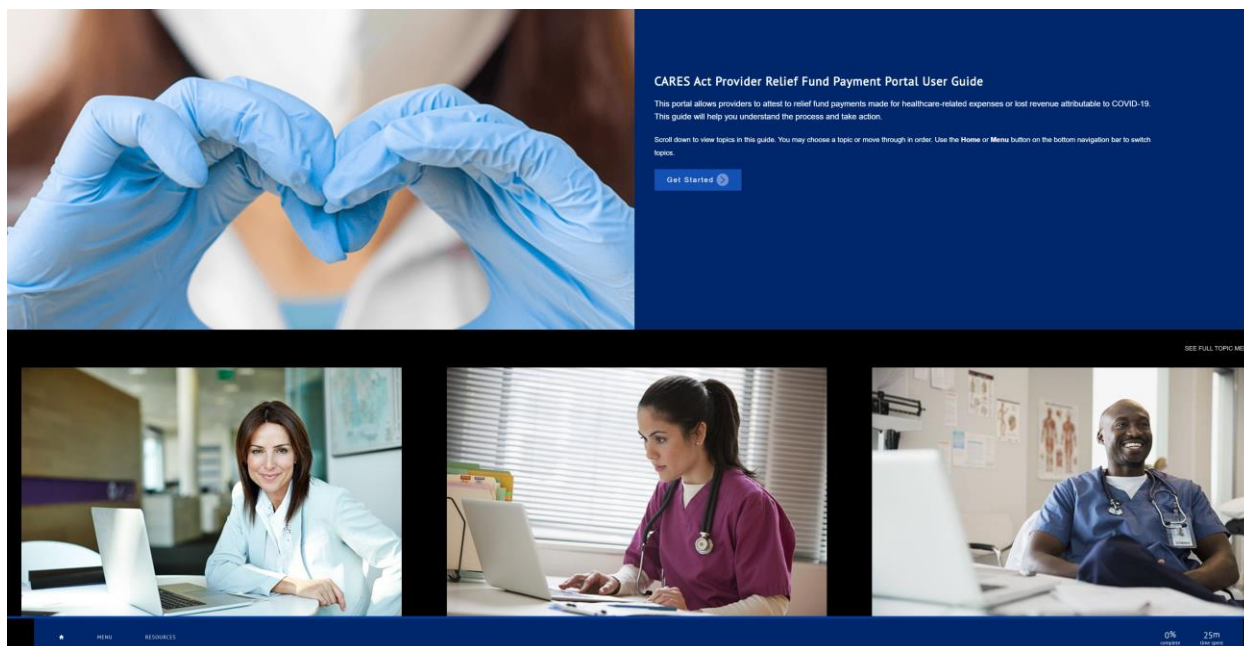


## HBS Update

June 11, 2020

### 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) [announced](#) that it will distribute \$25 billion from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (Provider Relief Fund) to healthcare providers who focus on treating low-income and minority patients to combat the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). HHS anticipates that approximately \$15 billion will be distributed to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid programs, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and/or Medicaid/CHIP-managed care programs who have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Allocation (Medicaid and CHIP Distribution). Critically, for the Medicaid and CHIP Distribution, providers must take action as soon as this week to receive these funds.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing 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 Allocation. 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.

"Healthcare providers who focus on treating the most vulnerable Americans, including low-income and minority patients, are absolutely essential to our fight against COVID-19," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "HHS is using funds from Congress, secured by President Trump, to provide new targeted help for America's safety-net providers and clinicians who treat millions of Medicaid beneficiaries."

HHS is providing support to healthcare providers fighting the COVID-19 pandemic through the bipartisan *CARES Act* and the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*, which allocated \$175 billion in relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers, including those disproportionately impacted by this pandemic.

## ENHANCED PROVIDER RELIEF FUND PORTAL

On Wednesday, HHS is launching 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.**

The initial General Distribution provided payments to approximately 62 percent of all providers participating in state Medicaid and CHIP programs. The Medicaid and CHIP Targeted distribution will make the Provider Relief Fund available to the remaining 38 percent. HHS has already provided relief funding to over one million providers, and today's announcement is expected to reach several hundred thousand more providers, many of whom are safety net providers operating on thin margins.

Clinicians that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and/or Medicaid and CHIP managed care organizations who have not yet received General Distribution funding may submit their annual patient revenue information to the enhanced Provider Relief Fund Portal to receive a distribution equal to at least 2 percent of reported gross revenues from patient care. This funding will supply relief to Medicaid and CHIP providers experiencing lost revenues or increased expenses due to COVID-19. 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. Close to one million health care providers may be eligible for this funding.

More information about eligibility and the application process is summarized in the following table.

**Table 1 – Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Portal Useful Links**

Description	Link
<b>HHS Announcement</b>	<a href="https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/hhs-announces-enhanced-provider-portal-relief-fund-payments-for-safety-net-hospitals-medicaid-chip-providers.html">https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/hhs-announces-enhanced-provider-portal-relief-fund-payments-for-safety-net-hospitals-medicaid-chip-providers.html</a>
<b>Instructions</b>	<a href="https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/medicaid-provider-distribution-instructions.pdf">https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/medicaid-provider-distribution-instructions.pdf</a>
<b>User Guide</b>	<a href="https://chameleoncloud.io/review/3016-5ec704315a620/prod">https://chameleoncloud.io/review/3016-5ec704315a620/prod</a>
<b>Terms and Conditions</b>	<a href="https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/terms-and-conditions-medicaid-relief-fund.pdf">https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/terms-and-conditions-medicaid-relief-fund.pdf</a>
<b>Application Form</b>	<a href="https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/medicaid-provider-distribution-application-form.pdf">https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/medicaid-provider-distribution-application-form.pdf</a>
<b>Attestation Portal</b>	<a href="http://cares.linkhealth.com/">http://cares.linkhealth.com/</a>

## Medicaid and CHIP Distribution and Enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal

1. **Eligible Providers.** To be eligible for the Medicaid and CHIP Distribution, healthcare providers (1) **must not have received payments** from the \$50 billion Provider Relief Fund general distribution and (2) must have directly billed a state Medicaid/CHIP program and/or a Medicaid managed care plan for healthcare-related services between Jan. 1, 2018, and May 31, 2020. Examples of providers serving Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries that may be eligible include pediatricians, OB-GYNs, dentists, opioid treatment and behavioral health providers, assisted living facilities and other home and community-based services providers. As discussed below, eligible providers must take action through an application portal to access these funds.
2. **Expected Payments. Eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers can expect to receive at least 2 percent of their reported gross revenue from patient care. The final amount each provider receives will be based on the data providers submit through the enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal, including information about the number of Medicaid patients providers serve.**
3. **Application.** HHS stated that it would launch an enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal on June 10, 2020, which will allow eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers to report their annual patient revenue. More information about eligibility and the application process is available on [HHS' CARES Act Provider Relief Fund: General Information page](#), with more details likely to come.
4. **Terms and Conditions.**
  - i) Although additional guidance is likely forthcoming, HHS has published the [Medicaid and CHIP Distribution Terms and Conditions](#) (Terms and Condition) for recipients who received payments as part of the Medicaid and CHIP Distribution. As with the [Terms and Conditions](#) for other Provider Relief Fund distributions, recipients will be required to certify compliance with the Terms and Conditions. The Terms and Conditions also provide that any provider retaining payment for at least 90 days without contacting HHS regarding remittance of those funds will be deemed to have accepted the Terms and Conditions, although the Provider Relief Fund Portal may have additional information.
  - ii) The Terms and Conditions are generally consistent with the certifications made for the other Provider Relief Fund distributions, including certifications that the recipient provides or provided after Jan. 31, 2020, diagnoses, testing or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19 and that the payment will be used only to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 and will reimburse the recipient only for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues attributable to COVID-19. Providers should be aware that HHS may require them to submit financial documentation and records to HHS and that payments received may be publicly disclosed by HHS. Providers should ensure they stay informed on HHS' guidance and the necessary Terms and Conditions to maintain compliance with the applicable requirements.

To be eligible to apply, the applicant must meet all of the following requirements:

1. **must not have received payment from the \$50 billion General Distribution; and**
2. must have directly billed Medicaid for healthcare-related services during the period of January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019, or (ii) own (on the application date) an included subsidiary that has billed Medicaid for healthcare-related services during the period of January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019; and
3. must have either (i) filed a federal income tax return for fiscal years 2017, 2018 or 2019 or (ii) be an entity exempt from the requirement to file a federal income tax return and have no beneficial owner that is required to file a federal income tax return. (e.g. a state-owned hospital or healthcare clinic); and
4. must have provided patient care after January 31, 2020; and
5. must not have permanently ceased providing patient care directly, or indirectly through included subsidiaries; and
6. if the applicant is an individual, have gross receipts or sales from providing patient care reported on Form 1040, Schedule C, Line 1, excluding income reported on a W-2 as a (statutory) employee.

Source: <https://www.mcguirewoods.com/client-resources/Alerts/2020/6/new-provider-relief-fund-payments-for-medicaid-chip-providers>

We hope this summary helps our pediatric RHCs that have not received a general fund distribution at this time to receive stimulus grant funds equal to at least 2% of the clinic's net revenues.

Mark R. Lynn, CRHCP, CPA (Inactive)  
RHC Consultant

**Healthcare Business Specialists, LLC**

502 Shadow Parkway

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421

Office (833) 787-2542

Cell/Text (423) 243-6185

Email [marklynnrhc@gmail.com](mailto:marklynnrhc@gmail.com) Website [www.ruralhealthclinic.com](http://www.ruralhealthclinic.com)

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Emergency Preparedness: <http://www.ruralhealthclinic.com/emergency-preparedness>