

COVID-19 Harris County Housing Stability Task Force

End of Year Re-cap
12.18.2020



LISC
HOUSTON

Recap: Responding to City & County Requests

Kick-Off Meeting

Responding to City & County Requests

July 2020

Grace period Ordinance Recommendation to City of Houston

- Submitted a Grace Period Ordinance Recommendation to the City of Houston. The mayor did not move the recommendation forward to city council.

July 2020

Clarify Access to Justice Request from County

- Commissioner Rodney Ellis shared his interest in receiving feedback from the TF on an Access to Justice proposal his staff had been working on.
- After conversations with County staff the Task Force created a Work Group to focus on a Centralized Web-resource proposal, as right to counsel proposals and technology improvements were already under review.

August 2020

Rent Assistance Principles & Early Recommendations

- Submitted to City and County leadership a set of 10 principles that all local rental assistance programs should follow.
- Developed and submitted recommendations to align the City and County Programs and recommendations on prioritization of assistance, and program design.

December 2020

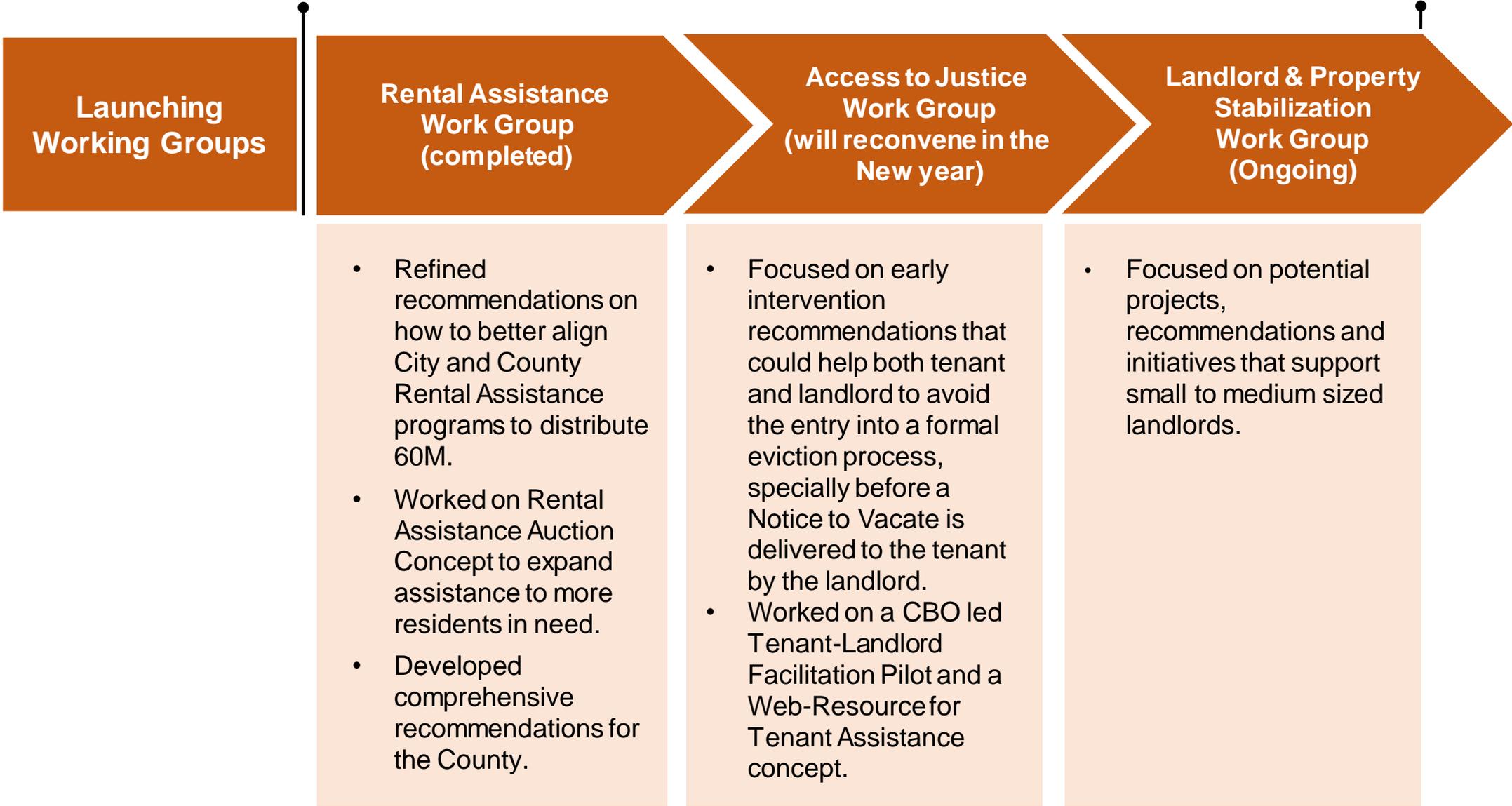
Statement on CDC Order expiring at the end of the year

- The Task Force submitted a statement on December 10th with recommendations to the county of immediate actions they should consider to mitigate the effects of the CDC order lift.

Recap: Developing Recommendations through WGs

August 2020

December 2020



Work Group/ Response Team Recommendations

workgroups

immediate requests

Rental/Direct Assistance Work Group

- The group met for the last time this year on December 3rd to review and agree on the set of recommendations that were presented to the Task Force. Nine Task Force members participated on the voting process, we have to yet receive a super majority vote to move these recommendations forward.

Access to Justice Work Group

- The group met three times and were presented with recommendations in which we thought there was broad agreement with late November. We should have reconvened after collecting comments and feedback from members on these recommendations. The group will reconvene after the holidays and discuss how to move forward.

Landlord & Property Stabilization Work Group

- Members of the Work Group submitted their feedback on how to address the needs of diverse typologies of landlords. The work group will reconvene after the Holidays.

Policy Response Team

- Hosted their Kick-off meeting yesterday. The group will review and provide policy priority recommendations to the TF early next year.

Recap: Special Projects

Tenant-Landlord Facilitation CBO Pilot Project (Rent Assistance & Mediation Effort)

- Ongoing. Currently 3 local CBO's are participating of this pilot: the Alliance, MAM, and Wesley Community Center.
- Facilitators have been trained on Conflict Resolution and Mediation by XXX and on tenant-landlord law by Houston Volunteer Lawyers.
- Referrals to Houston Volunteer Lawyers, the Dispute Resolution Center and other types or assistance are part of the pilot activities.

Centralized Web-Resource for Renters Assistance Concept

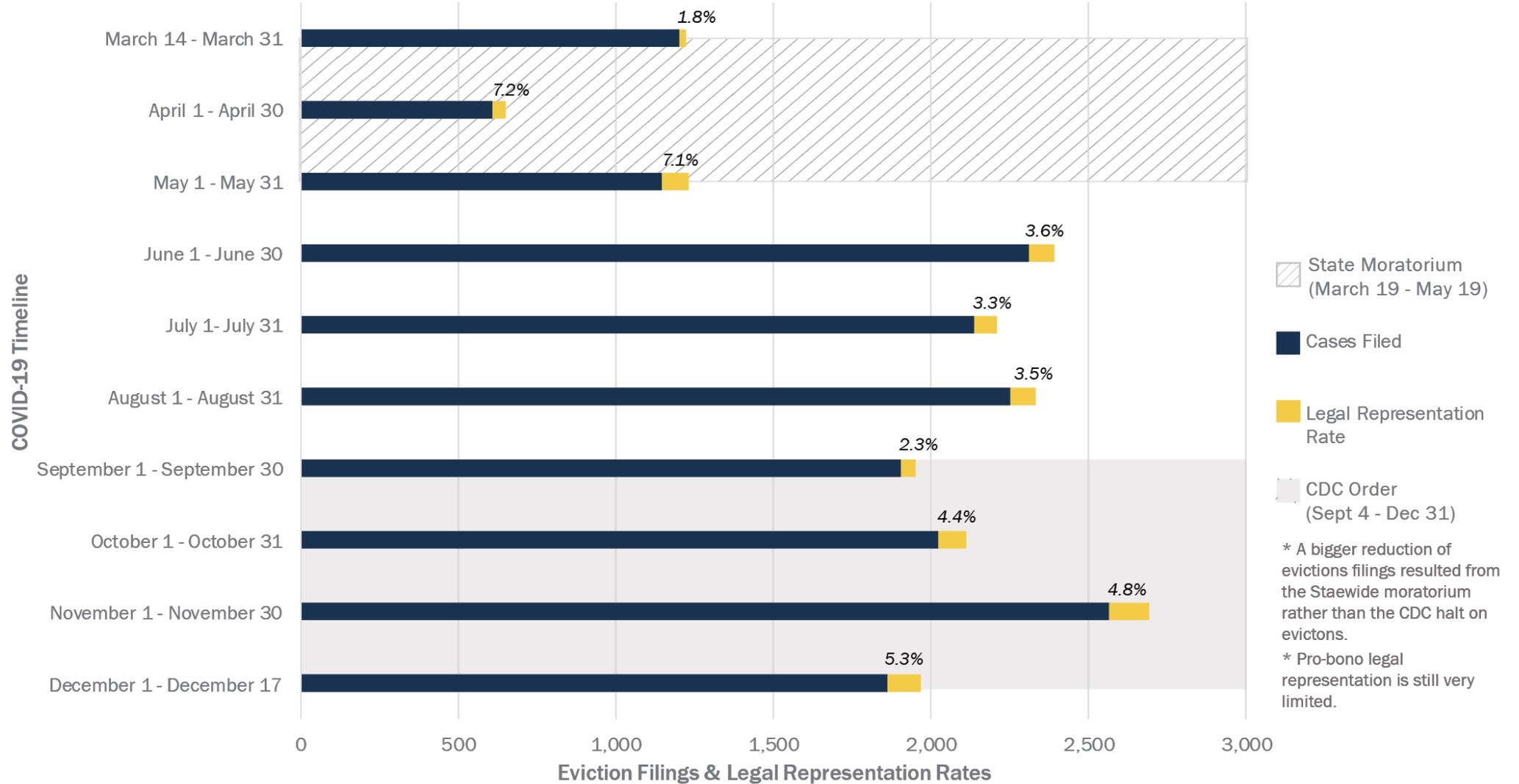
- The initial proposal for a Centralized Web Resource for Renters assistance incorporated 3 phases of intervention: (1) Self-help and technology tools, the proposal can be reviewed in our website, (2) interactive pre-screening tool, (3) a triage intake portal.
- Challenges: (1) Identifying a long-term owner of the resource and collaborator with Harris County CSD, (2) concerns with duplication of efforts stoptxevictions.org includes some of the information this resource intended to include, (3) Timing and availability of funding.
- Recommendation for Work Group: Evaluate in any tool not available statewide is still needed, and consider a targeted pilot project. Collaborate with the County on the development of their portal.

Rent Assistance Auction Model Concept

- Representatives from UW and the City of Dallas reached out and are currently exploring the Reverse Rent Auction Model developed by the Texas Policy Lab in collaboration with members of the Rent Assistance WG.

Data Snapshots & Housing Stability Reports

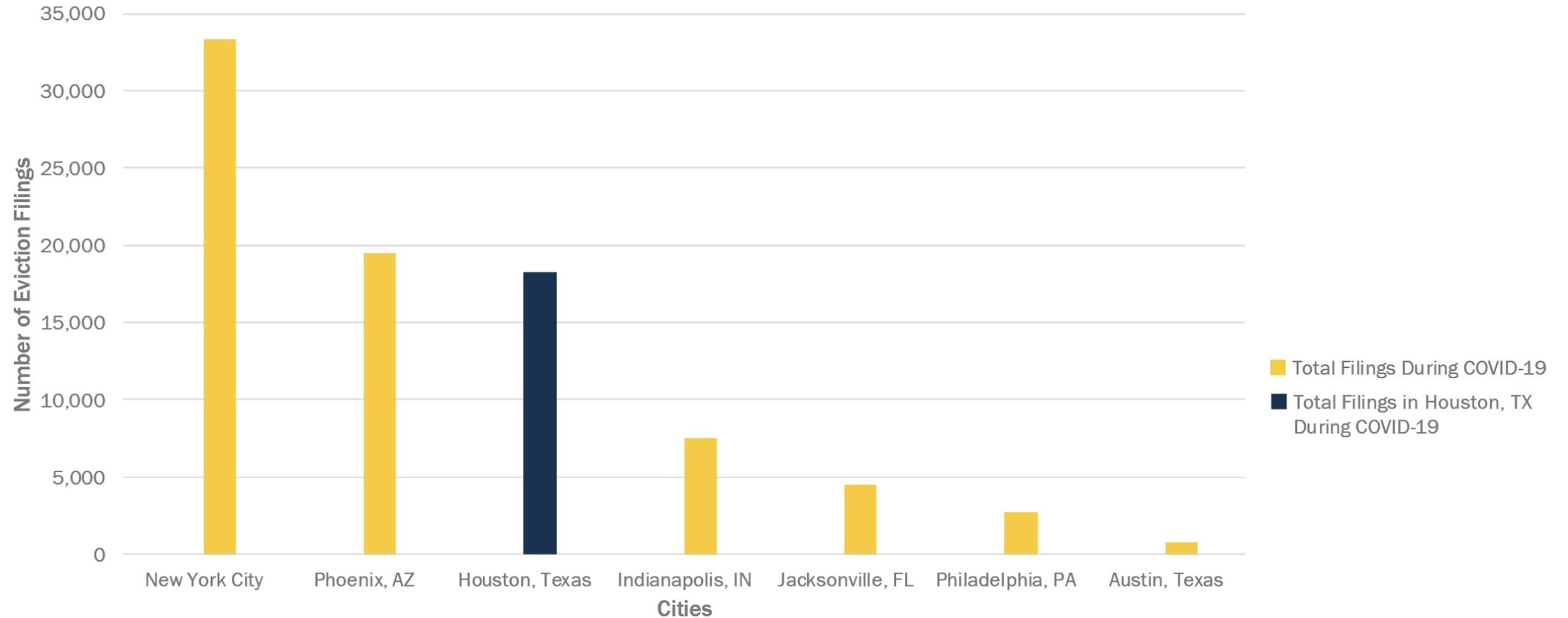
Source: JanuaryAdvisors



Data Snapshots & Housing Stability Reports

How does Houston, TX compare with other cities?

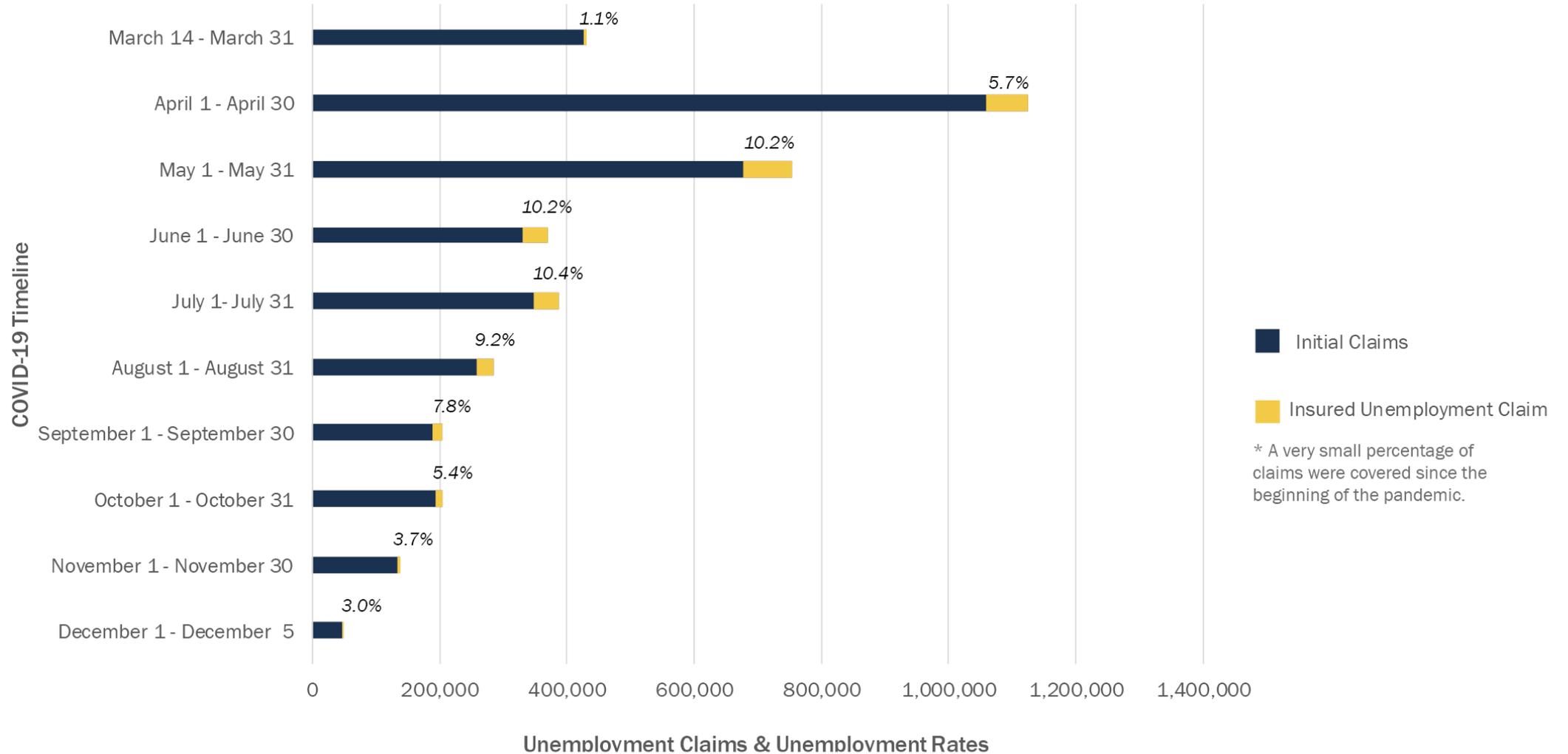
Source: Eviction Lab



Data Snapshots & Housing Stability Reports

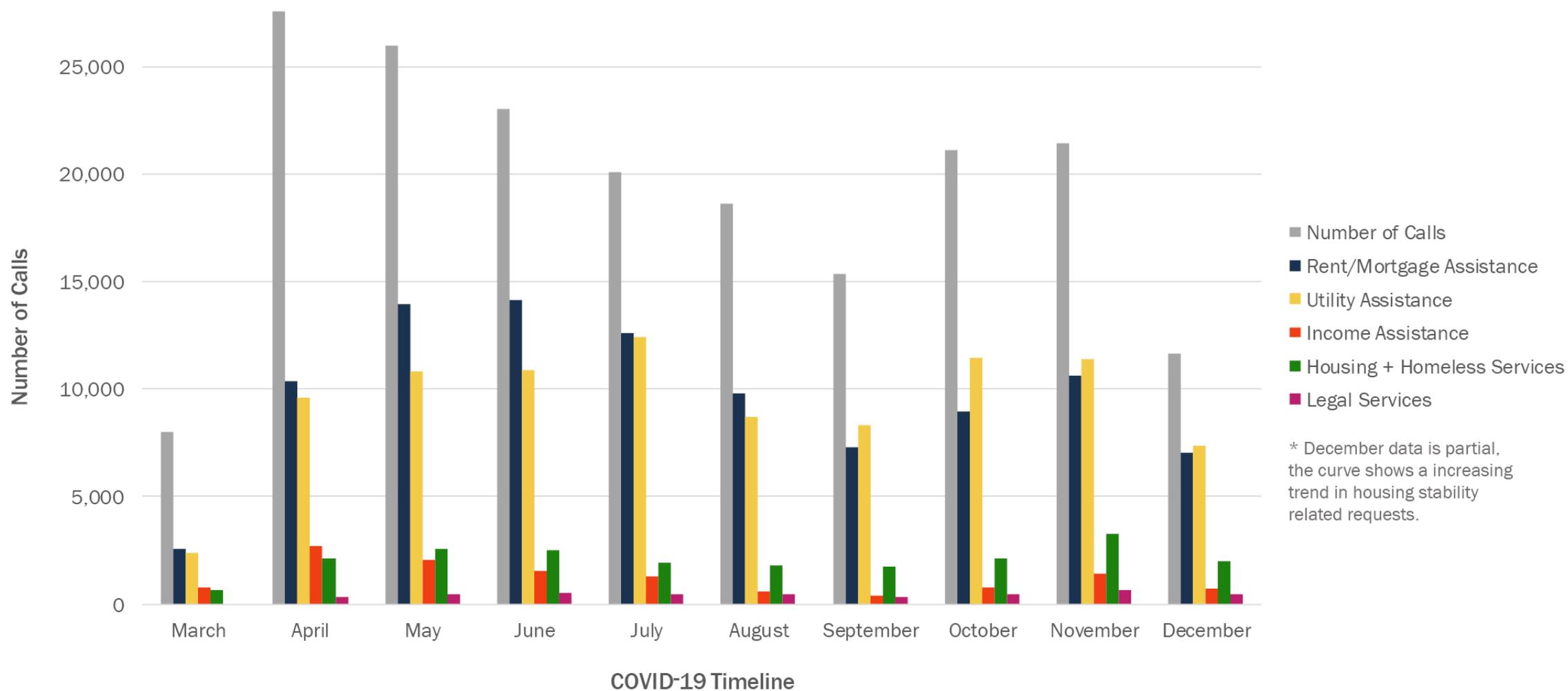
Source: US Department of Labor

Weekly Texas Unemployment Claims



Data Snapshots & Housing Stability Reports

Source: United Way 211 Data



Data Snapshots & Housing Stability Reports

- Connective, the Home Coalition and FIEL continue to partner to connect to additional tenants and send 2-3 texts with vetted eviction prevention resources every week (322, 258 total texts). They are seeing a growing need for eviction prevention protections and rental assistance availability for rent payments beyond the month of November.
- The Houston Eviction Solidarity Network reports:
 - Newly appointed JP's are promising increased access
 - The Supreme Court of Texas stipulation to attach the CDC order to notices is not consistently followed.
 - Expiration Deadline is not deterrent.
 - That the Texas Eviction Diversion Program approval timeline is becoming an issue.
 - Issues with recouping more than the claim amount at the time of filing.

**Monthly Updates on:
housingstabilitytaskforce.org**

**Rental Assistance
Recommendations
FOLLOW UP – WG will reconvene
to review recent feedback.**