

AHS – Federal Funding – COVID-19 Response – Sarah Clark
Senate Health & Welfare – April 16, 2020

Federal Fund Hierarchy:

1. There are multiple federal fund sources available throughout the three relief bills. There is a 4th bill that is under development. AHS is waiting for more specific guidance from the federal government on several fund sources.
2. AHS has been working with Finance & Management on establishing a funding hierarchy. Anticipate that this will be a legislative conversation starting with the FY20 BAA supplemental that is under development.
 - a. AHS specific grants – 100% federal formula/block grants– we would look to these to cover known incurred expenses – to the extent they are available and enough
 - b. Coronavirus Relief Fund - \$1.25B – cannot supplant or replace lost state revenues
 - c. FEMA – where applicable and to the extent the 25% state match is available
 - i. An AHS branch to the SEOC has been formed. Working within the constructs of SEOC/DPS to obtain funding as appropriate
 - d. Medicaid – to the extent state match is available and the expense is allowable

AHS Specific Grants (don't have actual award letters for some grants):

1. CDC Public Health Emergency Response Grant
 - a. \$4.9M awarded in COVID 1 bill, PL 116-123, have drawn in \$2.6M based on VDH estimates for quarter ending March 2020. Anticipate will fully expend award by mid-April
 - b. Anticipate another \$5.4M from COVID 3 bill, PL 116 -136
 - c. Based on current trends, anticipate spending \$15M in response by June 30th. Will have \$10M to offset
2. Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals
 - a. \$1.2M awarded in COVID 1 bill, PL 116-127, processed via ERR at DAIL
 - b. \$2.4M awarded in COVID 3 bill, PL 116-136; \$600k ERR processed at DAIL
3. Family Caregivers
 - a. \$500K awarded to DAIL; \$100k ERR process at DAIL
4. Supportive Services
 - a. \$1M awarded to DAIL; \$100k ERR process at DAIL
5. Child Care and Development Block Grant
 - a. \$4.3M in COVID 3 bill, PL 116-136 – being used to offset the costs of stabilizing the childcare system and providing childcare to essential workers
6. Community Services Block Grant
 - a. \$5.1M awarded in COVID 3, PL 116-136 – per the funding formula, 90% of the funds will go to the CAP agencies to help provide social services and emergency assistance to Vermonters
7. LIHEAP
 - a. \$4.1M awarded in COVID 3, PL 116-136 – the funds will be used to extend the crisis fuel season, purchase wood and unpaid utility bills in response to COVID pandemic.
8. Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
 - a. Initial award in COVID 3 bill, PL 116-136, of \$4.6M but now HUD is only releasing half at \$2.3M to VT, may distribute all in the future, no guidance
 - b. VT will use to cover housing costs – looking for a waiver to use for GA COVID homeless response including motel program, can be used for North Beach, needs will be greater than funding

9. Community Development Block Grant – ACCD???

Medicaid – Enhanced FMAP – 6.2% bump:

1. In COVID 2 bill (PL 116-127)
2. Estimated fiscal impact of \$38M from January to June 2020
3. Includes CHIP, \$378 GF savings
4. Impact on education, SB6 (less local match needed from LEAs for SBS services from Jan-Jun)

Federal Funds Direct to Providers:

1. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - a. \$683K awarded in COVID 1 bill to health centers
 - b. \$8.7M awarded in COVID 3 bill to health centers
2. CARES Act Provider Relief Fund
 - a. \$100B in relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans get testing and treatment for COVID-19
 - b. \$30B was distributed by HHS on Friday, April 10th based on Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements in 2019
 - i. \$54.5M was distributed to 1,011 Vermont Providers
 - ii. Funds do not need to be repaid
 - c. Remaining \$70B
 - i. The Administration is working rapidly on targeted distributions that will focus on providers in areas particularly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, rural providers, providers of services with lower shares of Medicare reimbursement or who predominantly serve the Medicaid population, and providers requesting reimbursement for the treatment of uninsured Americans.

AHS – Applying for Federal Grants:

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19
 - a. DMH and VDH have submitted an application requesting \$2M to expand the current mental health emergency services program to include access to SUD specialists and tools to assist with Mental Health mobile crisis throughout the state.
2. Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs – funds must be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include OT, equipment, hiring, supplies, training, travel and addressing the medical needs of inmates.
 - a. DOC is working with DPS on a grant application.