency Housing Vouchers In Depth with HUD	COVID Communications: Messaging & Opening as We Transition to the New Normal
12:20pm – 1:00pm	Break for Lunch	
1:00pm – 2:20pm	Up Your Voucher Utilization & What Works with Landlords	COVID Resources for Housing & Addressing Unpaid Rent – Minnesota Housing Update
2:20pm – 2:30pm	Wrap Up & See You in July at the Leadership Retreat	

PLENARY: Unwinding COVID & Planning for the New Normal: Implementation, Funding & Tracking Issues for Housing Authorities

Speaker: Georgi Banna, Director of Policy, NAHRO

What is the status of HUD waivers? What are the administrative issues for the many new housing vouchers? What are the finance and reporting requirements for these COVID resources? How will the new COVID funds benefit public housing? What changes can we expect under the new administration? Join us for our plenary session which will answer these questions and many more! NAHRO staff will help us understand what is available and how to keep track of the many resources available for housing authorities.

PLENARY: State Eviction Moratorium Off Ramp & Other Legal Issues for Housing Authorities

Speaker: Mary Dobbins, Attorney

With the state eviction moratorium still in effect and the roll out of the state rental assistance, Minnesota lawmakers will be making decisions on how best to transition back to a more normal rental market. This transition, however, will include many legal challenges for housing authorities along the way. While the session will provide an overview, it will also allow for robust Q&A. So bring your questions and join us for this timely and informative session..

PLENARY – Meet Your NAHRO Candidates

This year NAHRO members will elect new leadership so join us for a discussion of the vision and future of NAHRO. Our plenary session will feature the national candidates and give you an opportunity to hear directly from them during a facilitated conversation.

TRACK A: Using Your HCV Dashboard to Maximize Your Vouchers

Speaker: HUD Staff

Do you wish you had an easy tool to show your staff and board how your HCV program is doing? Do you have a tool that demonstrates the results of your leasing efforts in your special purpose voucher programs? Can you determine leasing trends of your HCV programs easily and in a data format? This new HCV Data Dashboard will help you answer YES to all of these questions and more. This session will demonstrate HUD's newest tool - Housing Choice Voucher Data Dashboard - that will help you monitor your HCV program, special purpose vouchers, and much more. HUD's HQ expert on the newest tool will share how you can access this dashboard, the reason why you should become familiar with it, and how to use this in addition to the Two Year Tool to monitor your HCV program! Come get some new info!

TRACK B: Employment Issues in a “Not Quite Post-Pandemic” World

Speaker: Joyce Hottinger, Assistant HR Director, League of Minnesota Cities

As we all begin to increase our interactions with colleagues, clients and the public in general, there's a lot to think about. Can or should your agency mandate or incentivize a vaccine? How can we prepare inspectors and others to interact with each other safely? What about employees who want to keep working remotely? Don't miss this opportunity to connect with Joyce to hear her perspectives on best practices on your thorny COVID issues.

TRACK A: New Emergency Housing Vouchers – In Depth with HUD

Speaker: HUD Minneapolis Field Office Staff

Both the 2021 American Rescue Plan and the 2020 COVID Relief Bill funded an expansion of housing choice vouchers available to housing authorities. This session will provide an in depth look at the \$5B in new emergency vouchers. These vouchers will be allocated by HUD formula, will need to be tracked separately and will have administrative implications. This session will help you identify the financial and administrative issues moving forward.

TRACK B: COVID Communications: Messaging & Opening Up as We Transition to the New Normal

Speaker: Dr. Nick Kelley, Public Health Administrator, City of Bloomington

As we begin to return to the new normal, there are many considerations for staff and tenants. This session will feature experts who are dealing with the issues of how best to prepare for “opening up” and what that looks like in 2021. This session will address issues to consider when as you open up your buildings, on-going messaging about masks and vaccinations plus how to manage community spaces in this period of transition.

TRACK A: Up Your Voucher Utilization & What Works with Landlords

Speaker: HUD Staff

Between the eviction moratorium, program requirements and the low vacancy rates, it is always a challenge to recruit and retain landlords in the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Since vouchers are central to the COVID response at the federal level, this session will address the best practices for housing authorities to partner with landlords. This session will help you develop an approach to up your HCV utilization rates.

TRACK B: COVID Resources for Housing & Addressing Unpaid Rent – Minnesota Housing Update

Speaker: Rachel Robinson, Deputy Commissioner with Minnesota Housing

Housing Authorities play an important role in helping households avoid evictions, address unpaid rent & connect with housing assistance. This session will provide an update on the latest rental assistance available in Minnesota. These programs are new and will have many emerging components impacting the clients served by our programs. Our session will include discussion on how best to refer households and help them successfully navigate these rental assistance programs.