

May 7, 2020

HRSA Administrator Tom Engels on Public Service Recognition Week

This week is Public Service Recognition Week – an occasion set aside to honor the people who serve our nation.

Honoring your public service today is especially timely, because your work to preserve and protect community health and safety is making a life-saving difference as never before.

The contributions you are making to our fellow citizens - every day – have never been more important.

It is my privilege to serve with you. And this week it is my honor to commend you. You have every reason to be proud.

Sincerely,

Tom Engels



HHS Awards More Than HALF A BILLION DOLLARS Across the Country to Expand COVID-19 Testing

May 7 - Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$583 million to 1,385 HRSA-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing. Nearly 88% of HRSA-funded health centers report testing patients, with more than 65% offering walk-up or drive-up testing. Health centers are currently providing more than 100,000 weekly COVID-19 tests in their local communities.



Today's funding for health centers is part of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, signed into law by President Trump on April 24th.



May

- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- Mental Health Month
- Older Americans Month
- Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (3-9)
- National Nurses Week (6-12)
- National Women's Health Week (10-16)
- Hepatitis Testing Day (19)
- National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (19)

Funding Opportunities

Health Centers

[Capital Assistance for Disaster Response and Recovery Efforts \(CADRE\)](#) - Apply by May 8 (extended)

The legislation provides funding for small businesses and individuals financially affected by COVID-19, additional funding for hospitals and healthcare providers, and increased testing capabilities to help track the spread and impact of the coronavirus.

“This new funding secured by President Trump will expand the work health centers are doing to test Americans for COVID-19,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “Widespread testing is a critical step in reopening America, and health centers are vital to making testing easily accessible, especially for underserved and minority populations. Further, because health centers can help notify contacts of patients who test positive, they will continue playing an important role in coordinating with state and local public health departments.”

[Read the release.](#)

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



April 30 - Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (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.

“This new funding will help expand telehealth infrastructure that is already being used during the pandemic to provide essential care, especially to the most vulnerable, including pregnant women and children with special health care needs,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “This funding will also help clinicians use telehealth nationally by streamlining the process to obtain multi-state licensure. With the significant flexibilities President Trump has provided around telehealth payments and technology, plus state actions around licensing, we have created historic opportunities for care to be delivered safely and conveniently via telehealth.”

[Read the release.](#)

HHS Launches COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal

Health Workforce

[Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention \(NEPQR\) Simulation Education Training \(SET\) Program](#) - Apply by June 1

[Nursing Workforce Diversity-Eldercare Enhancement \(NWD-E2\) Program](#) - Apply by June 4

[Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency Integration Program \(ANE-NPRIP\)](#) - Apply by June 8

HIV/AIDS Bureau

[Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part B States/Territories Supplemental Grant Program](#) - Apply by May 29

[Reducing Stigma at Systems, Organizational, and Individual Client Levels in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#) - Apply by June 8

[Building Capacity to Implement Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy \(ART\) Start for Improved Care Engagement in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program – Implementation Sites](#) - Apply by June 15

[Building Capacity to Implement Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy \(ART\) Start for Improved Care Engagement in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program – Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider](#) - Apply by June 15

[Improving Care and Treatment Coordination: Focusing on Black Women with HIV – Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider](#) - Apply by June 15

April 27 - Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), launched a new COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal, allowing health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 individuals on or after February 4, 2020 to submit claims for reimbursement. Providers can access the portal at [COVIDUninsuredClaim.HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov/covid-19/uninsured-claim).



[Read the release.](#)

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



April 22 - Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded nearly \$165 million 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.

"Today's funding gives rural hospitals critical support to build up their capacity for fighting COVID-19 in their communities, including through further expansions of telehealth, more purchases of PPE, and boosting testing capacity," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "This funding, secured by President Trump from Congress, will build on the historic expansion of telehealth undertaken by the Trump Administration to help all Americans access the care they need during the pandemic."

[Read the release.](#)

HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has Released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for Tribal Organizations

April 21 - Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, HRSA received \$15M to allocate to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and health service providers to



[Improving Care and Treatment Coordination: Focusing on Black Women with HIV – Demonstration Sites](#) - Apply by June 15

Maternal & Child Health

[Supporting Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Screening and Intervention](#) - Apply by June 9

[Strengthening the MCH Public Health Academic Pipeline – Competitive Supplement to the Centers of Excellence in MCH Education, Science, and Practice Program](#) - Apply by June 19

Rural Health

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation](#) - Apply by May 26

[Telehealth Network Grant Program](#) - Apply by June 15

[Rural Telementoring Training Center](#) - Apply by June 16

[Rural Residency Planning and Development Program](#) - Apply by June 30

[Telehealth Focused Rural Health Research Center Program](#) - Apply by July 1

[View All Funding Opportunities](#)

tribes. The funding will provide support for the Tribes to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19 in rural communities.

[Read the release.](#)

Telehealth.HHS.gov: Health Care from the Safety of our Homes



During the COVID-19 pandemic, we don't have to choose between medical care and social distancing. When patients can get health care through telehealth — and doctors can provide it — we protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.

The new Telehealth.HHS.gov website provides information for patients and providers, including:

- For Providers:
 - Getting started with telehealth
 - Recent policy changes due to COVID-19
 - Legal and billing considerations
- For Patients:
 - What to expect and how it works
 - What types of care are available
 - How to find telehealth options

[Learn more at telehealth.hhs.gov.](https://telehealth.hhs.gov)

FY 2020 CARES Act Funding- New Flexibilities



On April 15, 2020, HRSA awarded \$90 million for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipients across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. These awards give RWHAP recipients the flexibility to meet evolving needs in their respective communities.

On April 30, we announced greater flexibilities for the FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding as it pertains to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provisions and funding limitations.

It is our hope that these funding flexibilities allow RWHAP recipients to implement the FY 2020 CARES Act funding in a timely manner to meet the emergent needs of your jurisdictions.

[Learn more about the newly-announced funding flexibilities.](#)

National Practitioner Data Bank Waives User Fees to Support COVID-19 Response

We are temporarily waiving query fees for health care entities to search the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). This waiver supports efforts to mobilize and deploy health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing costs and expediting credentialing, hiring, privileging, and licensing processes.



The NPDB fee waiver is retroactive from March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020. For more information about the waiver, visit the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#) page on the [NPDB website](#).

For technical assistance, contact the [NPDB Customer Service Center](#).

HRSA Releases Oral Health Workforce Projections for 2017–2030



We've recently released oral health workforce projections for dentists and dental hygienists in the U.S., 2017–2030. These projections inform policy decisions about workforce education, training, and delivery of care. Will there be an increase in the number of dentists in the U.S. by 2030? Will there be a decrease in the demand for full time dental hygienists?

[Explore the key findings to find out.](#)

HRSA Celebrates Nurses

National Nurses Week is May 6-12

Since 1954, National Nurses Week has recognized the invaluable service of nurses to the American people. At HRSA, they are pivotal to the success of programs that help those who need it most -- especially in times of crisis -- as well as friends and colleagues. Almost half of agency staff who are clinicians are nurses.



HRSA's nursing programs help sustain the profession, improve diversity and afford opportunities to aspiring nurses who might not otherwise have a path into the ranks of the most widely respected profession in America.

[Learn more about the vital role nurses play in our communities.](#)

Older Americans Month



We invite you to celebrate Older Americans Month and make your mark in May! Spread the word that there's no age limit to register as an organ donor – everyone can make a difference in the lives of those in need. In fact, the oldest organ donor in the U.S. was 93, and people even older have donated tissue!

To learn more and to sign up, visit organdonor.gov or donaciondeorganos.gov.

Follow and “Like” us on

Facebook: Organdonor.gov and Donaciondeorganos.gov.

Get My Payment Tool

The IRS launched the *Get My Payment* tool on April 17. This tool will provide you the status of your payment, including the date it is scheduled to be deposited into your bank account or mailed to you.



Get additional information on the Economic Stimulus Payment visit [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).



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