



NJHSA 2020 Vision

Sprint or Marathon: Claims Conference response to COVID-19 and what it means for today, tomorrow and next year

Presentation by Greg Schneider, EVP

June 17, 2020 - Follow up FAQs

Thank you to our NJHSA partners and to Reuben Rotman and Elisa Hirsch for their assistance. The Claims Conference was pleased to sponsor the session to share the Claims Conference's response during COVID-19 as well as highlight some of the wonderful programs that agencies are administering for survivors.

L'CHAIM Newsletter

Q: Is it possible for agencies to receive the newsletter so that when clients reach out, we know what they are referring to? Thanks so much for all you do!!

A: The L'Chaim Newsletter has been posted to the NJHSA member site and to the Claims Conference's Caring for Holocaust Survivors Yammer group. If you are not yet a member and subscribing, please contact caringforholocaustsurvivors@claimscon.org. It is also available on the Claims Conference's website at <http://www.claimscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LChaim-newsletter.pdf>. Please feel free to distribute the newsletter, post to websites and social media, etc. as you deem appropriate.

Q: Which survivors received the newsletters?

A: The first issue was sent to Holocaust survivors who are social services recipients, Article 2 Fund pension recipients, and some additional Jewish Nazi victims that are known to us from compensation programs like the Hardship Fund, Child Survivor Fund, etc. We also encourage you to share it with your survivor clients available at <http://www.claimscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/LChaim-newsletter.pdf>.

COMPENSATION – Righteous Gentiles, Spouse Fund, Article 2

Q: How does one apply for Righteous Gentile pension?

A: If a Righteous Gentile is interested in applying, they should be in touch with us at info@claimscon.org.

Q: Regarding the Article 2 Fund Surviving Spouse Payment: Does the Claims Conference have a list of A2 deceased clients so we can reach out to non-survivor spouses? Our records do not go back that far.

A: We are reaching out to last known address of deceased Article Fund recipients.

Q: Since we may have the addresses of spouses who received Article 2, could that list also be provided to agencies such as ours?

A: They can contact the Claims Conference at info@claimscon.org for an application. Information and the application are also available at <http://www.claimscon.org/spouse/>.

Q: Is 1995 the earliest date of Article 2? I have a client whose husband died in 1983. She thought he had Article 2.

A: Yes, 1995 was the beginning of Article 2 Fund payments.

Q: Due to changes in the financial eligibility for Article 2 in 2020, how do the clients who were not eligible for Article 2 before 2020 reapply?

A: They can contact the Claims Conference at info@claimscon.org and request that the claim be reopened.

Q: Some of our survivors heard that Germany is thinking of stopping payments to survivors. Have you heard anything like that?

A: No.

ALLOCATIONS – GRANTS/PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Q: Will deadlines for supporting documentation and allowing verbal consent be extended beyond June 30? Thanks for all your support!

Q: When does the period where we can move 20% of our budget end?

Q: The temporary consent form that was issued on in the notification on March 31st says that it is only valid until June 30th. Will there be a new form to be used after June 30th or are we supposed to get original signatures on all forms starting in July?

A: As of now, all coronavirus related emergency measures are valid through June 30, 2020. The Claims Conference is in discussions with the German government about possible extension. Agencies will be notified if the flexibilities can be extended further into Q3 and a new form will be circulated.

Q: The 20% flexibility...do we need approval to use the money?

A: Yes, please contact your Program Officer for agency specific questions related to the 20%.

Q: Some survivors do not allow us in their home. They do not let their children in....how can we reassess given their wishes and Claims Conference's guidelines?

Q: Is the date extended for home visit?

Q: We have put a hold on our reassessments due to the difficulty of getting documents from families that do not have access to scanners. We also have a new client information system for our agency that we are launching in August, which will keep us all busy. Would it be ok if re-started doing assessments in September?

A: Through June 30 as of now...

- Claims Conference **paused** the Monthly DAF reassessment reminder emails
- Claims Conference **permitted** agency discretion
 - Reassessments may be **postponed**
 - **Virtual** assessments allowed temporarily
 - Medical Assessment Form (MAF) flexibility

On March 31, we distributed a notification regarding flexibility in protocols/procedures through June 30, 2020. We were pleased to negotiate these measures so that agencies can focus attention on service delivery and ensuring the safety and security of vulnerable clients.

The notice included reference to the Medical Assessment Form:

Medical Assessment Forms (MAF and MAF 105+) – If the standard procedure cannot be followed during this period and the agency has a medical professional on staff, then this person can complete the form during this crisis period. If no other option is available, then the client’s social worker or case manager may complete the form. After the crisis, the agency must have the client’s doctor complete a new MAF or MAF 105+ form as relevant if the agency wants to continue the higher number of weekly homecare hours after the crisis period.

If the agency is invoking this flexibility, please track all MAFs not completed by a doctor. This will prevent any issues in the future regarding the requirement to obtain a MAF by a doctor as the crisis subsides and the restrictions ease.

We may ask for the tracking sheet/list and will follow up with agencies to confirm that the MAFs were later completed by a doctor as the year progresses.

COVID URGENT RELIEF FUND

Q: Can the COVID 1 grant help Holocaust survivors who are for a variety of reasons not active in Diamond.

A: The COVID funds are for clients who are Approved or Research in Progress with Proof in Diamond with priority to those with few or no financial or familial resources. Please contact your Program Officer with agency specific questions.

Q: Will the agencies have additional COVID 19 funds?

A: The COVID Urgent Relief Fund is closed as all funds were allocated - \$4.32 million to 70+ agencies in 20+ countries. Please discuss your agency's specific needs with your Program Officer such as accessing the 20% flexibility on the ongoing grant.

CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING

Q: Would the situation in Germany affect already existing arrangements with Claims Conference? The future negotiations could be affected as Greg said, but is there a risk that there will be cut offs of the existing services.

A: 2020 funding is secure.

Q: Future agency allocations are often impacted by current spending. With spending down due to COVID-19 how will this affect future allocations? If our spending is down so far in 2020, might we expect a smaller allocation in 2021?

A: 2020 is not a representative year. What we do need from you – **close any outstanding 2019 reports, submit Q1 reports, submit 2021 application, update the homecare unmet need. As a reminder, any unmet need before Q4 2019 will be zeroed out in Diamond. If there the clients still have unmet need, please enter a new entry in Diamond. This is critical data for negotiations for 2021 funding.**

Q: Thanks for sharing the info about Claims Conference's initiatives around the world. It would be nice to continue receiving on-going updates on how agencies service the survivors in different countries.

A: We encourage agencies to post their programming in Yammer!!!!