Covid-19 Response Fund for Community Health

Direct Relief's *Covid-19 Response Fund for Community Health*, in partnership with the National Association of Community Health Centers, in recognition of the profound effects that the pandemic has had community health centers' finances, staff members' safety and wellbeing, services, and the patients who rely on the them. The intent is to provide an infusion of additional emergency financial support to bolster safety-net facilities and their response to the unprecedented scale of Covid-19, providing broad discretion as to how the funding is used while ensuring that it is related to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Funding is to be used for immediate, emergency-related Covid-19 care and expenses related to relief activities to help care for patients and support the financial stability of the nonprofit healthcare safety-net.

Direct Relief is a nonprofit humanitarian aid organization, active in all 50 states and U.S. territories and more than 90 countries, with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies – without regard to politics, religion, or ability to pay. Direct Relief supports more than 1,400 nonprofit community health centers, free and charitable clinics, public health departments, and other safety net organizations throughout the United States.

Background

The structure of the Covid-19 Response Fund for Community Health is based on Direct Relief's past support following multiple emergencies, most recently following 2017's Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The fund was used to help community health centers and free clinics in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico respond and recover from the devastating effects of these hurricanes.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a Federally Qualified Health Center or look-alike: consideration will be given to existing Direct Relief partners
- Have federal 501(c)(3) or 509(a) tax exemption status
- Be based in and provide care within the United States or U.S. territories
- Have been directly affected by, and/or is responding to, Covid-19

Eligible Expenses

- Funds must be used for losses or expenses incurred due to Covid-19 patient care (April 1, 2020 to present) and related relief activities and may include:
  - Expenses incurred for emergency operations related to Covid-19
  - Staff costs and support associated with emergency services and closures

o   Support for frontline health worker safety, including the provision of PPE, physical structure modifications, trainings, etc.
o   Expanded care for medically vulnerable patients including the elderly and homeless
o   Unreimbursed patient care for uninsured people who are unable to pay
o   Providing Covid-19 testing (walk-up or drive-through)
o   Operating losses caused by Covid-19-forced closures
o   Expansion of telehealth services, community outreach, home-based care, or support for transitioned models of care
o   Permanent or temporary physical modifications for patient and staff safety
o   Coordination with local public health agencies, hospitals, or other providers to improve Covid-19 related care
o   Covid-19 health education and outreach

Grant Amounts and Use of Funds

Funding will be awarded up to $50,000 per health center (not per site). Direct Relief cannot guarantee that all requests will be funded, or that requests will be funded in full, due to review of qualifying criteria, overall need, and facility size. Consideration will be given for health centers that are existing partners of Direct Relief. Funding cannot be used for expenses that have been, or will be, covered by government agencies, insurance, or other funding sources. If it is determined that you were, or will be, reimbursed later, please contact us to discuss the re-designation of the funding. One request per organization may be submitted.

Grant Requirements

Upon approval, funds will be provided after a Grant Agreement has been signed and returned. All grantees are required to submit reports outlining the use of funds and any project modifications at 6-months and, if needed, 12-months following grant receipt. Reporting instructions will be sent 30-days prior to the reporting deadline and will require a description of the use of funds.

Application

Requests should be made at an organizational level rather than a site level. One application per organization will be considered.

Profile Information

- Application Contact: Name, Title, Email, Phone

Organization Information

- Facility Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Tax ID/EIN
- Provide information for the most recent calendar year:
  - Total Number of Patients
  - Total Number of Uninsured Patients
  - Number of Delivery Sites
  - Type of Facility
- Additional Contacts
  - CEO/Executive Director: Name, Phone, Email
  - Chief Medical Officer/Medical Director: Name, Email

Funding Request

- Description of how your organization, patient population, and community is affected by Covid-19 (max 1,000 words)
- Funding Request - Please indicate the amount of funds requested up to $50,000
- Please check any boxes for the areas that you anticipate using funding:
  - Health worker safety (PPE, training, physical building modifications)
  - Unreimbursed patient care
  - Providing Covid-19 testing (walk-up or drive-through)
  - Operating losses caused by Covid-19-forced closures
  - Support for new models of care (e.g. telehealth, community outreach, home-based care, etc.)
  - Coordination with local public health agencies, hospitals, or other providers to improve Covid-19 related care
  - Covid-19 health education and outreach
  - Other, please list:
- Provide details about your request and how you plan to use the funds. Note: if applying for loss of revenue due, describe the calculation used to distinguish these costs. (max 1,000 words)
- Please describe what you aim to accomplish with these funds
  - Primary goal:
    - Intended actions to reach this goal
  - If applicable, secondary goal:
    - Intended actions to reach this goal
- In a few sentences describe a moment that stands out for you, either in terms of understanding the magnitude of the situation, or a resourceful approach you've employed, to help show how this has affected your community.