



Louisiana Department of Health

Informational Bulletin 20-8

April 14, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, temporary changes in provider policy and managed care practices are reflected herein to respond to the emergency. All other non-COVID-19 related policy remains in effect and shall be followed.

CARES Act Provider Relief Funding

This bulletin is to inform about federal funding directly available to providers through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This bulletin will be updated as new information is available. Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the CARES Act provides nearly \$2 trillion in emergency relief funding in support of the national response to COVID-19.

The funds from the CARES Act detailed herein do not flow through the Louisiana Department of Health. Listed below are the various sources of available federal funding and how to access the funding or find additional information from the federal agencies administering the funds. As additional information is identified on accessing the various appropriations, updates to this bulletin will be posted.

Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund

As part of the CARES Act, \$100 billion is dedicated to provider relief for hospitals and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the COVID-19 response through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. These are payments, not loans, to healthcare providers, and will not need to be repaid. Funds will be distributed through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured individuals can get testing and treatment for COVID-19.

Immediate Delivery of Initial \$30 billion in provider relief funds

The HHS began distribution of the first \$30 billion in relief funding to providers on April 10, 2020, through Automated Clearing House. No application is necessary for these funds. All facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019 are eligible for this first distribution, and distributions are **based on their share of total Medicare**

FFS reimbursements in 2019 (\$484 billion). For Louisiana, that means \$474,891,735 will be distributed to nearly 5,000 providers.

Automated payments will be made through a partnership with UnitedHealth Group (UHG) using account information on file with UHG, UnitedHealthcare or Optum Bank, or through reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Providers who normally receive paper checks for CMS reimbursements will also receive paper checks for this payment. Those are expected to arrive within the next few weeks. Please note that if providers ceased operation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are still eligible to receive funds.

As a condition to receiving these funds, providers must agree not to seek collection of out-of-pocket payments from a COVID-19 patient that are greater than what the patient would have otherwise been required to pay if the care had been provided by an in-network provider.

Providers who receive payments must also sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the HHS [terms and conditions](#) within 30 days of receiving the payment. The portal for signing the attestation will be open the week of April 13, 2020, and can be found on the [HHS Provider Relief page](#).

Distribution of Remaining CARES Act Funding

The remaining \$70 billion is slated for targeted provider distribution. The focus will be on providers in areas particularly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, rural providers, providers of services with lower shares of reimbursement or those that predominantly serve the Medicaid population, and providers requesting reimbursement for the treatment of uninsured individuals. Additional details will be provided as soon as they are available.

Find more information about the CARES Act at hhs.gov/provider-relief.