



# Did Your Township receive an Unexpected Deposit from “US HHS Stimulus”?

## Here Is What You Should Do Immediately:

The Department of Health and Human Services has been directed as part of the “CARES Act Provider Relief Fund” to distribute relief payments to Medicare-enrolled providers, including EMS and related services.

**A RESPONSE IS REQUIRED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DEPOSIT**

Most providers will receive a stimulus check direct deposit identified as “US HHS Stimulus.” The CARES Act stipulates that the payment be used to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and shall reimburse the Recipient only for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.”

Some ideas of what the stimulus payment could be used to cover:

- \* Offset lost revenue due to decreased call volume
- \* Increased overtime payouts due to covering for employees who are sick/quarantined, or absent due to other COVID-related reasons such as school closures, etc.
- \* Hazard pay, stipends for first responders
- \* Childcare provided for essential workers
- \* Increases in employee health insurance and/or workers compensation premiums
- \* Additional cost of personal protective equipment and gear
- \* Employee training programs; payments to consultants to assist with compliance with the program
- \* Costs and expenses already incurred prior to receiving the funds may be factored into the overall expense

An overview of the compliance requirements:

- \* Within 30 days, review Terms & Conditions and sign attestation at CARES Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>
  1. Confirm receipt of funds;
  2. Agree to terms and conditions; and
  3. Accept funds (or reject funds and return payment)

- \* Create a separate fund on the township accounting system to track funds
  1. Use fund name "CARES Provider Relief Fund"
  2. You may use any available fund number
- \* Send copies of attestation/confirmation documentation to SBOA
- \* Adjust the township EMS billing system to account for coding changes required.
- \* Retain records of amounts received for COVID-19 and the Township's use of the funds.

As a condition to the terms and conditions, providers are obligated to abstain from "balance billing" for any COVID-19 suspected or positive patient. A review of prior years' billings should be completed to identify the impact on EMS fees revenue.

Best practices would be to provide instruction or edits within your patient care report that identifies the following:

1. COVID-19 suspected or positive patient;
2. PPE equipment used (not just a general statement); and
3. Any other pertinent information related to the patient's inability to sign any forms due to local or state mandates.

**If you need help with this process, contact ITA.**