

Oct. 13, 2020

## MEDICAID ALERT

**TO:** All Providers

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces Additional Provider Relief Funds

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it is distributing an additional \$20 billion in new relief funds to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers who participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs, including the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. This is the third distribution (Phase 3) of funding provided by HHS under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

According to HHS' guidance, providers who may be eligible for Phase 3's allocation include:

- Providers that have already received, rejected or accepted a payment from the Provider Relief Fund in Phase 1 or Phase 2. Providers that have already received payments of approximately 2% of annual revenue from patient care may submit more information to become eligible for an additional payment. Allocations in Phase 3 will consider financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
- Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing between Jan. 1 – March 31, 2020. This includes Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, dentists, assisted living facilities and behavioral health providers.
- An expanded group of behavioral health providers who are on the frontlines of addressing mental health and substance use issues amplified by COVID-19. This includes providers that previously received funding and new providers.

The application period for Phase 3 is open from Oct. 5 – Nov. 6, 2020, and providers are encouraged to apply early to allow HHS to expedite the review process and payment calculations, which will lead to a quicker distribution of payments. All payment recipients will be required to attest to receiving the Phase 3 General Distribution payment and accept HHS' associated terms and conditions.

To apply for Provider Relief Funds, providers should submit annual patient revenue information to HHS's [Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal](#). More information about eligibility and the application process for Phase 3 HHS Provider Relief Funds [is available on HHS' website](#). HHS' Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal is also [available on HHS' website](#).

More information about actions the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has taken to ensure access to care for beneficiaries, support providers and maintain clinically appropriate levels of care is available at [www.scdhhs.gov/covid19](http://www.scdhhs.gov/covid19).

Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program.