COVID-19 Housing Stability Task Force

July 31 2020

Feedback from the first Harris County and City of Houston COVID-19 Housing Stability Task Force

Survey Results

Understanding of TF

Feedback on First Meeting

Interest in Working Groups

Additional Information Needed

- Survey made it clear people want to know more about
  - Different roles,
  - How we are going to operate,
  - What we need
  - Time commitment.

We are going to try some different approaches, learn and evolve

We are taking a phased approach to the Task Force and our initial work will focus on short term crisis response

Short-Term: Crisis Response (Triage)
Goals: Address Urgent Issues, Influence Local Response, Recommend Immediate Interventions

We hope the trusting relationships we build in the short term will create the social capital needed to tackle the long-term structural issues

Long-Term: Structural Change (Long-term Care)
Goals: Address underlying issues, Influence Long-Term Strategy, recommend system-wide policy & program recommendations

Over time, our work will involve both designing and implementing stages which will require different approaches from the Task Force

Role of the Task Force	
Short Term Crisis Intervention	**Long term structural change**
Planning & Design • Provide Timely/Quick Recommendations • Build Political support • Use an equity and Inclusion lens • Provide recommendations for Priority Interventions/Pilots	Planning & Design • Consider systemic causes of evictions/housing instability • Build political support for change • Develop action plan fro system wide strategy • Design collaborative solutions • Incorporate equity and inclusion
Implementation • Assess Impact of program or policy • Course correct/Provide suggestions for improvement • Monitor equity and inclusion	Implementation • Assess systemic impact • Establish continuous quality improvement • Ensure equity and inclusion

Task Force members will have different roles and responsibilities which will vary over time

Task Force Member	LISC	Co-Chairs	Recovery Czars	Community Stakeholders
• Good faith negotiations • Conduit to stakeholders • Substantive content knowledge • Identify potential obstacles/solutions • Recommend improvements • Increase capacity to deliver	• Mediation/Facilitation/Convening • Best practice research • Conduit to Czars and other politic actors • Develop potential options • Data research analysis • Conduct evaluations • Identify improvements • Provide multiple communication channels	• Oversee process • Drive agenda and focus • Conduit to Czars and other politic actors • Negotiate • Understand the political landscape	• Conduit to political leaders • Make requests of the task force	• Provide real world experience

The Task Force will use four types of engagement in order to expand the ways we communicate and work together

Type of Engagement	Description
Bi-weekly meetings via Zoom with all Task Force Members	• Update from TF leadership & TF members, • Educational component • Small group discussions. • Recording and meetings notes will be made available.
In-Between Meetings (proposed)	• **Knowledge Build:** provide space for presentations from subject matter experts and Q/A. • **Community Forums:** provide open space for Task Force/Community members to receive feedback on specific questions about their current crisis response activities. • **Listening Sessions:** Hold focus groups to ensure community voice in knowledge development.
Task Oriented Meetings with sub-set of Task Force members	• Meetings as needed for quick response to proposal or policy that falls outside of an established working group • Working Groups: Weekly meetings via zoom.
Communications	• A google drive folder will be set up with meeting related materials. • Share specific questions we need you to answer. • Considering slack to facilitate communications for different tracks of work • We hope to launch an interim website as we build up a more robust communications plan.

The first 12 weeks will involve three distinct work streams

[1] Respond to immediate requests	• Discuss with key stakeholders to determine if super majority support is likely • Develop a response with multi-sector TF members • Vote as a task force • Co-Chairs bring recommendation/response to Recovery Czars
[2] Launch workgroups to develop creative solutions to immediate problems	• Rental assistance (develop a New Proposal) • Judge Brown Pilot (provide recommendations to pilot team) • Access to justice (will review external proposal and provide recommendations)
[3] Develop our shared knowledge base	• Help understand the size and scope of the problem • Create a common understanding of the problem • Identify the issues we want to address • Understand the available data that we can use to measure impact • Map local stakeholders in the housing stabilization landscape to understand gaps and local capacity • Research best practices and bring additional subject matter expertise

[1] Responding to an immediate request:

Task Force receives request for recommendation on external proposal

LISC convenes key TF members into a "Feedback Team". Feedback teams will have two/three leads with diverse representation (tenant, landlord, service provider/funder).

Feedback Teams will review the external proposal and work on a recommendation or counter proposal. LISC will act as mediator.

Response/counter proposal is presented to Co-Chairs. Feedback Team agrees on final response with Co-Chairs feedback.

LISC packages response and request a vote from all Task Force Members, if we secure a 2/3 majority then the proposal is considered a recommendation of the Task Force. Co-Chairs deliver recommendation to Recovery Czars.

Task Force Response is delivered to City and County Leadership

[2] Launching a Working Group

Task Force wants to develop a policy or program recommendation to prevent evictions, mitigate the effects of the crisis on renters and landlords or stabilize households

Form a working group composed by Task Force and Non-Task Force Members, representing diverse perspectives and bringing both subject matter and local expertise on the issue.

Gather and answer specific set of questions to describe the problem we want to address, review research, best practices and the quantitative and qualitative data available.

Develop solutions that consider policy, programmatic, system navigation and public education components. Evaluate the group proposal against guiding principles and assess the impact it has on stakeholders .

Proposal is presented to all Task Force Members for a vote. If a 2/3 majority is secured then the proposal is considered a recommendation of the Task Force and the Co-Chairs will deliver it to Recovery Czars.

Task Force Recommendation is delivered to City and County Leadership

Guiding Principles

1 Program Design Based on Evidence-Informed Practice/Quality Research/Established Best Practices

2 Clear Client Outcomes for Specific Groups with a Focus on Equity and Access

3 Intentional Design Supported by both Landlord and Tenant

4 Prioritizing User Experience

5 Using Evaluation and Data to Evaluate Impact

6 Commitment and Capacity of Implementing Organizations

[3] Develop our shared knowledge base

The Task Force will work to gain a better understanding of the extent of the problem, the root causes and at what stages of the housing instability journey could the Task Force intervene.

Gather a set of research and data questions to better understand the size of the and the root of the problem from the tenant, landlord, and service provider perspective.

Review best practices and bring subject matter experts to learn about what others have done on this space, and better understand potential interventions.

Gain a better understanding of specific local needs and conditions, current response activities, local capacity, potential opportunities, and challenges.

Shared understanding of the issue we are trying to solve and the potential interventions we could act on. Serve as a central information HUB for local community.

Grace Period: Responding to a Request

Process/Format	• A feedback team of tenant advocates and landlord representatives gathered after the Kick-Off meeting to explore the possibility of using the ordinance passed by Dallas as a template for a possible Houston ordinance. • The group was able to agree on proposal, which the Task Force supported and a recommendation was delivered to Recovery Czars.
Next Steps	• This feedback team will now work to develop a recommendation to Harris County on how they could compliment a City of Houston Grace Period Ordinance.

Access to Justice: Responding to a Request

Process/Format	• Respond to request from Harris County Commissioner Court for recommendation on funding priorities to increase access to justice for renters at risk of eviction, and to help efficiently deliver fair and just outcomes.
Components to consider	• Increase Access to Information • Increase Technology Access to Court • Legal assistance & counsel
Next Steps	• Bring together a group of Task Force member early next week to review draft recommendation.

*Once this immediate request is addressed, this will become a Working Group.

Rental Assistance: Working Group

Purpose & Structure:	• First Working Group to be launched to develop policy/program recommendations for future rental assistance programs. • LISC will provide facilitation support. • Composed 8-10 Task Force and Non-Task Force Members
Components to consider:	• Public Dollar Allocation • Distribution of Assistance • Navigation of Assistance and Public Outreach
Next Step: Knowledge base presentation open to all TF members	• What: Process & Outcomes of Previous Rental Assistance Programs current programs underway • Calendar invite will be shared after the meeting

* This working group will be responding to quick requests within the next few weeks.

Small Group Discussions

In groups of 6, you and your fellow Task Force members will answer the following:

- How do we increase the influence of this group once we have voted?

- What can undermine our effectiveness?