

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/28/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links.

***“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”***

– Helen Keller

Policy Updates

House Passes Legislation to Add Flexibilities to Paycheck Protection Program

Today, the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill [H.R.7010](#) the *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act*. The legislation provides small businesses with more flexibility while using loans provided through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Paycheck Protection Program was created in an earlier coronavirus relief bill, the CARES Act. If this legislation becomes law, it will allow businesses up to 24 weeks (up from eight weeks) to use the PPP loans and moves the deadline for rehiring from June 30 to the end of the year. According to the publication *The Hill* the legislation, "would also give small businesses the ability to spend more of the money on non-payroll costs. The current terms of the loans require recipients to use 75 percent of the funds on payroll and up to 25 percent on other costs to qualify for loan forgiveness. But the legislation would change the ratio to at least 60 percent on payroll and up to 40 percent on rent, overhead and other costs." The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.

NHPCO Submits Comments on Interim Final Rule with Comment

Today, [NHPCO submitted comments on CMS-1744-IFC](#), which focuses on flexibilities for regulations due to COVID-19. NHPCO supported the two hospice provisions – one which allows routine home care to be delivered through audio-only telecommunications and the other which allows the hospice face-to-face encounter to be conducted through telehealth (both audio and video). NHPCO also commented on the success providers are having with advance care planning conversations with audio-only communication when necessary, and support for CPT codes 99497 and 99498 to continue with an audio-only option when the public health emergency is over.

Provider Updates

Introducing The Brave of Heart Fund

Created by New York Life Foundation and Cigna Foundation, The Brave of Heart Fund at E4E Relief, is providing financial grants to families of eligible healthcare workers and healthcare volunteers who lost their lives in the fight against #COVID19. Learn more about these charitable grants at [The Brave of Heart website](#).

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