



May 12, 2020

PROVIDER RELIEF PAYMENTS UNDER THE FEDERAL CARES ACT

Pursuant to the federal CARES Act, HHS is authorized to provide up to \$100 billion in financial relief to Medicare providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Funds available through the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund are grants that are generally not required to be repaid. In order to be eligible for financial relief, a provider must be a billing entity that received Medicare fee-for-service payments (Part A or B) during 2019. In addition, following January 31, 2020, the practitioner must have provided care and treatment to any individual with a possible or actual case of COVID-19. HHS broadly views every patient as a possible case of COVID-19, therefore psychiatric care and treatment of any patient qualifies for payment eligibility.

First Round of Distributions – Automatic

In the first round of distributions under the CARES Act, HHS distributed \$30 billion during the month of April. These payments were made automatically, either by direct deposit or by check, in proportion to provider allowed Medicare payments for 2019 (approximately 6.198% of 2019 Medicare revenues). Some members may have already received these payments. No application or action was required in order to receive this first round of funding. Practitioners who received payments were instructed to complete an online attestation agreeing to the terms and conditions of the program. If practitioners do not complete the attestation or return the funds within 45 days, they are deemed to have agreed to the program terms and conditions.

Distribution of Remaining Funds - By Application Only

During the second round of distributions, HHS plans to release an additional \$20 billion in relief funds. **ONLY** those practitioners that previously received a relief payment (prior to 5:00 pm on April 24, 2020) are eligible **to apply for** an additional payment. Practitioners who did not previously receive a payment are not eligible to apply for the second round of funding, but may be eligible to receive financial support from other funding mechanisms not yet implemented.

In order to be considered for additional funding, a practitioner must submit an application to the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal, which can be accessed **via this link** <https://covid19.linkhealth.com/docuSign/#/step/1>. In order to apply, practitioners must submit the following information to the General Distribution Portal:

1. The practitioner's annual Medicare revenues, called "Program Service Revenue" - as submitted in its federal income tax return
2. Estimated loss in revenue due to COVID-19 during the months of March and April 2020

3. A copy of the provider's most recently filed federal tax return

You will also need to provide your TIN (taxpayer identification number) and the TIN of any subsidiary organizations that have received relief payments but do not customarily submit a federal tax return. However, if you are not interested in applying for additional relief funds, no submission to HHS or any further action is required at this time.

As noted earlier, the relief funds are not intended to be a loan and generally will not need to be repaid. However, HHS may conduct audits to confirm that the amount of funds received do not exceed lost revenues or increased expenses.

Returning Unwanted Automatic Payments

If you feel that a payment was sent in error or if you do not have lost revenues or increased expenses in excess of the payment received, you should reject the payment and may submit data to the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal to initiate a corrected payment amount. In addition, notify your bank to return the electronic funds transfer or rip up or return the check received.

For additional information on the Provider Relief Fund:

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal:

<https://covid19.linkhealth.com/#/step/1>

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/index.html>

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/provider-relief-fund-general-distribution-faqs.pdf>



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