

HHS Announces Enhanced Provider Portal, Relief Fund Payments for Safety Net Hospitals, Medicaid & CHIP Providers

On June 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced additional distributions from the Provider Relief Fund to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs. HHS expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Distribution. HHS is also announcing the distribution of \$10 billion in Provider Relief Funds to safety net hospitals that serve our most vulnerable citizens. The safety net distribution will occur this week.

ENHANCED PROVIDER RELIEF FUND PORTAL

On June 10, 2020, HHS launched an enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal that will allow eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers to report their annual patient revenue, which will be used as a factor in determining their Provider Relief Fund payment. The payment to each provider will be at least 2 percent of reported gross revenue from patient care; the final amount each provider receives will be determined after the data is submitted, including information about the number of Medicaid patients providers serve.

Examples of providers serving Medicaid/CHIP beneficiaries possibly eligible for this funding, include pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists, dentists, opioid treatment and behavioral health providers, assisted living facilities, and other home and community-based services providers.

To be eligible for this funding, health care providers must not have received payments from the \$50 billion Provider Relief Fund General Distribution and either have directly billed their state Medicaid/CHIP programs or Medicaid managed care plans for healthcare-related services between January 1, 2018, to May 31, 2020.

\$10 BILLION ALLOCATION FOR SAFETY NET HOSPITALS

HHS is announcing the distribution of \$10 billion in Provider Relief Funds to safety net hospitals that serve our most vulnerable citizens, recognizing the incredibly thin margins these hospitals operate on. This payment is being sent directly to these hospitals via direct deposit.

This payment is going to hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients or provide large amounts of uncompensated care. Qualifying hospitals will have:

- A Medicare Disproportionate Payment Percentage (DPP) of 20.2 percent or greater;
- Average Uncompensated Care per bed of \$25,000 or more. For example, a hospital with 100 beds would need to provide \$2,500,000 in Uncompensated Care in a year to meet this requirement;
- Profitability of 3 percent or less, as reported to CMS in its most recently filed Cost Report.

Recipients will receive a minimum distribution of \$5 million and a maximum distribution of \$50 million.

ADDITIONAL PROVIDER RELIEF FUND UPDATES

- On Monday, June 8, 2020, HHS sent communications to all hospitals asking them to update information on their COVID-19 positive-inpatient admissions for the period January 1, 2020, through June 10, 2020. This information will be used to determine a second round of funding to hospitals in COVID-19 hotspots to ensure they are equitably supported in the battle against this pandemic. To determine their eligibility for funding under this \$10 billion distribution, hospitals must submit their information by June 15, 2020 at 9:00 PM ET.
- HHS is working on an additional allocation to distribute relief broadly to dentists.

HOW TO APPLY FOR HHS RELIEF FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

HHS has published more information on the [provider relief fund website](#) including:

- [A set of instructions for providers](#), including a deadline of July 20, 2020 to submit an application;
- [The application form itself](#); and
- [The portal to complete the application process](#).

Two webinars have been scheduled to help those who want to learn more about the application process. Pre-register to reserve a spot on either date:

- [Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 2 PM ET](#)
- [Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 2 PM ET](#)

As a reminder, for additional COVID-19 resources and updates please visit <https://healthcurrent.org/ahcccs-covid19/>.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your Health Plan Representative.

