

Webinar: Eviction Prevention and Housing Retention During and After COVID-19

December 16, 3:00-4:30pm ET

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to economic hardship and housing instability for millions of Americans. With eviction moratoria expected to expire at the end of 2020, individuals and families are at risk of losing their housing. Join SAMHSA's new Homeless and Housing Resource Center to explore strategies for eviction prevention and housing retention. Participants will hear from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) leadership, an experienced housing attorney, and local Continuum of Care (CoC) leadership about implementing data-informed, targeted prevention efforts that prioritize racial equity and will learn strategies that can be implemented now to prevent future housing instability when the moratoria expire.

Speakers:

1. John Kuhn, SSVF National Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
2. Larry McDonough, Attorney at Law and Adjunct Professor of Law, Senior Minnesota Counsel, National Anti-Eviction Project, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
3. Randy McCoy, Executive Director of Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), Omaha, Nebraska

Learning Objectives

1. Define national best practices in homelessness prevention and methods to prioritize household assistance when resources are scarce.
2. Explain the implications of the expiring Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order to temporarily halt residential evictions and identify key strategies to assist individuals at risk of eviction.
3. Describe data-driven best practices to target homelessness prevention assistance by zip codes, eviction rates, and impact of COVID-19 to reduce racial disparities and increase housing retention and stability.

Presenter Bios

John Kuhn

John Kuhn, LCSW, MPH led the development and launch of the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, VA's homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing initiative. In 2019 SSVF was appropriated \$380 million for grants to community organizations assisting homeless and at-risk Veteran families. In the coming year, SSVF expects to help 120,000 Veterans and their family members find or keep permanent housing. In the past year, SSVF has begun two pioneering initiatives. The first seeks to expand housing placement opportunities through diversion and rapid exit strategies. The second uses shallow subsidies to bring more housing into affordability in high-cost markets.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Kuhn led VA homeless programs in New Jersey developing innovative employment, housing, and treatment services. His received local and national recognition for this work including Mutual of America's Community Partnership Medal and acknowledgement by the former Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee who had the Flag of The United States flown over the Capitol in his honor. Mr. Kuhn has a BA from Brown University, a MSW from Columbia University and a MPH from Rutgers University. He has been working with the homeless for over 25 years.

Lawrence (Larry) McDonough

Larry McDonough has been a legal services and pro bono civil litigation attorney since 1983. He worked in civil legal services for 30 years and served as Pro Bono Litigation Counsel at Dorsey & Whitney for seven years. He now serves as Senior Minnesota Counsel with the National Anti-Eviction Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, helping to coordinate eviction defense and tenant protection programs in Minnesota through training and mentoring attorneys and law students and policy advocacy.

Randy McCoy

Randy has worked in homeless services for more than fifteen years. During this time, he has worked in many roles as both a direct service provider and as a CoC lead. Since 2018 Randy has been the Executive Director of the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) serving the Omaha and Council Bluffs metro area.