Behavioral Health Provider Relief Funds

2022 ESSB 5693 Section 215 (104)

Eligibility

Who will be eligible to receive provider relief payments?
These funds are for non-hospital based community behavioral health treatment agencies (BHA) who are:

- Licensed as a BHA through the Department of Health (DOH) to provide behavioral health treatment services including:
  - Withdrawal management and secure withdrawal management.
  - Residential and 24/7 treatment providers providing, substance use disorder (SUD), mental health (MH), and co-occurring services.
  - Outpatient treatment providers providing, SUD, MH, and co-occurring services evaluation and treatment (E&T) centers
  - Crisis stabilization, crisis triage, and mobile crisis providers
- And, contracted and receiving payment through a managed care organization (MCO) or a behavioral health – administrative service organization (BHASO),
  - To include Indian health care providers (IHCPs) who are licensed as a BHA and receiving payment through an MCO.

What does “non-hospital based” mean?
A behavioral health agency or program, so long as it is separate from the hospital building, and as long as it is separately regulated as a behavioral health agency licensed by DOH.

Do we need to be a behavioral health agency licensed through DOH during the specified time frame to qualify for funding?
Your agency must have been licensed through DOH to provide behavioral health services from July 1 through December 31 of 2021. For the purposes of these payments, HCA is looking at criteria submitted from July-December 2019 and July-December 2021.

Would a provider-based rural health clinic that offers integrated behavioral health qualify?
As long as the rural health clinic is licensed and providing services as a behavioral health agency and meets the contracting requirements outlined above.

Is a tribal behavioral health treatment provider eligible for this funding?
Yes, as long as they are licensed as a behavioral health agency through DOH and are providing behavioral health treatment services.
What are the details of the funds and how will providers receive payment?

**How much funding is available?**
The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has a total of $100 million available to help behavioral health treatment providers to workforce stabilization. HCA is able to retain up to $200,000 of these funds to pay for administrative costs associated with evaluation and reporting.

**Is there a maximum funding amount I can request?**
There is no request for these funds. HCA will be distributing payments to eligible providers.

**What types of expenses are eligible with these funds?**
These funds are to stabilize the community behavioral health workforce retention and recruitment needs or costs incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including, but not limited to:

- Childcare stipends.
- Student loan repayment.
- Tuition assistance.
- Relocation expenses.
- Other recruitment efforts to begin adding new staff and rebuilding lost capacity.

**Can these funds to be used to backfill increased staffing that has already happened?**
These funds can be used to cover costs incurred by agencies on or after March 3, 2021. Funds must be expended prior to June 30, 2023.

**Is a provider required to “opt-in” to receive funds?**
Yes, HCA will contact eligible providers and there will be an opt-in and contract process associated, prior to distribution of payments.

**Will a provider get more funding because they are contracted with more than one MCO/BHASO?**
Providers will receive one allocation regardless of the number of contracts held with an MCO or BHASO.

**How long do I have to spend these funds?**
Funds must be expended by June 30, 2023.

**How will I receive these funds?**
Payments will be sent to eligible providers who have a signed contract with HCA through ProviderOne.

**Are these funds being administered through the MCOs and BHASOs?**
No.

**Who can we contact if we have any questions about this fund?**
All questions and/comments should be emailed to HCADBHRinfo@hca.wa.gov. Please note in the subject line “Behavioral Health Provider Relief Funds.”

**When will the payments be determined?**
Getting these funds out as soon as possible is a top priority for a large cross division team at HCA. We have an internal workgroup sorting the details and will have the funds out as soon after July 1, 2022 as possible and will distribute payments prior to September 30, 2022.
Will we know our allocation before receiving any contract documents?
No, the payment amount will be included in the contract HCA sends to eligible providers.

For auditing purposes, are providers receiving these funds considered beneficiaries or subrecipients?
Recipients of these payments are beneficiaries not subrecipients.

What reporting requirements will providers need to produce for these funds?
Eligible providers will agree to a contract with HCA committing to the following requirements:

- Spend the funds by June 30, 2023.
- Spend the funds on eligible uses.
- Commit to respond to an HCA survey on how the funds were utilized.

For updated information and additional questions:

Visit: Washington State Health Care Authority Contractor and Provider Resources
Email: HCADBHRinformation@hca.wa.gov