



## **SC Stay Plus Advisory Panel**

SC Housing, 300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210

The Advisory Panel of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (SC Stay Plus) convened a meeting on Friday, June 11, 2021, at approximately 11:00 a.m., at 300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard, Columbia, South Carolina.

The following advisory panel members were present at the meeting: Bernie Mazyck, SC Association for Community Economic Development (SCACED); David Hudspeth, York County Manager; Amy Marshall, SC Office of Regulatory Staff; and Chris Koon, SC Electric Cooperatives.

The following staff from SC Housing were present at the meeting: Bonita Shropshire, Tracey Easton, Ellen Eudy, Mike Ujcich, Kim Spires, Lisa Wilkerson, Renaye Long, Bryan Grady, Jennifer Cogan and Chris Winston. The following staff from Guidehouse were present at the meeting: Ryan Mullen, Mike Tosh, Vinod Ramachandran, Kajal Patel, Malcolm Clark, Nathan Paufve, Rebecca McGregor and Rachel Eisman.

Guidehouse staff called the meeting to order and confirmed that there were not any guests from the public in attendance.

Guidehouse staff shared an executive summary update of the program activities, giving a brief overview of the document to include: 5,853 applications received; \$12.3M requested funds; and an overview of the application status, which includes a large number of applications that are awaiting further documentation to continue through the process.

An Advisory Panel member inquired about the amount of funds that have been requested for utility assistance and Guidehouse staff stated that they would provide that information to the panel after the meeting, as they did not have that information. After some discussion regarding concerns on the length of time it is taking to get the payments out, Guidehouse staff shared that the pace of payments is picking up and the number of payments will grow significantly going forward.

Guidehouse staff continued the overview of the executive summary highlighting the team progress over the last week, along with upcoming activities with the program and an update from the Communications team.

An Advisory Panel member asked if we are on track to get the full amount of funds out in the time allotted. After some discussion, it was agreed that there is some concern about this. Guidehouse staff assured the advisory panel that the communications team remains diligent in getting the word out to those in need throughout the state. SC Housing staff shared that this is a common concern across the country. Guidehouse staff asked the Advisory Panel to share any suggestions they may have for partners in the community that we can work with to spread the word on the program and help applicants complete their applications.

The next Advisory Panel Meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.