

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
STATEWIDE UNIFIED RESPONSE GROUP
(BHHSURG)**

COVID-19 UPDATE

**EDWARD MERSEREAU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

SCOTT MORISHIGE, GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

**HAROLD BRACKEEN III, ADMINISTRATOR
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**MEGHAN O'TOOLE, HEALTH LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
TREY REFFETT, SENIOR HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISOR
OFFICE OF SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ, UNITED STATES SENATE**

Presenters

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and
Additional Coronavirus Response Legislation

Meghan O'Toole and Trey Reffett

Office of Senator Brian Schatz, United States Senate

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Additional Coronavirus Response Legislation

<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus>

Financial Assistance for Health Care Providers

- Health Care Provider Grant Program
- Medicare Accelerated/Advance Payment Program (loans)
- Supplemental funding for community health centers
- Increased Medicare payments to hospitals for COVID-19 patients
- Temporary suspension of the Medicare sequester
- Medicaid FMAP increase
 - Maintenance of effort for states

Note: health care providers can also apply for the small business assistance

Regulatory Relief

- Telehealth
- Medicaid Home and Community-Based Support – if patients have COVID-19 and are admitted to a hospital, state Medicaid programs may allow direct support professionals to continue to provide care and services in the hospital for patients they are supporting, including seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Waivers for post-acute care
- CMS waivers using regulatory authority
- Medicaid waivers

42 CFR Part 2

- The CARES Act aligned 42 CFR Part 2 – on confidentiality and sharing of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records – with HIPAA.
- Once a patient gives prior written consent, the contents of a record “may be used or disclosed by a covered entity, business associate, or a [Part 2 program] for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations as permitted by the HIPAA regulations.”
- Redislosures may then be made in accordance with HIPAA, until the patient revokes the consent.
- There are additional protections for SUD information, including an anti-discrimination provision and prohibition on using SUD data in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings without a court order or patient consent.

Protections for Individuals

- COVID-19 diagnostic testing and the associated visit are **covered without cost-sharing** for all individuals, including the uninsured.
- New optional Medicaid eligibility group for uninsured individuals during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - Individuals eligible for the new group receive a limited benefit package of services related to testing and diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Nutrition assistance
- Funding for Administration for Community Living programs, including for community-based services and support for family caregivers.
- Funding for family violence prevention services

SAMHSA Funding

- The CARES Act included \$425 million for SAMHSA to increase access to mental health services, including through:
 - Community Behavioral Health Clinics
 - Suicide Prevention Programs
 - Emergency response funding, such as outreach to those experiencing homelessness
- So far, SAMHSA has put out one FOA on “Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders during COVID-19”
 - Due date was April 10, and each state can receive up to \$2 million
- Considerations and guidance on SAMHSA’s website:
<https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus>

Additional Legislation

- Congress continues to work on additional legislation to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Please share any priorities for this legislation.



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#FlattenTheCurve #TogetherWeCan