

Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Notes Summary 8/26/20

Due to time constraints, groups were not able to answer every question.

Here is a summary of the main takeaways.

In looking at the survey results, what got missed?

- Many people are exiting hospitals with complex needs. Need more options for people who are medically frail and those with multiple behavioral health challenges
- Renew Emergency Shelter Grant Program (Dept. of Commerce)
- Proposed cuts would cause many people, especially older adults already disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, to lose vital services (e.g., Medicaid eligibility, employment supports)
- Ensure understanding, cultural competency and language support in programs and services
- Support for people with dementia and their caregivers

It's challenging to separate ongoing needs from COVID impacts. But overall, what are you seeing in terms of trends, emerging needs and other things policy makers should be aware of?

- Shelters are leaving beds empty to allow safe social distancing. The impacts are shelters are not serving at capacity when there is great need to shelter the homeless population and need more capital and operating funds. The Low Income Housing Institute is in the process of purchasing hotels
- Technology – many people with disabilities lack tools and training to access services online/remotely
- Employment – people with disabilities are working and will need continued supports (at risk of cuts)