

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

- \$100 billion relief fund to ensure health care providers continue to receive the support they need for COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue.
- The Department of Health and Human Services announced on April 10, 2020 immediate disbursement of the first \$30 billion of the \$100 billion that Congress allocated in the CARES Act.
- The \$30 Billion in funding is being directed to hospitals and physicians practices in direct proportion to their 2019 share of Medicare fee-for-service spending.
- All facilities and health professionals that billed Medicare FFS in 2019 are eligible for the funds. The funds are grants, not loans, and do NOT have to be repaid. The funds will go directly to each organization's tax identification number (TIN) and not to reach individual physician. The automatic payments will come to the organizations via Optum Bank with "HHSPAYMENT" as the payment description. See the links below for additional detail.
- Be sure to review the terms and conditions link for receipt of given that each organization receiving grant **must attest to receipt within 30 days** of the grant. Funds may be use for health care related expenses or lost revenue attributable to coronavirus.

[CARES Act Provider Relief Fund](#)

[Relief Fund Terms and Conditions](#)

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

- \$349 billion from Congress to provide direct incentives for small businesses (of not more than 500 employees), including physician practices, to keep their workers on payroll by providing each small business a loan up to \$10 million for payroll and certain other expenses.
- Loan amount is determined by multiplying the average total monthly payments for payroll costs incurred during the 1-year period before the date on which the loan is made by 2.5.
- Loan forgiveness will require 75 percent to be spent on payroll costs. Forgiveness is based on the 8-week period following loan origination. Portion of loan not forgiven will mature at 2 years at an interest rate of 1%.
- Small business and physician practices that have received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) can still apply for the Paycheck Protection Program. Loans cannot be used for the same purposes and EIDL can be refinanced into a Paycheck Protection Program loan.
- Available until June 30 2020. First-come, first-served. Interested entities should contact their financial institutions.

[Payroll Protect Program Details](#)

[FAQ for Lenders and Borrowers](#)

[Borrower Application](#)

[Affiliation Rules for Determining Number of Employees](#)

ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN

- Available to eligible entities, including physician practices, with not more than 500 employees. Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020.
- An advance of \$10,000 is available for providing paid sick leave to employees, maintaining payroll, meeting increased costs to obtain materials, making rent or mortgage payments, and repaying obligations that cannot be met due to revenue losses.
- The \$10,000 advance payment would not need to be repaid. If an entity also gets a Payroll Protection Program loan, the advance would be subtracted from the amount forgiven.

[Apply through the Small Business Administration](#)

MEDICARE ACCELERATED AND ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM

- Physicians can request an advance payment up to 100% of their Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. MACs have been instructed to use the physician's claims for the period October-December 2019 as the basis for the maximum advance payment amount.
- Repayment begins 120 days after the date payment is issued. CMS will recoup the advance payment amount by retaining the reimbursement amount that would normally be paid on new claims. Physicians would have 210 days from the date of the accelerated/advance payment to repay the balance without interest.
- Physicians can request extended repayment plan at 10.25% interest, and advocacy efforts are underway to lower this interest rate.
- CMS estimates a 5-6 day processing time for funds and has approved more than 17,000 requests in the past week.
- Request forms vary by contractor and can be found on each individual Medicare Administrative Contractor's (MAC's) website. MAC's are regional administrators for Medicare. Check [here](#) for a full list of MACs by state. Physicians should indicate on their application they are experiencing cash flow problems due to the COVID-19 crisis.

[CMS Accelerated and Advance Payment Program Fact Sheet](#)

SEQUESTRATION SUSPENSION

- The 2% Medicare sequestration will be suspended May 1-December 31, 2020. This would eliminate the 2% across-the-board cuts in federal spending required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and amounts to 2% more in Medicare reimbursement during this eight-month period.