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Oregon FQHC Emergency Funding Opportunities and Billing Updates

The COVID19 pandemic is straining Oregon's Community Health Center network and financial sustainability is threatening the viability of health center operations. Recent developments in state and federal policy for both Medicare and the Oregon Health Plan will hopefully provide some relief as health centers face increasingly difficult decisions. OPCA remains committed to keeping you informed and providing guidance to support health center operations during this unprecedented time. Below, you will find up-to-date resources on a range of critical topics.

CARES Act

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

The Paycheck Protection Program is a loan from the Small Business Administration that incentivizes small businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The loan can be up to the lesser of \$10 million or 2.5 times the average total monthly payroll and benefit expenses from the one-year period prior to the date of application and is available to all businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Despite its low .5% interest rate, loans will be forgiven if all monies are used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities and the business's employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks (or if they are quickly rehired and current salary levels are maintained).

The Paycheck Protection Program will begin April 3, 2020 and is available through June 30, 2020. You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender, federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, or Farm Credit System institution that is participating in the program.

More [details here](#). Sample application [here](#)

Public Health and Social Service Emergency Fund (PHSSEF)

The Public Health and Social Service Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) is set to receive \$100 billion to help reimburse health care providers for costs associated with COVID-19. While the CARES Act gives Health and Human Services (HHS) the discretion to distribute the money, HHS has released no guidance as of yet how it will do so. We do know that FQHCs and look-a-likes will be eligible and that all non-reimbursable expenses attributable to Covid-19 qualify for funding. Once more guidance on how to apply is available, OPCA will let you know.

\$1.32 Billion in Additional CHC Funding

The CARES Act allocates \$1.32 billion of immediate additional funding for community health centers which will be distributed through HRSA in the coming weeks.

Delayed Payroll Tax Payments

Employers can choose to defer payments of their share of payroll taxes through December 31, 2020. The deferred amounts would be paid in equal amounts over the next two subsequent years, due December 31, 2021 and 2022, respectively.

Additional Loans

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans

As a result of Governor Brown's disaster declaration due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Small Business Administration has made Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses in Oregon. Community health centers can apply for up to \$2 million dollars to help pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills. For FQHCs, the interest rate is 2.75% and can have up to a 30-year term, depending on the clinic's ability to pay.

For details, [click here](#)

Medicare

Medicare is offering accelerated and advance payments in order to improve cash-flow for organizations that have billed Medicare in the last 180 days. To apply, fill out an Accelerated or Advance Payment Request form on your Medicare Administrative Contractor's website and request a specific amount, which can be up to 100% Medicare payment amount for a three-month period.

To be eligible, you must

1. Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the provider's/supplier's request form
2. Not be in bankruptcy
3. Not be under active medical review or program integrity investigation
4. Not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments.

For more details on Medicare's accelerated and advance payment system, [click here](#)

HRSA Funding

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

On March 24, HRSA released \$100 million in funding from the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act to health centers' accounts. Unfortunately, under this Act, look-a-likes were not eligible for funds.

Click the following links for details, including [reporting requirements](#) and [registration for two Q&A sessions](#), as well as a [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

330 Grant Accelerated Drawdowns

From HRSA's COVID19 Page:

"HRSA is aware that many health centers are experiencing budget challenges associated with COVID-19. Health centers may draw grant funding from Payment Management System (PMS) for expenses in alignment with the health center's financial and operational policies and procedures and the approved grant budget. Acknowledging that this is an unprecedented time, health centers should consider the pace of their spending to ensure they have sufficient funds to avoid any funding shortfall.

As a reminder, advance payments to a Health Center Program awardee must be limited to the minimum amounts needed and be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements of the awardee in carrying out the purpose of the approved program or project (per the Uniform Administrative Requirements at 45 CFR 75.305)."

Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid COVID19 Billing Update

OHP has released coding instructions for COVID19 services that were provided to OHP members. When billing for COVID-19 prevention, identification, diagnosis or treatment, please enter modifier “CR” (Catastrophe/Disaster) for professional claims or enter condition code “DR” (Disaster-Related) for institutional claims.

The announcement can be [found here](#)

OPCA Will Keep You Informed!

Please continue to check [OPCA's COVID-19 page](#) for updates on funding opportunities and other important matters related to COVID19. Feel free to reach out to OPCA if your FQHC has any further questions. We are committed to ensure your health center can continue to address this pandemic and keep Oregonians safe and healthy!