



October 16, 2020

PHASE 3 CARES ACT RELIEF FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PSYCHIATRISTS AND OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

The federal Department of Health and Human Services recently announced a third round of CARES Act Provider Relief Funds available to health care providers, including psychiatrists and other behavioral health providers. Phase 3 of the General Distribution provides for up to \$20 billion in payments and will permit psychiatrists who have directly billed health insurance companies or who do not accept health insurance and directly bill patients to apply for funding at this time. All applications for relief fund payments under Phase 3 must be submitted no later than November 6, 2020, 11:59 pm ET.

Eligibility

Phase 3 funding is available to any provider of health care, services and support in a medical setting, at home or in the community. This includes psychiatrists, other behavioral health providers, inpatient behavioral health facilities, nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities, among others. (For a complete list of eligible providers, please see the Step-by-Step Provider Guide linked below).

A provider must meet **at least one** of the established eligibility criteria. The following are the categories of eligibility that would apply to a private practicing psychiatrist:

- Be a behavioral health provider who has billed a health insurance company as of March 31, 2020, or who does not accept insurance and has billed patients for healthcare-related services as of March 31, 2020; or
- Billed Medicaid / CHIP programs or Medicaid managed care plans for health-related services between January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2020; or
- Billed Medicare fee-for-service during the period of January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020; or
- Received a prior targeted distribution.

Any eligible health care provider may apply for the Phase 3 funding, regardless of whether the provider was eligible for, applied for, received, accepted or rejected a CARES Act provider relief fund payment in the past.

In order to be considered for payment, eligible providers must complete the online application process, which includes validation of the provider's Taxpayer Identification

Number (TIN) and submission of relevant financial information. Required financial information includes (i) copies of federal income tax returns for 2017, 2018 or 2019; (ii) a revenue worksheet and (iii) operating revenues and expenses in connection with patient care. All applications must be submitted through the Provider Relief Fund Application Attestation Portal.

The distribution to each provider is anticipated to be equal to two percent (2%) of annual patient care revenue (if not previously received) and will include an assessment of lost revenue and additional expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Previous provider relief fund distributions will also be taken into account.

Relief fund payments may be used to cover lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 or health-related expenses purchased to prevent, prepare for, and respond to novel coronavirus, including supplies and equipment. Any providers who receive more than \$10,000 in relief funds will be required to submit reports regarding their subsequent use of funds received.

Any payments received are not considered loans and will **not** need to be repaid, as long as providers comply with the terms and conditions of the program. Any provider who receives funds will have 90 days to attest to the terms and conditions of the program. If a provider does not actively attest within 90 days, the provider will be considered to have accepted the terms and conditions (unless the funds are returned).

HHS has encouraged eligible providers to submit their applications as soon as possible to expedite application processing and payment.

Helpful Links:

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Step-by-Step Provider Guide](#)

[Application Instructions](#)

[Sample Application Form](#)

For additional information and to access the Provider Relief Fund Application Attestation Portal, visit <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/providers/index.html>.

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