

Health Care Provider Stabilization Program

November 13, 2020

Vermont Agency of Human Services

Vermont has a goal of health care system financial stability

- The priority is to preserve Vermonters' access to health care services during and after the COVID-19 emergency
 - Buffering providers from financial instability as a result of COVID-19
 - Identifying and assisting providers in financial distress
- A broad array of health care and human service providers are eligible for the program spanning self-employed practitioners to peer services providers to hospitals.

Appropriation History – total for HC Stabilization = \$157M

\$ 275,000,000	Act 136			
\$ (27,500,000)	Adjusted by Act 154			
\$ 247,500,000	Act 154			
\$ 3,000,000	testing			
\$ 2,000,000	ems workforce stabilization			
\$ 3,000,000	DAs/SSAs			
\$ 750,000	VDH Disparities			
\$ 100,000	aoa dashboard			
\$ 238,650,000				
\$ (81,642,818)	JFC reallocation - 11/5/20			
\$ 3,500,000	additional testing on JFC 11/5/20			
\$ 157,007,182	adjusted available for HCP Stabilization			

AHS administered two application cycles

- Cycle I:
 - Application opened on July 17 and deadline was August 15 - for the time period March 1, 2020 – June 15, 2020
 - 351 applications received, 78% of these had not received prior relief
 - \$87,007,181.66 in awards
 - \$85,118,535.21 issued by AHS via Salesforce application and VISION to 190 providers
 - \$1,888,646.51 issued by ACCD through the Economic Recovery program and reimbursed by AHS
 - Based upon North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes
 - Legislative Report on Cycle 1 - https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/H.965_Health-Care-Provider-Stabilization-Grant-Program_Progress-Report-20-October-2020_FINAL.pdf
- Cycle II:
 - Application opened on October 19 and deadline was November 6, 2020 - for the time period March 1, 2020 – September 15, 2020
 - Eligibility period aligns with FEMA deadlines
 - 236 applications received
 - Application review is underway
 - Anticipate issuing awards over next several weeks, depends on application completeness
- “Cycle III” – per Act 154, specific to Designated & Specialized Service Agencies pending needs assessment


Health Care Provider Stabilization Cycle 1 Award Amounts by Provider Type

ACCD - Miscellaneous Health Care Providers	1,888,647
Acupuncturists	248,212
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors	526,945
Ambulance providers	92,601
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	755,051
Applied Behavior Analysis	6,770
Chiropractic	452,447
Dentist	8,693,873
Designated and Specialized Service Agencies	332,978
Dieticians	9,515
Hospitals	66,901,947
Naturopathic physicians	26,036
Nursing Homes	1,563,594
Occupational Therapy	899
Optometry	609,035
Other	891,861
Peer Support Services	31,164
Pharmacy	310,495
Physical Therapists	1,088,858
Physicians	2,373,256
Primary Care Practices	80,717
Psychological Examiners	87,616
Rural Health Clinics	34,666
Grand Total	87,007,182

Health Care Provider Stabilization Cycle 1 Award Counts by Provider Type

Acupuncturists	15
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors	1
Ambulance providers	4
Ambulatory Surgical Centers	2
Applied Behavior Analysis	1
Chiropractic	18
Dentist	54
Designated and Specialized Service Agencies	1
Dieticians	1
Hospitals	7
Naturopathic physicians	4
Nursing Homes	7
Occupational Therapy	1
Optometry	9
Other	11
Peer Support Services	1
Pharmacy	1
Physical Therapists	20
Physicians	23
Primary Care Practices	3
Psychological Examiners	5
Rural Health Clinics	1
Grand Total	190

Health Care Provider Stabilization Cycle 1 Hospital Applicants and Awards

Hospitals Applicants for Cycle I Health Care Provider Stabilization	Award Amount	Must Continue Participation in Value-Based Payment
Central Vermont Medical Center	\$7,990,772.37	✓
Copley Hospital	\$0	
Gifford Memorial Hospital	\$855,939.41	✓
Northwestern Medical Center	\$5,229,322.18	✓
Porter Medical Center	\$1,277,904.00	✓
Rutland Regional Medical Center	\$13,091,074.59	✓
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center	\$6,457,919.57	✓
Springfield Hospital	\$0	
University of Vermont Medical Center	\$31,999,014.48	✓
Total Cycle I Hospital Awards	\$66,901,946.60	

Estimated Underspend

- The program is estimated to underspend for the following reasons:
 - Continued federal relief
 - Health & Human Services – Provider Relief Fund (PRF)
 - As of November 5 - 1,079 Vermont provider entities received \$197,008,700 in PRF
 - FEMA
 - Utilization came back on-line
 - COVID experience in VT

Process

- Online application via Salesforce, similar to other programs across state government
- Needs-based assessment
 - Fiscal impacts of business disruption for Medicaid, Medicare, commercial and private payers – lost revenue
 - Increased expenses
 - Mitigating actions to control costs
 - Previous state and federal funding awards and future federal allocations will be considered
 - Designed to prevent funding duplication
- FEMA Funding for Eligible Providers
- Labor intensive review process – requires careful review, validation and quality control
- Outreach - webinars, online form, 2nd cycle – call center
- Program details - <https://dvha.vermont.gov/health-care-provider-stabilization-grant-program>.

Risk Assessment by State Auditor's Office

- The State Auditor's Office requested information pertaining to the 'criteria and processes used by AHS/DVHA to dispense this money, including:
 - The basis for decisions on the organizations and amounts that are being sent out; and
 - How they are ensuring that the organizations that receive funding did not receive duplicate funding from other Federal/State sources.'

Reference Slides

Eligible Providers

- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Designated and Specialized Service Agencies
- Private non-medical institutions
- Primary Care Practices
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Rural Health Clinics
- Home Health/Hospice Agencies
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Recovery Centers
- Adult Day Providers
- Independent Specialist Practices (including licensed mental health clinicians and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) providers)
- Ambulance Providers
- Dental Practices
- Enhanced Residential Care (ERC) Providers
- Assistive Community Care Services (ACCS) Providers

Eligible OPR Regulated Providers

- Acupuncturists
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
- Allied Mental Health
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Athletic Trainers
- Chiropractic
- Dental Examiners
- Dietitians
- Hearing Aid Dispensers
- Midwives
- Naturopathic Physicians
- Nursing
- Nursing Home Administrators
- Occupational Therapy
- Opticians
- Optometry
- Osteopathic Physicians
- Physical Therapists
- Psychoanalysts
- Psychological Examiners
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Care Practitioners
- Social Workers
- Speech-Language Pathologist

Award Calculation

- An applicant must have qualifying COVID-19-related revenue losses and/or eligible COVID-19-related expenses that have not already been covered by another source to receive an award to demonstrate an unmet need that would result in a HCS grant award.
- The HCS grant application calculates the award amount based on the application inputs (as verified by the supporting documentation) as follows:
 - **Qualifying revenue losses + Eligible COVID-19-related expenses - Financial assistance received = AWARD Amount**

Applicant Validation

- During the review process, AHS will verify the following information
 - Eligibility of the applicant (e.g., domiciled in Vermont, open before Feb 2020, etc.)
 - W-9 accuracy
 - ACO fixed payments and status of participation
 - Economic Recovery Grants received from the State of Vermont (e.g., Round One HCS grant awards, ACCD grant award, etc.)
 - Federal Funds received
 - FEMA eligibility

Conditions of Grant Funding

- Grant funds will be expended by December 30, 2020.
- Grant funds will be used to cover costs and lost revenues associated with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) disaster.
- Grants are subject to the requirements of Single Audit found at 2 CFR §200 Subpart F.
- Where applicable, provider organizations will continue current participation in value-based payment initiatives thru 2021.
- FEMA Funding for Eligible Providers