

HHS Community Health News, May 4- 8, 2020

What this time has made abundantly clear is the **value of local partnerships**. As an example, faith and community organizations are partnering with their local **Community Health Centers** to gain the most up-to-date information and to participate in screening/testing opportunities as they are available.

In Alexandria Virginia, **Casa Chirilagua**, a community-based organization hosted **Neighborhood Health**, the Community Health Center serving the region, to set up a COVID-19 drive-thru testing site outside their facility. Neighborhood Health serves over 30,000 patients, many of whom are low income and are uninsured or on Medicaid.

And **United Believers Community Church**, Kansas City, partnered with their local Community Health Center, **Swope Health Services**, after a connection was made by their State Representative, to become a COVID-19 testing sites. The church also offers a robust feeding program for area youth no longer receiving school meals.

- **Find a Community Health Center** and see below for federal grants (HHS/HRSA) being awarded to local Community Health Centers across the country.
- For local information and recommendations on community actions designed to limit exposure to COVID-19, check with your **state and local public health authorities**.

COVID-19 Updates

On Reopening

Testing Blueprint: Opening Up America Again

Last week, the Administration unveiled its **Testing Blueprint** designed to facilitate state development and implementation of the robust testing plans and rapid response programs described in the President's **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again**.

CDC's Resources On Reopening for Specific Populations

CDC released new webpages with reopening information, strategies, and resources for **community and faith-based organizations**, communities, schools, workplaces, and events; people experiencing homelessness; institutes of higher education; correction and detention facilities; schools and childcare programs; shared and congregant housing; parks and recreation; and tribal communities.

Guidance for Shared or Congregant Housing

CDC updated their guidance and resources for people living in **shared or congregant housing**. The following guidance was created to help owners, administrators, or operators of shared (also called "congregate") housing facilities – working together with residents, staff, and public health officials – prevent the spread of COVID-19. CDC created resources for both **residents and administrators** with tips and advice for how to isolate, clean, and remain informed throughout the pandemic.

FEMA's Planning Considerations for Organizations in Reconstituting Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The **Continuity Plan Template** and Instructions for Non-Federal Entities and Community-based Organizations provides instructions, guidance, and sample text for the development of continuity plans and programs in accordance with the **Continuity Guidance Circular**. Click **here** for the Word version.

About Testing

Update on Testing and Contact Tracing

HHS Secretary Azar published an op-ed in USA Today on [testing and contact tracing](#). He noted that CDC is deploying field teams tailored to the needs of states, as requested, to assist with contact tracing plans and advise on tools like digital technology and serologic testing. Health departments will need thousands of new workers or contractors to do the legwork of contact tracing and the CARES Act has an additional \$11 billion for states to bolster their testing capacity.

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Older Americans Month 2020

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The theme for 2020 is "Make Your Mark" and ideas include sharing stories and a link to [StoryCore's Great Questions](#). There's never a better time to listen to our loved ones - especially those who have memories to share!

Also, in recognition of Older Americans Month, the Administration announced actions taken and new initiatives to [keep America's seniors safe](#).

Webinar: Mental Health in a Time of COVID-19 Webinar Series: Preparing Faith Leaders to Address the Challenge

As part of [Mental Health Month](#), please join us for the next in this series Tues., May 12th at noon ET.

This webinar series addresses overwhelming stress the COVID-19 experience is placing on people and communities.

- **Part 1:** Preparing Leaders to Address the Challenges (webcast April 28, 2020, [download the recording](#)).
- **Part 2:** "When Trauma, Fear, and Anxiety Become Overwhelming," will air on May 12 at 12 pm ET. Register [here](#).
- **Part 3:** "Task-shifting to Address Increasing Challenges," May 26 at 12 pm ET. *Registration opening soon.*

Webinar: La Vida Durante la Pandemia del Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In case you missed it! This webinar featured subject matter experts from the CDC and was originally webcast April 29. [Share the recording](#) with the Spanish speaking members of your community.

Helpful Questions and Answers about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Your Pets

The FDA issued a consumer update addressing frequently asked questions about the risk of pets spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to people.

Tips on Good Nutrition and Using the Updated Nutrition Facts Label During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Also from the FDA, helpful tips on how to use the Nutrition Facts label to learn more about the foods you have on hand or are purchasing online or in stores, especially if you are purchasing different foods because of [temporary disruptions in the food supply chain](#) or are buying more canned or packaged foods instead of fresh.

Resources and Funding Awards Related to COVID-19

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

The new law infused an additional \$370 billion into the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans grants. This action provides extensions and modifications to these [Coronavirus Relief Programs](#) and gives nonprofits, including [faith-based](#) organizations, small businesses, [rural owned public](#)

hospitals, and self-employed individuals and independent contractors another opportunity to receive federal support. As in the prior rounds, *organizations and individuals should act quickly*. **Find an eligible lender** and refer to the **updated FAQ** from the Small Business Association. Also see the **FAQ Regarding Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in PPP and EIDL**.

****Take the DOL challenge:** The Department of Labor (DOL) is seeking opinions and ideas for opening America's workplaces. Here's how.

HHS Begins Distribution of Payments to Hospitals with High COVID-19 Admissions, Rural Providers

Friday, HHS began processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19 -- \$12 billion to facilities admitting large numbers of COVID-19 patients and \$10 billion to providers in rural areas. This is in addition to the \$75 billion recently appropriated by Congress.

CARES Act Funding Highlights

CARES Act Provider Relief Fund

Last week, HHS announced additional information about allocations of the \$100 billion Provider Relief Act (PRA) created in the CARES Act. See the Fact Sheet to learn how the funds are being used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get testing and treatment for COVID-19.

\$45 million in Funding to Support Child Welfare Services

The CARES Act spending bill provides \$45 million to support the child welfare needs of families during this crisis and to help keep families together. More information about child welfare specific to this public health crisis can be found on the Children's Bureau website.

CDC Released \$631 Million to States and Jurisdictions

The CDC awarded \$631 million to 64 jurisdictions to help states with their efforts to establish or enhance their ability to aggressively identify cases, conduct contact tracing and follow up, as well as implement appropriate containment measures; improve morbidity and mortality surveillance; enhance testing capacity; control COVID-19 in high-risk settings and protect vulnerable or high-risk populations; and working with healthcare systems to manage and monitor system capacity. See CDC financial resources for COVID-19.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Recent Awards

SAMHSA Released \$110 Million in Funds for SUDs and Mental Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) distributed \$110 million to help Americans with substance use disorders and serious mental illness receive the treatment they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about the entities that received these emergency funds here.

Expansion of Funds to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)

Grants have been awarded to increase access to and to improve the quality of community mental and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services through the expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). The Fiscal Year 2020 CCBHC Expansion Grants include \$200 million in annually appropriated funding and \$250 million in emergency COVID-19 funding. See grantees here.

New COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal

HHS launched a new COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal, [COVIDUninsuredClaim.HRSA.gov](https://www.COVIDUninsuredClaim.HRSA.gov), allowing healthcare providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 individuals on or after February 4, 2020 to request claims for reimbursement. There is also a [FAQ document](#) on the portal and additional information for providers.

[Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)

HHS Awards \$20 Million to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic through Telehealth

Last week, HHS/HRSA awarded \$20 million to increase telehealth access and infrastructure for providers and families to help prevent and respond to COVID-19. The funds will increase capability, capacity, and access to telehealth and distant care services for providers, pregnant women, children, adolescents, and families, and will assist telehealth providers with cross-state licensure to improve access to health care during the pandemic.

\$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19

Previously HHS/HRSA awarded more than \$1.3 billion to [1,387 health centers](#) to help communities across the country detect coronavirus; prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19; and maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to address this public health emergency. Visit [FindAHealthCenter.HRSA.Gov](https://www.FindAHealthCenter.HRSA.Gov) to locate the health center closest to you.

Nearly \$165 Million to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Communities

Nearly \$165 million has been awarded to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities. These investments will support 1,779 small rural hospitals and provide additional funding to 14 HRSA-funded [Telehealth Resource Centers \(TRCs\)](#) to provide technical assistance on telehealth to help rural and underserved areas combat COVID-19.

\$90 Million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Recipients for COVID-19 Response

In funding provided by the CARES Act, \$90 million was awarded for [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients](#) across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

[Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#)

Funding Announcement: Street Outreach Program

HHS-2020-ACF-ACYF-YO-1799 The Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program's Street Outreach Program (SOP) provides street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of human trafficking in persons. These services, targeted in areas where street youth congregate, are designed to assist such youth in making healthy choices and providing them access to shelter as well as basic needs, including food, hygiene packages, and information on a range of available services. **Closing date: June 29, 2020.**

Awarded \$1 Billion in Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community

Previously, HHS's Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced nearly \$1 billion in [CARES Act](#) grants to support older adults and people with disabilities in the community during the COVID-19 emergency.

[HHS Office of Minority Health](#)

Funding Announcement: National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities

MP-CPI-20-006. The initiative seeks to develop and coordinate a strategic and structured national network of national, state/territorial/tribal and local public and community-based

organizations that will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable populations. **Short notice: Closing date: May 11, 2020.**

There's a lot here and more to come this week, please let us know if you have questions regarding the content in this e-news. As always, we remain grateful for your steadfast leadership around the country, with thanks, Heidi and the Partnership Center team

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