

Hospice and Palliative Care Resources for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 10/12/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links. Please note, these Updates are published when there is helpful news to share.

“Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.” – Jacqueline Woodson

Policy Update

NHPCO Submits Letter to HHS with Concerns about Provider Relief Fund Guidance

On Thursday, October 8, [NHPCO submitted a letter](#) to HHS Secretary Alex Azar expressing concerns about the changes in guidance for reporting the expenditures from the Provider Relief Fund published by HHS on September 19. Some of the concerns expressed by NHPCO include:

1. A redefinition of lost revenue, stating that it “was represented as a negative change in year-over-year net patient care operating income.” NHPCO states that “this appears to mean that hospices would only be able to apply PRF money toward lost revenue up to their net patient operating income in 2019.
2. The new definition of “revenue” that may result in hospice providers who received PRF funds no longer being able to apply their PRF payments to fundraising revenue that was lost due to the coronavirus.
3. Objections to a new formula and set of metrics as a standard for lost revenue which would force hospices to report what would be considered inaccurate estimates for lost revenue and would penalize hospices who prudently cut expenses during the pandemic.

NHPCO urged the Secretary to reaffirm the reporting requirements as laid out by HHS since the spring and reiterated in the [FAQs guidance published on June 19, 2020](#) and repealing those set forth in the [September 19, 2020 HHS post payment reporting requirements](#).

Phase 3 of Provider Relief Funds Application Portal Now Open

[New funding is available](#). Applications for the Phase 3 General Distribution are now being accepted through November 6, 2020. Providers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to expedite the calculation and distribution of payments.

- [Learn how to apply](#)
- Download: [Factsheet - PDF](#) | [Presentation - PDF](#)
- [Register for the webcast](#) on October 15, at 3:00 p.m. ET

Provider Update

Hospice Response to COVID-19: Promoting Sustainable Inclusion Strategies for Racial and Ethnic Minorities

In a letter to the editor of *JGSW*, Dr. Courtney Hughes and Dr. Erin Vernon, “...inclusive responses by hospices, social workers, other community partners during the #COVID-19 pandemic can help reach and alleviate the pain of those groups most afflicted.” [Read their letter in JGSW](#).