

Agency of Human Services

COVID-19 Federal Funding Update

February 10, 2021

Continuation of FMAP Bump – 6.2%

- On January 7, the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary renewed the [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), effective January 21.
- The public health emergency extension is for 90 days, which will allow the 6.2% FMAP enhancement to continue through June 2021.
- In late January 2021, the Biden Administration sent a letter to Governors stating that the public health emergency will **likely** remain in place for entirety of 2021.
 - This includes the 6.2% FMAP bump likely thru March 2022.
 - Will provide 60 days notice before ending the public health emergency.

FEMA Funding Announcements

- President Biden issued directives allowing FEMA to pay 100% federal funding for the costs of activities that have previously been determined eligible, from the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- This means that all work eligible under FEMA's existing COVID-19 policies, including increasing medical capacity, non-congregate sheltering, and emergency feeding distribution will be reimbursed at 100% federal share. For projects that have already been approved, FEMA will amend the existing awards to adjust the federal funding amounts. No action will be required by the applicants.
- Will free up CRF that had previously been used for match. Need process to transition fund sources.
- This impacts non-congregate housing (motel program), related services including food & security.
- COVID Community-based testing, vaccine clinics and supporting call centers also 100% federal FEMA eligible.

Health Care Provider Support

- The bill includes \$9 billion in support for health care providers, which comprises an extension of relief from Medicare sequester cuts through March 31, 2021, an additional \$3 billion and new distribution requirements for the **Provider Relief Fund**, and \$3 billion for increased payments to physicians and other health care providers under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- Vermont providers continue to receive direct HHS support.
 - As of 1/8/2021, 1,137 VT providers received \$207M directly
 - As of 2/3/2021, 1,142 VT providers received \$210M directly

Emergency Rental Assistance - \$200M

- This funding will be run through the US Treasury, and the distribution of these funds will be received at the statewide level, similar to the CRF.
- Funds will be targeted to assist renters in need as families are impacted by COVID to use as follows:
 - Past due rent
 - Future rent payments
 - Utility and energy expenses
- AA-1 was presented to the Joint Fiscal Committee on 2/8/2021

Administration for Children & Families

- Child Care and Development - \$12.2M – Actual Award Issued
 - Under the existing federal Child Care and Development Block Grant program, funds may be used with the continued flexibility given to states under the CARES Act, including:
 - Support to childcare providers during closures or reduced enrollment
 - Expanded assistance to essential workers
 - Payment relief to working families

Future Funding

- Biden Proposal - \$1.9 Trillion
 - Vaccinations and virus-testing
 - Stabilization fund to open child-care centers
 - Rental & utility assistance for low-income households
 - Emergency Housing