

Provider & Stakeholder Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Updated: 2020-06-01 | SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Other Topics	Mahalo Rep. Belatti for being so open about the Mental Health and Substance Abuse special fund and the \$25 mil. used by the Legislature. Can you share if DOH will be given access to the rest (above the current cap) and whether the CIP that was in bills earlier this would be allowed with the fund, for example for stabilization beds?	There is a commitment by the Legislature for DOH to move forward with its plan. The Legislature recognizes the progress made within DOH and the need for mental health services.
Other Topics	When does CARES money need to be spent by counties: by end of fiscal or calendar year?	CARES money needs to be spent by the end of the year 12/31/2020.
Other Topics	Suicide prevention currently receives very little funding in our state. Is there a possibility that it could be increased? Or should we be concerned that it even stays at the current level and isn't cut?	We need to understand the data that is coming out now to justify more funding. It would be helpful to get statistical and trend data, such as rates of suicide and attempted suicides, number of calls to CRISIS hotline, etc.
Other Topics	Are there any guidelines or expectations with how the monies are spent locally? Are there any percentages aligned with goals?	Providers are encouraged to contact county officials, such as the office of the Mayor or council members, on how CARES funding will be allocated and expended by the counties.
Other Topics	Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue. As a substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provider, we've been hearing about reductions in various existing state contract funding for FY2021. Please comment on what we may expect as we plan for increased "re-opening" in the near future. Thank you!	The Legislature is looking to see how funding from the federal CARES Act is used to address essential services, since CARES funds must be spent by 12/31/2020. With the existing state contracts funding, there has been no information or talk that there may be a decrease in funding. With shelter in place orders, there is the likelihood of behavioral issues arising. Individuals with health insurance (through Med-QUEST or employer plans) have coverage for mental health and SUD treatment. Providers are encouraged to apply for approval as participating providers with health insurance plans.

Other Topics	Will the Legislature look at actually funding to create more affordable rentals in June perhaps in alternative formats? Infrastructure is good, but people will leave Hawaii if there is no more affordable housing.	There is a need to understand the federal monies coming in and to better target housing assistance when the Legislature returns in mid-June.
Other Topics	The State’s ongoing Rent Supplement Programs shortfall of \$750,000 was not funded in HB 2200. This could result in 150 families or elders losing this vital subsidy, or possibly all families getting a severe reduction, or other options to fill this shortfall. This puts these very vulnerable people at great risk for homelessness. Will this \$750,000 funding be considered in the June session (for DHS-HPHA)?	Each county received direct funding of federal CARES Act monies. There are rental supplement programs in each county, except Hawaii County. You may wish to check the list of federal awards to Hawaii: <a href="https://federalawards.hawaii.gov">https://federalawards.hawaii.gov</a>
Other Topics	Once children go back to school, will there be funds appropriated for the DOE to prepare to handle and service the trauma that many of our youth will be bringing to the school campus?	The Legislature allocated \$40 mil. to the Department of Education. The Legislature needs to understand how this is being spent and how DOE will roll out their plan to start the new school year.