

ESG/ CV Spending Plan Office Hours

0:00:06.6 Cherita Claitt: Hello and welcome to the ESG-CV Spending Plan Office Hours Webinar. My name is Cherita Claitt, and I'm a TA provider with TDA Consulting. I'll be introducing today's webinar. The session is being recorded and will last 60 minutes, including time to answer questions from the chat box. During this webinar, all participants will be in listen-only mode. You will only be able to hear today's presentation through your computer speakers. If you're really [0:00:36.9] _____ audio or want to ask the presenter a question, please do so in the chat box on the right hand side of your screen. We will answer as many questions as possible during the Q&A portion of this webinar. After the webinar, please submit any outstanding questions to the HUD AAQ. Presentation slides and recording will be available in the coming weeks. Today, we have Karen Deblasio and Latesha Balam-Totten from the SNAPS Office presenting information today. I'm gonna hand the Webinar over to Karen.

0:01:19.1 Karen Deblasio: Thank you Cherita and welcome everybody. I wanna start off by apologizing. My plan was to be on camera, but my camera is not working, so I am not able to see you guys, or I guess, for you guys to see me. So I apologize for that. But we are very happy to have so many of you on the call today. The slide that you see here just talks about the couple of goals that we have for the session today. We wanna review and remind you guys that some of the progressive expenditure deadlines that are set forth in the ESG-CV notice. And we also wanna go over the spending plan template that many of you received in an email at the end of July. And we wanna go over the components of the spending plan and the submission process. And then as Cherita said, there will be a lot of... Hopefully, there should be lots of time to answer questions at the end. So please, as soon as you come up with a question, please submit it in the chat.

0:02:23.7 KD: So essentially, this slide just highlights what most of you already know, the timeframe that you have to spend your entire allocation and then the progressive deadlines that HUD created through the ESG-CV notice. So again, the entire allocation, as you can see here in the third bullet, you have till September 30th, 2022 to expend the entire allocation. So that's your first and second allocation. Unlike regular ESG that just has a 24-month period, we actually instituted a CARES Act, because the intent of these CARES Act funds were to get into communities immediately. And to help with your COVID response, we instituted some progressive deadlines. And the first is coming up in about six weeks of September 30th, and we're looking to see that folks have spent down, expended or drawn at least 20% of their total allocation. So not just 20% of maybe what you have committed or what's an IDIS, but 20% of both your first and second allocation by September 30th. The second deadline will be in the Spring, and that you have spent 80% of your entire allocation by March 30th, 2022.

0:03:45.6 KD: So today we're gonna focus on the September 30th deadline, like I said, that's coming up in about six weeks. And I just wanna kind of take a minute to pause here and acknowledge... We're talking about these deadlines and it's something that we have to deal with, but I really want to acknowledge the extremely hard work that we know each one of you has been doing every day for over a year now since this pandemic started. Operating during a pandemic, trying to keep our clients safe and your staff safe is extremely challenging, and it's not lost on those of us here at HUD. We are not in shelters every day doing the work that you're doing, but please know that we know what you've been through and what your staff has been through and what you're trying to do. And we also understand that our ESG CARES Act allocation is not the only funds that you all have received to respond to COVID. So, while it's a good thing that you're receiving all these different resources, we also know that that presents a new set of challenges.

0:04:48.8 KD: You know, even outside of a pandemic, just getting all of this extra money is a challenge and we recognize that. So I just wanna make sure folks are clear that we are here to assist you, we're here to talk to you and hear about your challenges and get information from you. Because the last thing that we really wanna do is recapture funds. But that said, many of you who are on the call today may have received an outreach email, as I referenced with it a spending plan template. The outreach email was sent during the last week of July. It had a message from Norm Suchar, the Director of the SNAPS Office, and this optional spending plan template. So if you were contacted, it means that based on your current draw rate, we are projecting that you will not meet the 20% deadline at the end of September. But first, I wanna take a moment to explain what we're looking at, what HUD is looking at. So, we monitor draws weekly. We get a report every Friday that shows us basically what the draw rates of everybody... Of all ESG recipients are. So we look at that weekly, and when I talk about draws, I'm talking about what's an IDIS, right?

0:06:09.3 KD: Based on the ESG rule, you're only required to draw a quarterly. That's a minimum requirement. You can certainly draw more often, but the minimum requirement is drawing quarterly. So, while we're looking at ESG through IDIS, if it draws through IDIS, we're also looking at expenditure data. Now, in the next slide I'm gonna talk a little bit about the difference between expenditures and draws, but just know that we're looking at draws and we're looking at expenditures and both of those kinda count for meeting that 20% deadline. So, if you received the email and you received the optional spending plan template, I wanna take a minute to encourage you guys to take some time to look through the template, and you'll see it here if you haven't seen it yet, and submit that to HUD if you can. It's really, really important that we have information. The document was provided to you, for you to provide us with information about your allocation, it's so important for us to have this information, I cannot stress it enough.

0:07:20.0 KD: It's critical that you either complete the template and send us the information around your challenges, if you're projected not to meet, or send us an email. And an email with a little bit of detail about challenges, not just an email that says, Oh, we're good. Now, I will preface that and I've already seen a question in the chat that if between us sending the email and let's say today or the end of the week, this week or something, you have drawn 20%, or your expenditures are at 20%, then you are good, you don't have to submit the spending template. So just know that. We're really looking for folks who... And there are many people out there who for various reasons won't be able to meet that deadline, and we just need to understand why and what's happening. Again, I just... I cannot stress the importance enough that we need information to make decisions and recommendations. You know, tell us your challenges, tell us when you think you may meet? We're hearing from people, "Hey, we're not gonna make it on September 30th, but we think that we'll meet up by December 15th," just let us know that.

0:08:33.6 KD: Again, I can't stress enough how badly we need the information, the worst thing you can do at this point is to just basically remain silent. We need to understand what's happening. If you can submit it by the end of this week, if you haven't already, that would be great. The sooner the better, because again, the deadline is coming up in six weeks, and we are going to have to take the information that we have from all of our recipients and make recommendations and make decisions based on the information. So, I will say just... I think Latesha... I see several questions in the chat about the template and how to submit it and that sort of thing, and I think that will all be answered if you hang in to the next couple of slides. I did promise kind of a quick explanation of expenditures versus draws, so that's the slide that we're on now. So again, draws are what's in IDIS. We monitor

that pretty much on a weekly basis, at a minimum, you should draw quarterly. We welcome you to draw more, but that's not required.

0:09:39.6 KD: Expenditures are defined here on the slide. They are... They include actual cash disbursements for a direct charge, for a good or a service, an indirect cost or the accrual of a direct charge for a good or a service or an indirect cost. So, expenditures include not only drawn funds, but also incurred costs, and this is why we're looking at... We are also looking at expenditures to see whether or not you meet the 20%, because if you see, if you go back to the notice it does say, expend... That the grantee or your recipient have to expend the money. We don't specifically say, we're only looking at draws, which is good, right? Because I know I worked at the local level. Sometimes quarterly draws is the best you can do, and that's okay, but if you have expenditure data, that can show us the expenditures that you have, then that's also... That will... For this documentation to explain or show that you will meet the 20% deadline.

0:10:42.0 KD: So the key thing here on this slide is the bottom bullet. You may meet the 20% expenditure requirement, by either drawing down at least 20% of your funds in IDIS or through the accrual of ESG-CV cost as reported in your QPR. So, the next slide, I wanna just kinda touch on again. Latesha is gonna join in a couple of slides and go through the spending plan, kind of like page by page, but I just wanna kinda give you an idea of what we were thinking with the spending plan and why we kind of created it the way that we did. So, we do ask for data, we ask for some numbers in the spending plan, but then we also have very targeted questions in the spending plan, and they're really intended to pinpoint some common situations or challenges that you're probably facing that are impacting your ability to reach the deadline. There's a couple of examples here on the slide. You know, if you've got folks that are leased up then you're gonna be paying rental assistance for the next 12 months for a number of clients, that's not a big expense right upfront, right?

0:11:54.3 KD: That's \$200 bucks, \$300 bucks, \$500 bucks a month per client, so it's expenditures and you can't draw down for all of that right now, but that's something that you need to tell us and there's a way for you to communicate that on the spending plan template. Expenditures for shelter projects that have a different spending trajectory, all of those things, these are things that we wanna hear about, so that we can again make an informed decision on what our recommendations are with respect to recapturing and that sort of thing. So again, we wanna work with you, we do not wanna recapture. It is not our intent to recapture money, but this is something that is being really kind of heavily scrutinized, so we definitely have to... Need information so that we can make informed recommendations on whether we think recipients are gonna meet the deadline set forth in the notice or not.

0:12:55.3 KD: Last thing I wanna leave you guys with is, I wanna plant some seeds for some discussions possibly in your community. This is a good time as you're looking at the spending plan, you're answering some of these questions, maybe this is causing you to kind of rethink the way that you have... You originally projected or originally planned to spend your money. Things have changed, obviously. Thankfully, we're in a bit of a different position than we were spring 2020 when the pandemic was starting, and even last fall. So, this is a good time to look at maybe re-programming or shifting some of your money. Re-evaluate your strategy, see if you can use this once in a lifetime opportunity to focus some of these CARES Act resources on getting those folks that are the most vulnerable in your community house. If you've implemented non-congregate shelter during the pandemic, this is an opportunity to permanently house folks that otherwise

probably will return to unsheltered situations.

0:13:55.9 KD: I just wanna encourage you to think about how you could possibly shift your funds around. There's a couple more suggestions, reprogramming prevention funds to Rapid Re-Housing. Use the treasury emergency rental assistance program dollars to deal with eviction prevention. Consider using some of your ESG CARES funding to provide supportive services, to support households who are getting emergency housing vouchers. You can use ESG-CV, or ESC in response to COVID for landlord incentives, and landlord engagement activities. Vaccine incentives, to get our clients vaccinated. We know this is a population that many are hesitant. So, this may make a difference in your vaccine roll out. So again, if you have any questions about what's eligible, you can reach out to your CARES Act desk officer, you can reach out to your field office. But just think about how you planned on spending the money and see if you wanna make any changes, any mid-course corrections.

0:15:00.7 KD: Finally, I just wanna remind you, when talking about changes, you still are... You have to follow... But if you repurpose funds from one activity to another, if it does require a substantial amendment, you do need to follow what's outlined in the regs on how to do that. If you're not sure if what you wanna do, it does require a substantial amendment, reach out to your field office, they're a great resource for you. They'll be able to tell you. You can also submit an AAQ if you're not sure. And just remember that the public comment period and citizen participation requirements were waived for both your CARES Act allocation, for the entire allocation and for any annual ESG that you were using to respond to COVID.

0:15:48.3 KD: So the only requirement, you don't have to do the public comment period and the citizen participation for this, but the only requirement is that you publish the plan changes on your government website. So that hopefully can help... Provides a bit of an incentive or help for those of you who might wanna think about re-purposing some of your funds. So hopefully, this gave you some things to think about. What I'd like to do now is hand it over to Latesha Balam-Totten, she is going to go through the spending plan template. I think this will answer some questions that folks have been putting in the chat, and then we will be happy to answer some more of your questions when we're through showing you the template. So Latesha, I wanna hand it over to you.

0:16:38.3 Latesha Balam-Totten: Great, and thank you, Karen. Hello, everyone. So, as Karen just stated I will provide a run-through of a template. Okay. So, our theme is very mindful of your limited time and hard work within the communities, so we are hoping the requested information is readily available within your PMs to quickly spend down the ESG-CV funds, according to the notice. On the screen, we have the instructions, which would have been page one of the attachment sent out several weeks ago by the CARES Act desk officer. So today, I'm going to reiterate these instructions. So, page one of the actual template begins with a snapshot of the recipient's grant award and spending data. The spending data will include the IDIS drawdown, as well as the expenditures reported within the QPRs or quarterly performance report and save. Moving down midway to the FY21 expenditures chart, we tried to mirror the QPR, so the activities and component price are the same. We did add the remainder of FY21, now that includes July 1 through September 30th. And we are looking for the information that HUD would not have, okay? So it should indicate your communities' plans to reach that 20% goal.

0:18:43.4 LB: The line below the chart, request your expenditure data from your initial recording period through June the 30th. And we understand that your initial reporting period, it will vary

through... Within the communities. The date would be January 21st, 2020, or later. And at the bottom of page one, we have the percentage. Again, we're looking for this number to be 21... I'm sorry, to be 20 or above. And as you see, I just randomly type in some numbers, and the percentage is automatically calculated. But each template is unique to your community's ESG-CV funding. Okay, so now we're on page two of four. As I mentioned, we're looking for the percentage, the estimated expenditures to be 20 or greater. If it is 19 or below, then that indicates your community's expectations to miss the 20% deadline at the end of September. So, for questions one and two, we have requested information on the why, how, and when. As much information that can be provided is encouraged. We did not want to limit any responses. Instead we wanted to accommodate your answer.

0:20:28.0 LB: So if you see for question three, there's a scroll bar that will appear to accommodate the response. Once you are finished answering the questions, the scroll bar leaves and you have the plus sign in the bottom right-hand corner. And this will indicate to the CARES Act desk officer that there's additional information to review. Page three of four for rapid re-housing activities, those communities that's providing this service, we are requesting data that is estimated for the remainder of the year, the remainder of the calendar year, so that would take us into fiscal year '22, quarter one. On the top row, we are requesting information by household, so that would include your single adults and families. It's not per individual, but per household unit. And on the second row is the estimated expenditures, the total dollar amount for that month. So for the second row, we are requesting information for the total households, this would not be an average, but a sum.

0:21:58.7 LB: For questions 1b and 2b, I wanted to point out, that we did provide an opportunity to include a narrative that will support your responses above. And we're looking to see the justification of the estimated numbers, which can be "pending applications," "previous rate", or even "current housing stability plan". The last page I wanted to point out for technical assistance, this would apply to all respondents. We are asking if your community has requested TA, and if so, what is the status of that request? And most importantly, we would like to know how else can HUD provide support? As Karen mentioned earlier, we know the hard work that is going on in the communities, and the bottom line is, we're all in this together. Because we wanted to keep this template simple, there was a lot of areas that we did not cover, so we did want to provide an opportunity in question two, under TA, if there is information that your community feels is pertinent to relate to HUD in regards to the 20% expenditure deadline, then you do have an opportunity to provide that information.

0:23:28.4 LB: At the bottom of the page, there's a submit button that I click. I actually have a few monitors going on. So once you hit that submit button, a new email automatically generates. If you can see the two columns, I'm sure it's pretty small, but there is a group email that is provided, and that includes all of the CARES Act staff who may be involved in the review process. You may save the template as a PDF, as you see here, but we are encouraging everyone to please use that submit button to submit your template. Okay. And we're gonna go to the next slide. I wanted to acknowledge our entire team, and that includes Janet Jones, Corinne Donnelly, special thank you to Aaron Kott, Omar Smally, and Harper Sutherland, and we were led by Melissa Grogan, Karen Singer, and Karen. If you have any suggestions or concerns in regards to the template, please note them in the chatbox, they will be appreciated, and Karen, that is all for me.

0:24:58.9 KD: Thank you, Latesha. So, we do have a half an hour left. We unfortunately are not able to unmute folks to get questions kinda personally, but what we will do, I am going through the chat. I have seen a couple of questions that I can go over right now. And while I'm doing that, keep

them coming. We definitely don't have to stay on here until 2:30, if we're able to answer all of your questions. But let me just go ahead and start. Gonna keep putting your questions in chat, and I will go ahead and start asking or answering, sorry, some of those that were asked early on. A couple of basic questions. First of all, if you want the spending template, but you did not get it, there's a couple of things. If you know that you are not going to meet the 20% deadline and you think, "Well, I should have gotten this, and I did not." Know that we are sending... We sent the outreach email, and all the outreach that the CARES Act team does is sent to the contacts that we have, that we've pulled out of the Sage Reporting Repository.

0:26:04.7 KD: So, if you're on this call because you work on ESG and CARES Act in your community, but you didn't get an outreach email, talk to other folks who also work on ESG, and see if they did receive the email and have the template. If you would like the template, and maybe that person is saying they didn't get the email either/or if you are projected to meet the 20%, but you still would like a copy of this template, absolutely. There's no need for you to submit it at this point, but you can certainly have a copy of the template. Just submit an AAQ, we've actually had a couple of people do that already, and we will gladly send a copy of the template out to you. It is not posted anywhere, and the reason behind that is, the template was actually tailored to each community. So, each template that... Or the template that each community that received one got actually has information about their total allocation of ESG, and what the 20% amount is, and all of that.

0:27:06.7 KD: So, I mean, this isn't just a generic template that we can just post a link to for anybody, because there are fields in here that we actually pre-populate based on your expenditures and your drawdowns. So, that's why you don't see it posted anywhere, like we post a lot of our other documents. But by all means, if you want a copy, you can submit an AAQ. As far as sending, I think this was answered, but as far as sending the... Submitting the spending template, it is a fillable PDF form, and there's a submit button at the end. And so, Latesha showed you, you don't have to email it to anybody specific. When you hit submit it's going to come to all of the CARES Act desk officers, and into a box where we're having them all submitted. So, you don't have to worry about, am I submitting it to the right person, or anything like that, just go ahead and hit submit. Again, the deadlines are based on expenditures and draws. Again, we recognize that a lot of localities... The best you can do is meet the minimum, which is perfectly fine, quarterly draw, that's what you're required to do for ESG, and so, that's perfectly fine.

0:28:19.3 KD: But we know that most likely, if you have subs that are doing a lot of this work in your community, they're probably invoicing you probably monthly. And so, you probably do have expenditure data that, in many cases, may actually be a little more accurate around what you've actually... Costs that you've actually incurred, based on those monthly expenditures, and not necessarily on your quarterly draw. So, that's why we're looking at both. Because we know that... We can't force you to do something more than what you're required, and that quarterly draw is all that you're required to do. So, know that we're looking at those expenditures and at draws. I'm encouraging folks to submit the plan, the sooner the better. A couple of people said, "We can't do it this week, but we're gonna do it next week." That's great. Just know that we're working on briefings right now. I'll let our leaders here know what we're seeing and what we're hearing from folks, so, just... The sooner that you can get it in, the better. Again, acknowledging we know how busy you guys are.

0:29:30.2 KD: So, whatever information you can get us is really key. I'm just scrolling through here. I see a couple of questions asking, "Can we use CARES Act for this activity or that activity?"

I'm not gonna... Those are pretty specific, and oftentimes, when we get those questions, we need a little bit more information. So, if you are taking advantage of what I said in some of my final slides about maybe rethinking how you can spend some of your CARES Act money, given things like the eviction moratorium, and things like that, please... Sorry. Please submit an AAQ, or if you have your CARES Act desk officer's email, if you've been in contact with them, many of you submit questions directly to your CARES Act desk officer, and that's totally fine. But I don't wanna get into answering specific questions about specific eligible costs without being able to have more of a one-on-one discussion with you.

0:30:33.9 KD: So, somebody did ask about the process... Will we have the same process for the March 80% deadline? So, that is our intent. Now, I will preface that with saying, things do change here at HUD. Some things are out of our control, even here in the SNAPS office, but one of the reasons why... When we created this template, when this team that Leticia went through created this template, the thinking was, this is a tool that we have not just for this September 30th deadline, but we also have it potentially for the March deadline. So, again, we expect to conduct the same level of outreach, or the same type of outreach to you all probably sometime in the winter, as we're looking at expenditures, and also looking at your draw rates, as well.

0:31:29.2 KD: I'm scrolling through here, sorry, just bare with me. Oh, this is a very good point, somebody made a point that the July through September expenditure information that's gonna be in the QPR, that is due, it's not due until October 30th, right? It's gonna be for the reporting period up to September 30th, but the QPR is not due until September or October 30th. So just know that, yes, we will... You're not gonna wake up on October 1st [0:31:53.5] ____ no CARES Act money left, that's not going to happen. We definitely... We'll be looking at what you're submitting by October 30th, again, that's the deadline. If you're able to submit earlier than that, we always encourage that, but you obviously have until the 30th to get that quarter's information, and that quarter's expenditures in. So, we definitely will be looking at that as well, but again, let us know, don't wait, and let us know on October 30th that you have the expenditures. If you don't have time... If you know you'll have the expenditures, you don't have time to do the full template, do a part of it, send an email and say, We're spending it on X, and we know that we'll have the expenditures that will be reflected in our quarterly report in September and October, please just let us know. Just don't remain silent, that's the biggest error you can make right now is just kind of remaining silent about all of this.

0:32:55.6 KD: Let me see what other questions we have. The form is not required, it is encouraged. Like I said earlier, I cannot stress enough. We need information, the biggest mistake you can make right now, honestly, is not meeting the deadline, it's not telling us why you're not gonna meet the deadline. We just wanna hear from you guys, because we have lots of resources, we can hook you up with TA providers, we can talk about ways to reprogram your funds, but we need to hear from you guys. A couple of people are mentioning construction delays. Absolutely, we get that that's happening everywhere in this country, and so, we know that if you're using some of your CARES Act funds and you are looking at rehab and things like that, and you can't get certain things and you can't get appliances right now and we're all experiencing it even in our personal lives, that's the sort of things, like, let us know, we can then make an informed recommendation. So, please just let us know what challenges you're experiencing.

0:34:07.7 KD: There's a question... Let me see. Sorry. "Is it possible there will be additional ESG-CV funding awarded?" There is no additional funds. This is... Like I said, this is a once in a

lifetime, we think, we hope, opportunity to have these funds in your community, that's why we're really encouraging folks to really think through how they're spending the dollars. We do not have additional money, everything was allocated back in the Spring of 2020. So, there will not be any additional funds. Let me see if there are any other questions. Let me see. I don't see any other general questions. If anybody from the team wants to jump on, if I missed something, by all means, please jump on. Let me just, following through one more time. Again, submit as soon as you can, I throughout... Submit by the end of the week, but next week is fine too, just know that the closer it gets to the September 30th deadline, the better it is, or... We need information. Again, we just need to understand if you're not gonna meet it, we need to understand why, so we can make some informed... Have some informed discussions.

0:35:44.8 KD: We will share the presentation and this is being recorded, so we'll have information forthcoming on where you'll be able to find the posting. We do not anticipate extending any deadlines at this point. I see that's a question that just popped in. Right now, we are operating with the September 30th, 20% deadline and the March 80% deadline. So, at this point, nothing has been... The deadlines have not changed. So, there are questions, I think somebody just typed a question or typed something about the eviction moratorium and halting the prevention spending and that definitely we recognize that, we understand that. Unfortunately, it has halted some of the spending, particularly because it keeps getting extended. And so, we originally approached this, and I know you all programmed your money thinking that it was gonna be shorter lived than it was, and that's why I had the slide earlier on about, if you have a chunk of your money dedicated or programmed right now to prevention, this is now the time to talk about possibly re-programming that money. Does it make sense to possibly use it for rapid re-housing or use it for vaccine incentive? Again, that is totally allowable, in fact, it's encouraged, because we know that a lot of folks, their money is just kind of sitting, and they haven't been able to use it, because of the moratorium.

0:37:31.2 KD: And to think... Somebody is questioning about, they didn't receive the template, they wanna use a different method. Essentially, if you're aware of who your CARES Act desk officer is, if you've been corresponding with them, if you wanna send an email to them. If you did not get the spending plan template as I said earlier, if you definitely know you're not projected to meet the 20%, and you didn't get the template, it did go to somebody in your community, and the contact information we used was the contact information for the folks that submits the quarterly reports in Sage. Though if you did not get a template, reach out to the folks that you're working with on ESG, submit an AAQ. If you didn't get one because you're projected to meet, but you still would like one, and if you wanna submit it and you're not sure who your desk officer is, you can always send an AAQ and ask for that information. At this point, there's a lot of questions in here about deadlines, deadlines are... The deadlines are set right now, we are not in discussion to extend them at this point, and that goes for the September 30th, 2022 deadline as well. So right now, it's not an option. Let me see here. Oh, here's a very good question, "When our plan is submitted, can we expect to hear back from anyone at HUD about any concerns?"

0:39:15.7 KD: Yeah, our team is reviewing the plans. We most definitely don't want you to submit something and then wonder if we got it or if it's okay, or... So every plan will be reviewed. We have a review rubric that we're using, so each plan is reviewed consistently. We will acknowledge the receipt of your plan, and then we will also let you know. It's not a matter of is it accepted? Is it not accepted? We will come back to you with questions, if maybe something in the plan isn't clear and we need a little bit more clarity because again, just remember the intent of this plan is for us to

gather information so that we can make an informed decision and make informed recommendations when these deadlines approach. So, we most definitely will acknowledge receipt of your plan, and we will definitely let you know if we have questions about anything that's in your plan, and if you... There is a spot on the plan to request TA we will also reach back to you if you have a technical assistance request. I'm just scrolling one more time to see, anybody else on the team see any other questions. I think we've touched on almost all of them.

0:40:42.4 CC: Hey, Karen, do you wanna address the ability to change, folks are talking about the eviction moratorium and not being able to spend homelessness prevention, but there is an ability to shift funds to rapid re-housing or to other activities as well, given the additional resources now with ERA, for example.

0:41:07.8 KD: Right, I thought I touched on that. Is there something that I missed that I didn't say?

0:41:12.3 CC: People are just continuing to write about it, so I didn't know that there alternative activities that can be undertaken if the prevention activities didn't take place as expected.

0:41:30.1 KD: Right, and that I think goes back to one of the slides that I did where... Yes, if you... Again, we know that at the onset of this, eviction prevention was something that a lot of you all programmed, a big chunk of your funds in many cases to go towards and now it's the time because some of these deadlines are approaching, now it's the time to look at that and see if there's a change that needs to be made. Again, you have to follow your substantial amendment rules, if you're not sure if you need a substantial amendment, you can ask your field office or submit an AAQ. But now it's the time to just talk about things like... I know we weren't really talking back last spring, we were in the throes of... You guys were in the throes of trying to prevent the spread, right? Nobody was really... We were thinking, hoping for a vaccine, but nobody was really thinking vaccine rollout and vaccine incentives and things like that.

0:42:24.9 KD: But now we're in a different space and we have the vaccine, and so do it... I think it is a very valid conversation to have in your community, if you've got this money sitting here for prevention and you're not able to spend it, and you do have a vaccine plan in your community, and you do have folks in our population that you know are hesitant, it may be helpful to shift some of that money away from prevention into incentives or to pay for staff or to do what you need to do to get our population vaccinated. So I think, again, just as I said earlier, things have changed quite a bit in the last year and however many months, so it is really a good time to kind of re-evaluate how you're spending your money. We know the eviction moratorium, it has been a huge issue for folks. So if you can re-program and then when it does end, there is treasury money, and then if you need to sit back, you can always do that as well. So I think, again, we really just wanna encourage you guys to provide the information and to... To provide as much information to HUD as you can and ask questions, just as you all are doing in the chat, ask questions about different ways to spend the money.

0:43:55.2 KD: I'm just taking one last look here. Somebody asked about, would it be okay to make changes to your substantial amendment, regarding to maybe shifting funds, maybe not now, but in the winter? And, yeah. And again, this is where, if you're not familiar with what the criteria are or whether something's defined as a substantial amendment, talk with your field office, submit an AAQ, we can work through you with that. It's going to be different for folks, so, I can't just give you a blanket definition at this point, but you absolutely... If it becomes clear in December or

January that you wanna shift money... And again, if you shift money to vaccines, and incentives, or landlord incentives, and then the eviction moratorium is over, or you're seeing a surge in the variant, and you realize, well, we need more PPE or we didn't think we'd be here in December of 2021, but here we are. You can make a change. And again, the good thing is the public comment period was waived for these funds responding to COVID. So, you don't have that added kind of lag time or time that you have to wait, you just have to make sure that you publish on your website what the changes are gonna be.

0:45:24.3 KD: So, I see somebody is asking about receiving their grant agreements for their second allocation. What I say is, you need to reach out to your field office. If you're having trouble with your field office and getting the grant agreements, please submit an AAQ, and someone will get right back to you. But my guess is, if you haven't received the grant agreements yet, it's probably because you recently submitted your substantial amendment, and the field office may still... May be in the process of reviewing it. But if your substantial amendment's been approved, and you have not received your grant agreements from the field office, please reach out to the field office, or reach out to us through the AAQ. I think Karen just put a link in the document. People were asking about vaccine incentives, I think there's a link in the chat for a document that talks more about that.

0:46:27.3 KD: And I am scrolling, I don't see anything else. I will shout out to the team one more time to see if anybody has any questions that I should address that I did not. And hearing none, then I think I'm going to go ahead and wrap us up. I wanna thank everybody for joining the call. We had a great number of you on the phone. We definitely appreciate that. Again, please, the biggest mistake you can make right now is remaining silent. Please let us know what your challenges are. We know there are challenges. We're here to help you. We're here to get you TA. We will work with you. We just need information on where you stand with your spending and with the challenges that you're experiencing. So, we appreciate all of the hard work that you guys always do, but what you've been doing over the last year and a half has just been like, really astronomical. We appreciate it. We know how hard it's been. We appreciate the work that you do to keep our clients and your staff safe and prevent the spread amongst our population in your community.

0:47:38.6 KD: So, again, we cannot thank you enough for that work. We know that this is challenging in these times, and so, we definitely wanna work with you. So, I thank you for listening to us today. I'll thank you... Thank the folks who have already submitted their spending templates. And for those that have not yet, hopefully, we've sent the message today loud and clear that work on that template, work on getting us some information, because we need the information to understand where you are with your spending. But thank you everybody. Thank you to Leticia, and Cherise, and to the entire team, and I hope everybody has a good rest of their...