

October 2021

Applications for COVID-19 Provider Relief Funds

Starting September 29, 2021, healthcare providers will be able to apply to receive a portion of the \$25.5 billion in relief funds. This includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural patients and \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic. Funds are available to a wide variety of providers including nursing homes, home health agencies, and assisted living facilities.

What is the Provider Relief Fund?

Qualified providers of healthcare services and supports may receive Provider Relief Fund payments for healthcare-related expenses or lost revenues due to COVID-19. Providers do not need to repay the U.S. government for these distributions, assuming providers comply with the terms and conditions.

What is ARP Rural?

ARP Rural is intended to help address the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on rural communities and rural healthcare providers. Funding will be available to providers who serve patients in these communities. ARP Rural payments are administered jointly with the Provider Relief Fund, and eligible rural providers have the opportunity to simultaneously be considered for both Provider Relief Fund Phase 4 and ARP Rural payments.

How do I apply?

To streamline the application process and minimize administrative burdens, providers will apply for both programs in a single application. The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) will use existing claims data in calculating portions of these payments. For more specific details on the programs and the application process, go to the HRSA website at <https://www.hrsa.gov/provider-relief/future-payments>.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina provides this information as a convenience and recommends consulting your legal and/or tax counsel on whether you are eligible to receive funds under these Federal programs.

<https://provider.healthybluenc.com>

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