

Provider Relief Fund Update: More Details on Phase 4

Application Portal Now Open

Healthcare providers hoping to take advantage of new support funding from the government are getting a better understanding of the latest funding programs and how they'll work. **The application portal opened September 29, 2021.** GJM's Healthcare Specialist Team members are here to help guide you through the program when you're ready. Meanwhile, here's what we know:

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), via the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced \$25 billion in new funding including:

1. \$8.5 billion for providers serving rural populations (as part of the American Rescue Plan or ARP) of patients on Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicare
2. \$17 billion in funding as part of Phase 4 of the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) to support a wide range of care providers who can show revenue loss/costs tied to the pandemic.

The Acting Administrator of HRSA, Diana Espinosa, shared some details on these funding sources during a recent webinar. Here are some key facts about the programs for providers:

- Simpler application: One application for both funding opportunities
- Phase 4 will be similar to Phase 3 in terms of the process
- Phase 4 will offer increased support to smaller providers, reimbursing them at a higher rate than larger providers for lost revenues
- Phase 4 payments based on lost revenue/costs between July 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021
- You must not have used the same revenues and expenses to apply for earlier PRF funding
- Provider size will be based on patient care revenue on your application
- Providers who bill Medicare Advantage are also eligible
- You'll have the opportunity to request reconsideration if you feel you didn't get the funding you deserve
- Providers receiving Phase 4 funding will include a wide variety, including dentists, behavioral health providers, Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP providers, as well as new healthcare providers who didn't exist during the last round of funding
- HRSA will use Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP claims data already on file to calculate payments
- **The \$8.5 billion in rural funds will go out in later November, before Thanksgiving**
- Rural refers to the patients you care for, not the location of the provider. Be sure your patients meet the definition of rural according to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- **Phase 4 funds: Most of these payments will be out by mid-December**
- Providers will have until December 31, 2022, to spend the funds
- **The [combined application](#) for the American Rescue Plan rural funding and PRF Phase 4 opens today, September 29th and closes October 26, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

There are some upcoming webinar education sessions Thursday, September 30th and Tuesday, October 5 on the new funding. Both webinars are from 3-4 pm. You can expect two more webinars in mid-October. Information on how to register is at [this link on the HRSA website](#).

An important reminder:

HHS says Period 1 recipients have until tomorrow, **September 30, 2021**, to submit their information via the [PRF Reporting Portal](#). Important note: A recently announced **60-day grace period** is being offered to providers currently dealing with Covid surges and natural disasters in recent weeks.

Here's the timeframe for all reporting requirements:

Period 1 recipients: July 1 - September 30, 2021

Period 2 recipients: January 1 - March 31, 2022

Period 3 recipients: July 1 - September 30, 2022

Period 4 recipients: January 1 - March 31, 2023

Now is the time to reach out to your GJM healthcare advisors if you have any questions about the upcoming deadline or any other concerns related to the PRF and reporting requirements.

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