

# While we prepare to start...

## How to ask a question:

- Click the raise your hand button of the GoToWebinar toolbar. This will allow us to call on you and unmute your line to ask your question.
- Submit your question on the Questions tab of the GoToWebinar toolbar.
- Email [elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us).

You are able to call in to the webinar on your phone.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to troubleshoot any audio issues you are having.



**MINNESOTA**  
**INTERAGENCY COUNCIL**  
**ON HOMELESSNESS**

**Weekly Provider Webinar:  
Statewide Updates on COVID-19 and Homelessness**

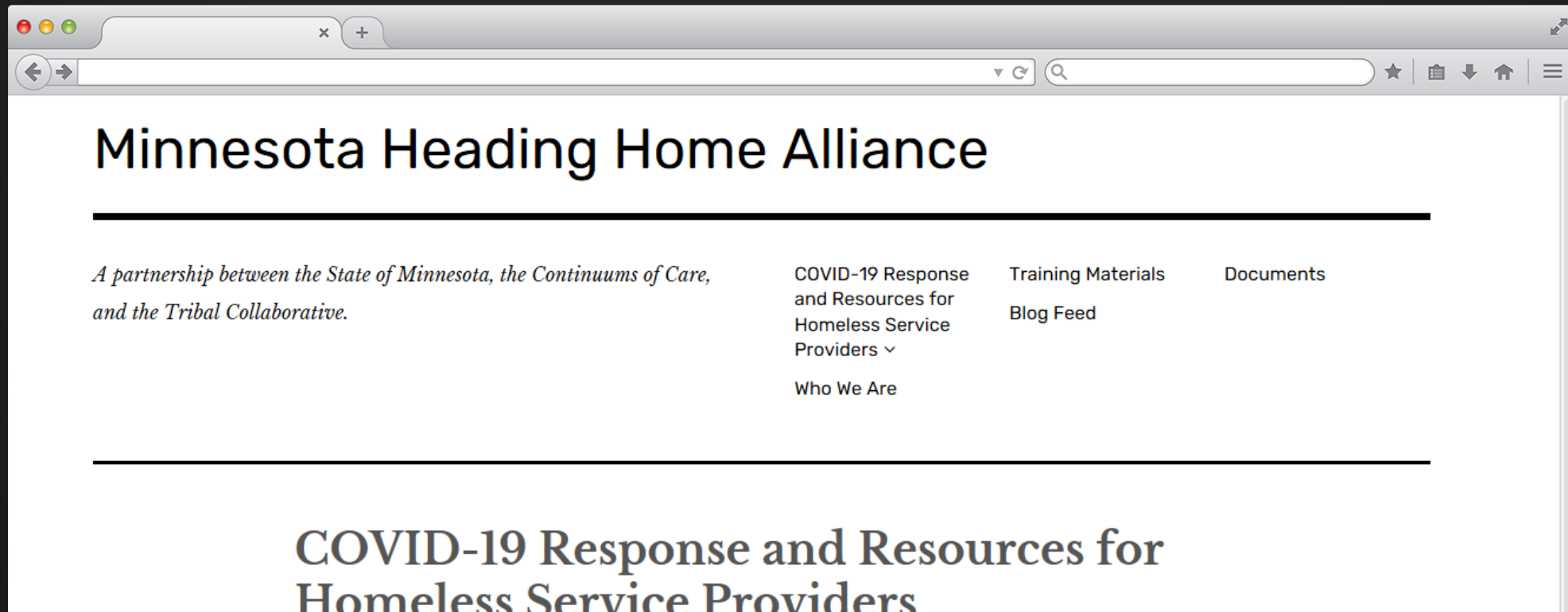
May 19, 2021

# Agenda

Time	Topic
1:00 – 1:05	Welcome and opening remarks
1:05 – 1:30	Important updates from the State of Minnesota
1:30 – 1:55	Questions and answers
1:55 – 2:00	Closing remarks and adjourn

# Visit the Heading Home Alliance COVID-19 page

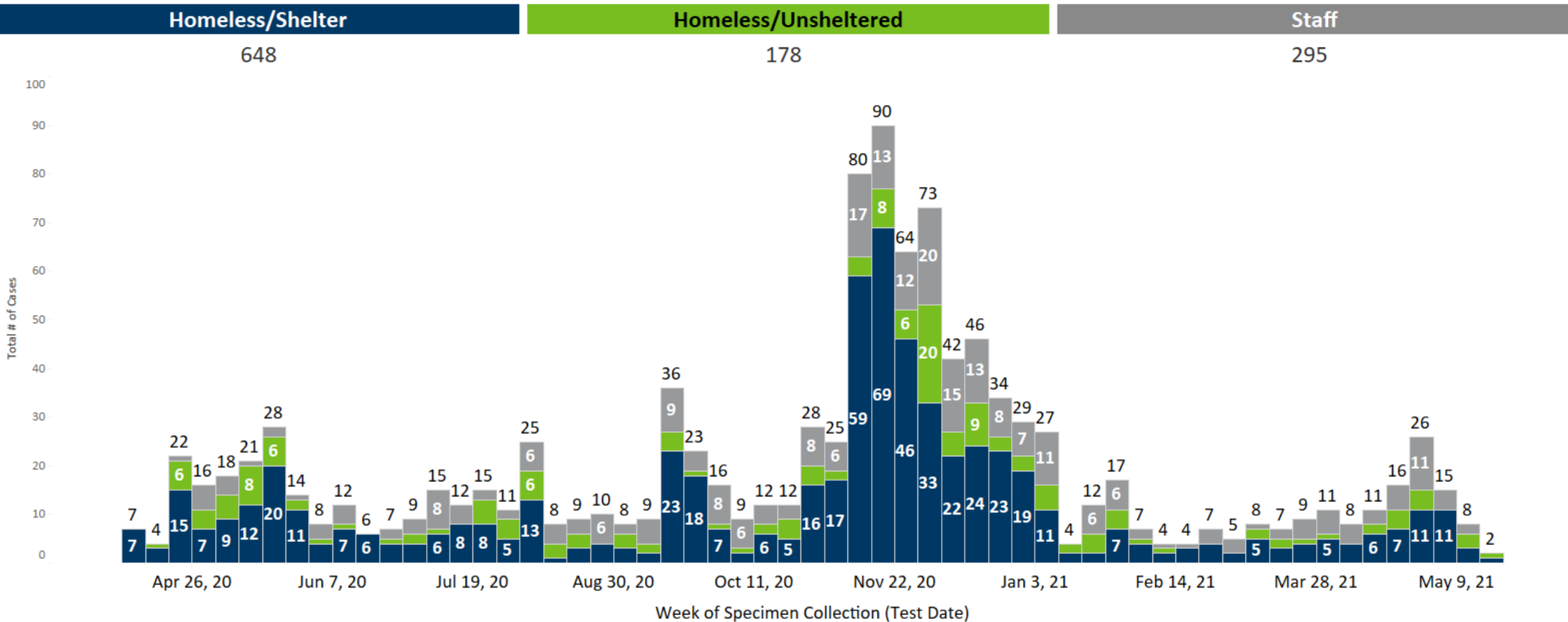
- Latest resources, guidance, and contact lists
- <https://headinghomealliance.com/covid-19-response-and-resources-for-homeless-service-providers/>



# We need your help spreading the word

- For announcements about these calls, sign up for Minnesota Housing's eNews
- <http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/enews>
- Select "Topics and Issues for Providers Serving People Experiencing Homelessness"
- **Please encourage your colleagues to do so!**

The number of new cases is decreasing compared to the past few weeks.



# Masking Guidance

- CDC and MDH still recommend **all** staff/volunteers and clients/residents wear a mask inside a homeless shelter, regardless of vaccine status
  - [Evidence](#) shows masking prevents the spread of COVID-19
- Homeless service providers are encouraged to establish masking requirements within their settings

# Responses to Last Week's Menti

## **Reasons why people are hesitant to get the vaccine:**

- Waiting to see the long-term effects
- Waiting until the vaccines are FDA approved
- Not wanting to get sick after getting vaccinated

## **Ways to address these concerns:**

- Getting vaccinated by their regular doctor, in their community, or somewhere they already go
- Having a choice in which vaccine they get
- Getting more information about the vaccine for people with underlying health conditions



## Waiting to see the long-term effects

- Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination
- Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose
  - FDA required each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least two months (eight weeks) after the final dose
- Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected

## Waiting until the vaccine is FDA approved:

- FDA has information about what emergency use authorization (EUA) for vaccines looks like: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained>
  - 3 phases of human clinical trials are required for both an EUA and full FDA approval
  - Safety data and benefits/risks are taken into consideration for both an EUA and full FDA approval
- Pfizer has started an application for full approval (16 years and older)

## **Not wanting to get sick after getting vaccinated:**

- Side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection
- Some people don't have side effects
- CDC has tips on how to relieve side effects:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

# Vaccine Resources

## Getting vaccinated by their doctor, in their community, or somewhere they regularly go:

- Ride share companies are giving free rides
  - <https://www.lyft.com/vaccine-access>
  - <https://www.uber.com/us/en/coronavirus/>

## Having a choice in which vaccine they get:

- Search for a specific vaccine: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>

## Getting more information about the vaccine for people with underlying health conditions

- CDC has a list of considerations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/underlying-conditions.html>

# Survey is Open for COVID-ESP Funding

- \$2.095 million additional COVID Response Funding available
- Survey open until May 21 at midnight
- Funds available for expenses April 2021-August 2021 (priority April-June)
- More details and survey link can be found here -

<https://headinghomealliance.com/state-and-federal-funding-resources-new/>

- Email [andrea.simonett@state.mn.us](mailto:andrea.simonett@state.mn.us) with questions.

# Homelessness in the context of housing justice



- Creating programs targeting people experiencing homelessness
- Improving visibility of people experiencing homelessness in initiatives, policies, and data
- Focusing attention on population in crisis and solutions to emergent situation (often more so than causes)

- Identifying the critical role that housing stability plays for other social policy areas
- Recognizing homelessness as an extreme form of housing instability
- Connecting efforts to end homelessness with broader efforts to promote housing stability

***The most egregious form of housing instability is homelessness.***

- Names homelessness and housing instability as forms of *injustice*, as something that lacks fairness or is created by unjust acts
- Shifts focus to the causes of homelessness and housing instability
- Raises questions about who benefits from status quo
- Recognizes that sharing or shifting power is essential for solutions

***The most egregious form of housing injustice is homelessness.***

# Homelessness in the context of racial justice



- Eliminating racial disparities and ensuring equity in outcomes as key principles of strategic plans

- Tactical guidance on using roles and responsibilities, like grant-making, to promote equity in distribution of resources
- Increased focus on describing racism and other inequities as drivers of homelessness

- Roots homelessness in racist housing policies and practices and other economic and social injustice aimed at BIPOC communities
- Calls for development and implementation of explicitly anti-racist policies and actions
- Recognizes that sharing or shifting power is essential for solutions

# Homelessness in the context of health justice



- Recognition of significant health challenges facing people experiencing homelessness, and interplay between health and housing stability
- Focus on improving access to existing health care options and delivery
- Identification of high rates of co- and tri-morbidity and critical role of behavior health in solutions

- Innovative uses of health care and health insurance programs tuned to specific needs of people experiencing homelessness
- Seeking partnership and investments of health care sector recognizing benefits that accrue to that sector from stable housing

- Connects homelessness and housing instability to broader array of social determinants of health
- Identifies the link between institutional inequities, historical trauma and individual health choices
- Recognizes that sharing or shifting power is essential for solutions



# Let's Hear from You...

Achieving  
housing  
justice

Achieving  
racial  
justice

Achieving  
health  
justice

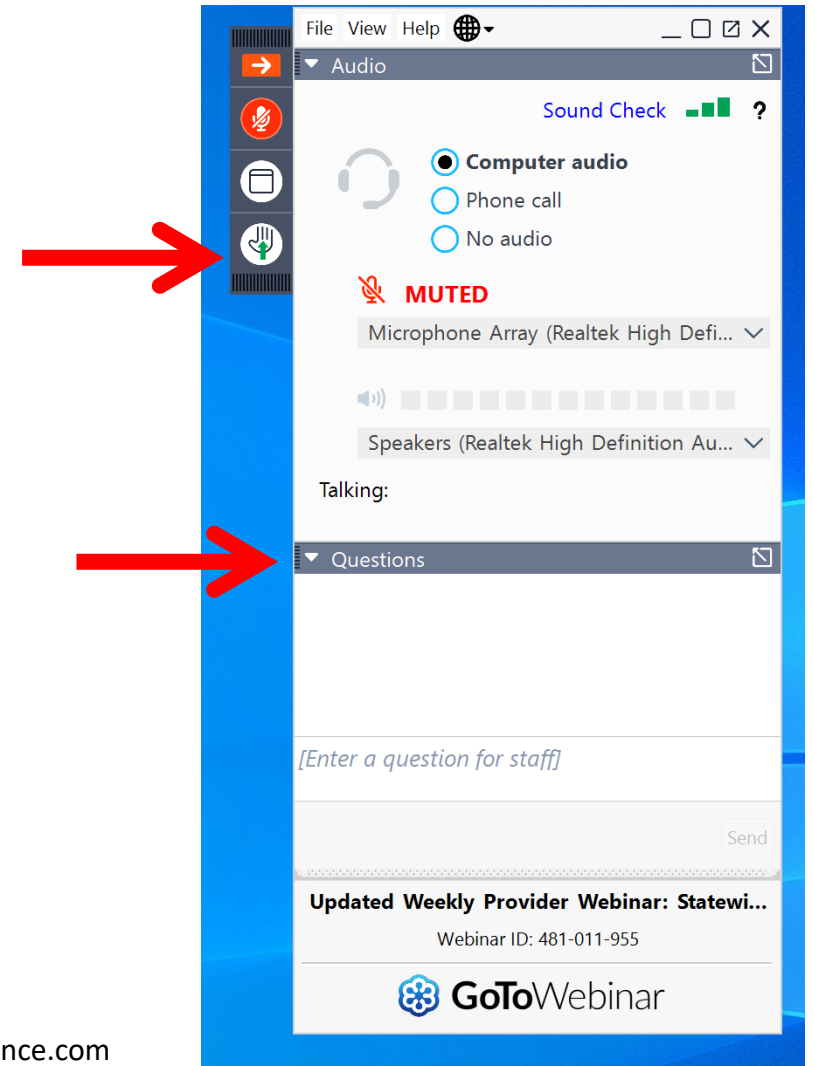
- What would it mean to you to describe homelessness as injustice and our work to end homelessness as about pursuing housing, racial, and health justice?
- How would naming the State's work on homelessness as being about ending injustice and promoting justice impact what you think the State should do on homelessness?
- How would a justice orientation to end homelessness impact how you think about your own work?

# Legislative Update

- On Monday, May 17, the last day of the regular legislative session, Governor Walz, House Speaker Hortman, and Senate Majority Leader Gazelka announced an agreement on budget targets.
- Conference committees need to complete finance spreadsheets by May 28 and bill language must be finalized by June 4.
- They will have a special session sometime in June.
- [Click here](#) to see the target amounts and other details listed in their agreement.

# Questions and answers

- We will try to get to every question we can.
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## Closing remarks and adjourn

Thank you!