

Office of the County Executive

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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
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Cecil County Housing and Community Development
Statement to program clients and business partners

April 8, 2020

Due to ongoing disruptions and precautions undertaken across the region resulting from the COVID-19 virus, the Division of Cecil County Housing and Community Development has determined it will make the following changes to operations effective Wednesday April 8, 2020:

General

- **Cecil County Government is closed to the public and non-essential personnel.** The housing office is closed will not accept visitors and appointments until further notice.
- To the maximum extent possible all business to be conducted remotely by mail, phone, fax, and email
- At this time we can accept documents in a locked drop box in the vestibule of the Cecil County Administration Building Monday-Friday 8am-12pm
- Please be patient while we return calls or emails to you at this time as we are operating on essential personnel only to accomplish core functions.
- **** At this time there is no additional or new funding for emergency rental assistance or mortgage assistance.** If you require emergency shelter or other assistance please contact the Department of Social Services at 410-996-0100. If you are not well, contact the Cecil County Health Department call center at 410-996-1005.
- There are several changes to mortgage servicing requirements at this time and Cecil homeowners should contact their lender if possible, or speak with our Housing Counselor at jvanzile@ccgov.org **

Housing Choice Voucher Program

- Waiting List mailings and new admissions are suspended until further notice
- Application update forms are accepted and can be downloaded from our webpage
- New applications for rental assistance can be made by email, fax, and mail
- **New vouchers will not be issued** until further notice
- **Vouchers to move or change units will not be issued**
- **Inspections:** Physical unit annual inspections will not be performed at this time, except for some emergency life and safety situations. You should receive a check up phone call from our office on or

www.ccgov.org

near your scheduled inspection date and you should report any needed repairs to your landlord and the housing office.

- **Annual Recertifications- Paperwork must be completed by mail, email, fax** and will be processed as much as it is possible to do so
- **Income Reporting- Report only decreases in income** to the office by phone or email
- **Moves- Moves will not be possible until further notice**, except when an extreme life or safety issue is present
- Portability – Portability move-in will be accepted, but interviews and voucher issuance will be suspended until further notice. It is **strongly advised** that portability clients check with their local PHA before deciding to execute portability. Portability Move-out will be permitted.
- Program Owners/Managers – The CCHA portion of rents will be paid as scheduled at this time. Owners should seriously consider setting up direct deposit payments. CCHA asks that owners please be reasonable if participants experience income changes as a result of Coronavirus events, and owners should also note that evictions are suspended. Owners should return paperwork and communicate with CCHA by email, or by phone if necessary. **At this time we anticipate that May rent payments will be processed on time. Individual delays or missing payments could occur.**

Housing Counseling Programs

- Homebuyer Education- First Time Homebuyer classes are cancelled until further notice, but please contact us for remote counseling services.
- Foreclosure/Default- Services offered remotely
- Financial Education/Capability- Services offered remotely
- Reverse Mortgage Counseling- Suspended until further notice

All of the measures outlined above are designed to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission in the community and especially to protect everyone over the age of 60 and those with compromised health. Please contact us by phone or email if you have any questions about your circumstances.

General Communications

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