

Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov



September 17, 2021

Alex J. Adams, Administrator
Division of Financial Management (DFM)
304 N 8th St, 3rd Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Administrator Adams,

I have reviewed the recommendations for use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund and agree with and approve the funding recommendations to respond to and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic:

- \$10,000,000 to the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, as described in Appendix A.

In my judgment, these are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and align with the U.S. Treasury guidance on allowable uses of funds.

Please work with the State Controller on carrying out these recommendations and reporting all expenditures to Transparent Idaho.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", is written over a horizontal line.

Brad Little
Governor



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

BRAD LITTLE – Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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MEMORANDUM – September 14, 2021

TO: Alex Adams, Administrator
Division of Financial Management

FROM: Dave Jeppesen, Director
Department of Health and Welfare

SUBJECT: Funding request

CC: Sara Stover, Krissy Veseth, Lisa Hettinger

The purpose of this memo is to request \$10 million for additional priority expenditures which will address the needs created by the recent surge in COVID-19 cases.

Summary of Proposals

Need	Proposed Amount	Short Description
Hospitals	\$3 million	Twenty-nine hospitals have been funded to date at a rate of \$1,000/licensed bed (\$2,368,000 has been sent out with the current program). DPH is conducting reach-outs to hospitals who have not applied. We are requesting an additional \$3 million for another round of payments to hospitals at the same rate.
Free-standing Primary & Urgent Care Clinics	\$3.5 million	Six clinics have been awarded a total of \$984, 293 with an additional 13 applications that have been reviewed and approved; however, we do not have funding to award. We anticipate continued high interest in this funding.
Skilled Nursing Facilities	\$3.5 million	Requesting additional funding for the LTC payments for accepting hospital discharged patients that are hard to place.

NEED: Additional Financial Support for Hospitals

Previously, the Governor's office approved \$5 million for healthcare systems, \$4M was used for hospitals. We are requesting an additional \$3 million (for a total of \$7 million) to be given out to hospitals in the form of a signed attestation to provide financial support to address their constraints and emergent needs. Our hospitals continue to experience a severe surge in COVID-19 cases across the state and are critically resource constrained. Crisis Standards of Care was implemented in the north Idaho region (health districts 1 & 2) on September 6, 2021. As of September 13th, \$2,368,000 has been awarded to twenty-nine (29) hospitals at a rate of \$1,000 per licensed bed. Twenty-four hospitals have not yet responded. Staff are reaching to them to see if DHW can assist in getting the attestations submitted. We anticipate full hospital uptake.

The intention is to keep this funding flexible to meet the needs of the hospitals. It could be used to relieve staffing shortages and include retention bonuses, hiring new staff at higher rates of pay, hiring temporary staff, paying overtime hours, paying for lodging and support for traveling healthcare staff, staff training, and other recruitment/retention needs they identify.

NEED: Additional Grants to Primary & Urgent Care Facilities

Previously, the Governor's office approved \$5 million for healthcare systems, \$1M was used for free-standing Primary Care and Urgent Care facilities to support current constraints and needs for staffing, space, etc., related to the pandemic. The Department was quickly able to make this funding available, and as of September 13th, the Department has received 19 applications.

The application for funding can be found here: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Free-Standing-Primary-Urgent-Care-Clinic-COVID-19-Support-Funding.pdf>

The applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis and six of the applications were approved and awarded based on facility size (# of patients seen annually) for a total award of \$984,000 in the first round of funding (nearly exhausting it). We have received an additional 13 applications requesting \$1.6M, bringing the total requested so far to over \$2.6M. The demand for this funding is high.

We are requesting your consideration of additional funds up to \$3.5 M (for a total of \$4.5 million) to be made available for Primary Care and Urgent Care entities that serve an important role in keeping people from becoming so ill they need to seek medical care in the hospital. The hospitals are currently extremely stressed. Curbing the flow of patients requiring care in the hospital is incredibly important. Primary Care and Urgent Care facilities are providing vaccinations, testing, and limited care for COVID-19 patients with lower healthcare acuity.

NEED: Additional Payments to Skilled Nursing Facilities

Previously, the Governor's office approved \$5 million to reimburse Idaho skilled nursing facilities (SNF) for each discharge they accept directly from Idaho hospitals. We are requesting an additional \$3.5 million (for a total of \$8.5 million) for this effort based on the anticipated volume of these discharges and the length of time this funding is needed. This will increase hospital capacity by increasing discharges from hospitals to SNF's for COVID-19 positive patients and other patients where it is difficult to find an appropriate place to discharge to.

Since the original request was approved, we have worked with hospitals and SNF's to identify the most effective use of this funding to increase hospital capacity. Based on those conversations, eligible discharges from a hospital to a SNF will be patients who are COVID-19 positive or that are hard for hospitals to place. The reimbursement amount is now \$20,000 per hospital discharge instead of the \$30,000 in the original request. And the eligibility date for this funding will start as of September 13th, 2021

If this proposal is funded, the Department's Division of Licensing and Certification could immediately begin processing eligible requests as soon as we received the funding and communicated the funding opportunity to skilled nursing facilities since we have established processes for reviewing and approving requests and distributing the funds.