

## HFC Committee

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HFC-66 ✓

**From:** Debbie Cabebe <debbie.cabebe@meoinc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 11, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** HFC Committee  
**Subject:** Follow-up information

Aloha Chair Hokama and Committee Members:

Here is some additional information that I was requested to provide during yesterday's meeting.

MEO administers an Employment Services program funded by the State Office of Community Services. This is a pass-through from the federal Office of Community Services. The clients are low-income individuals and immigrants who need assistance securing long-term employment that will pay them a living wage. We have 65 individuals currently enrolled, which is our funded enrollment. The program runs from October 1 to September 30 and we have been awarded another funding cycle.

As of August 31, we have 55 that have completed or are enrolled in Certified Nurses Training or Phlebotomy. 45 have been placed in employment and 10 are finishing their studies. As for the other 10, 3 were placed in retail positions, office administration, and janitorial. The remaining 7 are a work in progress. Many of the individuals in the certification training were laid-off from the service industry.

We also have CARES Act funding to use for credentialing for returning citizens from MCCC. This program just started September 1, so we are currently enrolling. Funded enrollment is 40.

Regarding duplication of services. The Maui County Rental Assistance Program providers, MEO, KHAKO, Family Life Center, and Women Helping Women, share client data on a Google spreadsheet to prevent duplication of services. This works well. We also meet monthly with the grants manager to discuss challenges and opportunities.

MEO and Family Life Center will be administering a CDBG Rent and Mortgage relief program and must confidante with State-wide providers to prevent duplication of services. We are working with the State HHFDC to create a universal application with data collected on a smart sheet. The challenge they are having is how they will integrate any CARES ACT funded assistance program data into the mix. We are awaiting their direction.

There was also a question about the demand for childcare. I can say that our employees are experiencing challenges and are using any paid leave that MEO offers and when that is exhausted, they are using the federal Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) leave assistance.

We have assisted 49 families with childcare assistance payments with HELP 2 and assisted 19 with HELP 1. The biggest challenge is finding childcare options, not paying for it.

In response to Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez's question about food-voucher vendors, we will reach out to the Food Hubs to explain how participating will work and what is required.

Yesterday, I forgot to mention that the current vendors, Times, Foodland, Takamiya Hana Ranch, Pine Isle Market, and Friendly Market sell food as well as other items such as personal hygiene, over the counter medicine, etc, which are allowable purchases and are lumped together with the Food voucher counts.

Lastly, Nick shared the state-wide 211 call-in data. Just to put it in perspective, we have been receiving an average of 1,600 calls per week at the MEO Family Center in the past five months.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate and let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Debbie

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