

Covid-19 Funding Sources Update and How to Overcome Obstacles to Access Relief

April 17, 2020

- 1. How do we get the applications for all these funds, especially the grants, as we don't know the names of these grantors?**

To get applications, providers should contact their state association, Medicare Administrative Contractor, Health and Human Services Regional Office and main offices in Washington, DC and Baltimore.

- 2. Won't the impact of this vary widely health systems to health system? How does the impact vary based on infection rate?**

Yes, the impact of Covid-19 will vary widely, not only due to regional geographic differences, but also due to patient demographics (current health, age, prevalence of co-morbid conditions, behaviors such as smoking prevalence in area, homelessness, uninsured, minorities, etc.) and current health care infrastructure.

Each health center/system/group should apply for maximal allotment and think not only about what will help them serve their patients today, but also what will help them prepare and map out the future with ability to increase access and quality, partner with other systems and community based organizations and receive future funding through quality metrics and value-based arrangements.

- 3. Is there any overlap in funding, and if there is, how does one deal with it? For example, if you are receiving funding from one source, will it negatively affect your opportunity to access other sources?**

The funding considerations vary based on the funding pool.

For instance, organizations that receive funding from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will not be eligible for duplicate assistance provided by HHS, CDC, or other federal agencies.

If an organization were to receive funding from two or more of these programs for the same expense, the organization will be required to return that money during the reconciliation process. To avoid such overlap, organizations must submit quarterly reports detailing how funds are spent.

- 4. How will the \$70 billion remaining from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund be distributed? How do we access this funding?**

The remaining \$70 billion from the CARES Act Public Health and Social Services Emergency fund will target the following: areas that are COVID-19 hot spots, providers with lower shares of Medicare reimbursement who predominantly serve Medicaid or uninsured populations, Medicare Advantage and rural providers. Further details on distribution are expected to be released in the near future.

Funding applications for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency fund have not yet been made available. To prepare for application processes, organizations should first determine their eligibility for the grant and quantify any eligible expenses the funds may cover. They should also document any costs and revenue losses related to Covid-19 while concurrently bolstering their post-

pandemic recovery plan and training/education on tracking Covid-19 codes and Medicare payments. These measures will strengthen the organization's ability to apply rapidly to future emergency funds.