

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

October 16, 2020

HHS releases more information about next provider relief fund general distribution

Earlier this week, HHS released more information about the Provider Relief Fund Phase 3 General Distribution. Under this distribution, eligible hospitals can apply for additional payments that consider COVID-19-related financial losses and changes in operating expenses. The application period is open Oct. 5-Nov. 6. Click [HERE](#) for application instructions and [HERE](#) for an updated FAQ.

HHS renews COVID-19 national public health emergency declaration

The Department of Health and Human Services has [announced](#) the renewal of the COVID-19 national public health emergency declaration. The renewal is effective Friday, Oct. 23, and will last 90 days.

IDPH provides updated vaccine information

The Iowa Department of Public Health has posted updated vaccine information. These updates are:

- [COVID-19 vaccine information brief.](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine LPHA webinar presentation.](#)
- Updated FAQs for [health care providers](#) and [public health agencies](#), and about the [COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement/REDCap survey.](#)

All documents are posted to the HAN *3 COVID-19 Vaccine folder. Call the immunization program with questions at 800-831-6293.

CMS releases interpretative guidance on mandatory COVID-19 data reporting for hospitals

CMS has released [guidance](#) on how it will implement an Aug. 25 [interim final rule](#) that makes collecting and reporting COVID-19 data a condition of participation for hospitals that participate in Medicare. The guidance includes new reporting requirements for hospitals, as well as enforcement provisions. Click [HERE](#) for highlights of the interpretive guidance and AHA's reaction.

IDPH releases new resources

The latest resources from the Iowa Department of Public Health include:

- [Reporting Requirements for Provider Relief Funds](#) – This guidance informs provider relief Fund recipients who received payments exceeding \$10,000 of the data elements they must report for calendar years 2019 and 2020 as part of their terms and conditions. It provides detail on how to report expenses attributable to COVID-19, including general and administrative, health care-related and lost revenue.
- [Addressing Needs of People with Disabilities in COVID-19 Local Preparedness Planning, Mitigation, and Recovery Efforts](#) – Funding to improve the capacity of local health departments to address the needs of people with disabilities when planning and responding to outbreaks and other national emergencies, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding amount: Fixed price contracts up to \$83,000 to 10 local health departments. **Deadline: Tuesday, Oct. 13.**
- [FY21 Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program](#) – The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will award approximately \$12.7 million to 60 organizations. The office's outreach program focuses on expanding the delivery of health care services

to new and enhanced services in rural communities. Applicants must deliver health care services through a consortium of at least three organizations, use an evidence-based or promising-practice model, and demonstrate health outcomes and sustainability by the end of the four-year performance period. A webinar for applicants is scheduled 2-3:30 pm Tuesday Oct. 13. **Deadline: Tuesday, Dec. 1.**

- [NCSL on COVID-19 Health Disparities](#) – **1 pm Wednesday, Oct. 14.** The National Conference of State Legislatures will provide an overview of racial and ethnic disparities in the pandemic and look at state actions to reduce these disparities.
- [DOL H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program](#) – The US Department of Labor will make up to 40 awards with a total investment of \$40 million to train health care professionals working in rural areas. [The H-1B Skills Training Grants fund projects that train workers](#) for high-skill jobs in underserved areas of the country to allow employers to meet workforce needs. **Deadline: Friday, Nov. 13.**
- [HRSA Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) – The Health Resources and Services Administration will make 20 awards of up to \$100,000 each to plan the development of networks among at least three separately owned local health care providers. Eligible applicants include public, private and nonprofit entities that serve rural populations. A technical assistance webinar for applicants was held today. A recording is available for those unable to attend. **Deadline: Monday, Nov. 16.**
- [AmeriCorps State and National Grants for Community Service](#) – AmeriCorps awards federal grants to community organizations for civic engagement through service and volunteering. Funding priorities include recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and programs that advance racial equality. **Deadline: Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.**
- [Farmer Stress](#) – Describes stressors affecting US farmers, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes a video conversation about farmer stress and links to resources on managing stress, seeking help and resources for mental health providers.
- [HHS Telemedicine Hack webinar](#) – **11 am Wednesdays through Nov. 25.** The US Department of Health and Human Services, the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico and the Public Health Foundation's TRAIN Learning Network is delivering this 10-week peer-to-peer learning community to provide knowledge and skills for video-based telemedicine. All ambulatory providers are invited to participate.
- [Finding Innovation and Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Provider Telehealth Innovations and How-To Guide for Thinking Sustainably](#) – Provides guidance on how providers can focus on sustainability of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Provides examples of how providers, including those in rural settings, are adapting their practices.
- [A Sustainability How-To Guide for Providers of Telehealth.](#)
- [Telehealth and COVID-19: Provider Innovations and the Need to Think Sustainably.](#)
- [Telehealth and COVID-19: What Practitioners Need to Know.](#)

Educational opportunities

- **Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020 IHA Virtual Annual Meeting.** The final day of the [2020 IHA Virtual Annual Meeting](#) features a keynote address and two tracks of concurrent sessions. Registration is complimentary and free to employees of IHA member hospitals and health systems, members of IHA personal membership groups, the Healthcare Financial Management Association and American College of Healthcare Executives of Iowa, IHA associate members and IHA Annual Meeting sponsors. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Thursday, Nov. 19, How to Cope With Difficult Emotions.** Difficult emotions are inevitable but ignoring them rarely makes them dissipate and rumination adds to suffering. This webinar will focus on a four-step meditation technique to reduce emotional suffering while creating space for inner wisdom and insight. This technique can be applied in workplace situations when needed. Register [HERE](#).

Click here for the latest
COVID-19
Resources



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