

State of Alabama

Health Care and Emergency Response Provider COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

Overview

1.1 General Information

- Announcement Title: Health Care and Emergency Response Provider COVID-19 Relief Grant Program
- COVID-19 Relief Grant Program Website:
<https://alabama.submittable.com/submit>
- Application Deadline: October 16, 2020

1.2 Program Description

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”) includes funds distributed to state governments to use to pay costs incurred in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. The purpose of the Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriation is for the funds to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 only. No other purpose is authorized. Funds may not be utilized to replace or supplant any other funding nor to fill any revenue shortfall.

The State of Alabama Finance Department has established a separate fund in the State Treasury for federal funds and is authorized to spend from those funds within the parameters of the CARES Act and other federal and state law.

U.S. Treasury guidance allows the State to use Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars for qualified expenditures. Therefore, the State of Alabama will offer cash grants in an amount up to \$15,000 to providers that meet eligibility requirements.

1.3 Funding and Project Dates

Funding

- Through the Alabama Health Care and Emergency Response COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, \$35 million of the state’s CARES Act funding is being dedicated to providing cash grants of up to \$15,000 to Alabama-Based Health Care and Emergency Response Providers. The application process for this grant program is being administered by the Alabama Department of Finance.

Project Dates

- The application period for this grant program will open at noon on October 5, 2020 and run through noon on October 16, 2020.

1.4 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- Primary Care Clinics
- Ambulance/EMS Service Providers
- Pharmacies
- Physician Offices
- Dentist Offices
- Other Health Practitioner Offices (Will need to specify)
- Outpatient Care Centers
- Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories
- Home Health Care Businesses
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Physical Therapy Offices
- Rescue Squad Organizations
- Volunteer Fire Departments
- 911 Boards

To be considered for funding through the Health Care and Emergency Response Provider COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, providers must submit a new application through the COVID-19 Relief Grant Program website.

<https://alabama.submittable.com/submit>

Ineligible Applicants include:

- Providers seeking support for service locations outside of Alabama,
- Any hospitals or nursing homes in Alabama,
- Providers not included in the eligible applicant list above, and

*****Those who have received funds from the State of Alabama Small Business, Nonprofit or Faith-Based Grant Programs are NOT eligible to apply.*****

1.5 Additional Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the above applicant eligibility, providers must verify that it:

- Was in business and fully operational as of March 1, 2020 and continues to be operational as of the date of the application.
- Has incurred eligible expenses due to the interruption of business, up to the grant amount requested.
- Has not received a federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan, Economic Injury Disaster Loan, or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA); OR, if received or expected to be received, incurred eligible business interruption expenses up to the amount requested that were not covered with these funds.
- Does not exist for the purpose of advancing partisan political activities, does not directly lobby federal or state officials, and has not employed or otherwise worked with a lobbyist as defined in Section 36-25-1, Code of Alabama 1975, at any point during 2020.

1.6 Eligible Uses

Under federal law, eligible uses must meet three conditions:

1. Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.
2. Not budgeted as of March 27, 2020 when the CARES Act was enacted.
3. Incurred on or after March 1, 2020, up to December 30, 2020.

For further context of permissible use of the grant award, please review Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance and Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions on the [U.S. Department of the Treasury Website](#).

A qualifying provider will also have to certify that the amounts distributed through this program will not be used for the following purposes:

- As reimbursement for cost or damages covered by insurance.
- For expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, including the PPP, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, or PUA.
- For reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
- For workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
- For severance pay.
- For legal settlements.

1.7 Grant Certification and Assurance Form

Each grant recipient must complete a Certification and Assurance Form with the State of Alabama in order to be eligible to receive funding from the grant program. The certification will address the conditions of the award. Once the certification is signed, the awardee is expected to read and comply with all conditions of the certification.

An award through this program will only support services performed and expenditures made on or after **March 1, 2020**.

1.8 Questions and Answers

All questions regarding this grant program should be submitted to:

Coronavirus Relief Funds Office
submissions@finance.alabama.gov

Please include “Health Care Provider Grant Program” in the subject line of the email.

Review and Selection Process

2.1 Review Process

Funding will be allocated through a selection process based on identified criteria, with review by the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Office. The audit team will evaluate all eligible and complete applications received.

The award decisions of the CRF Office are final and not subject to appeal. Additionally:

- The State of Alabama reserves the right to withhold the distribution of funds in cases where proposals submitted do not meet the necessary criteria.
- The State of Alabama does not obligate the CRF Office to award a grant or complete the project, and the State of Alabama reserves the right to cancel this program if it is considered to be in its best interest.
- The CRF Office reserves the right to waive minor irregularities or request additional information to further clarify or validate information submitted in the application, provided the application, as submitted, substantially complies with the requirements of this program. There is, however, no guarantee the CRF Office will look for information or clarification outside of the submitted written application. Therefore, it is important that all applicants ensure that all sections of their application are complete to avoid the possibility of failing an evaluation phase for lack of information.

2.2 Selection Criteria

The audit team will be reviewing each application on whether the applicant:

- Meets all eligibility requirements;
- Provide services to those in Alabama;
- May receive funding from other sources for resources used to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

Application and Submission Instructions

3.1 Application Dates

Applications will be made available to begin applying on October 5, 2020 at noon and will close on October 16, 2020 at noon. There will be no exceptions to apply before or after the application dates.

2.3 Application Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted electronically at

<https://alabama.submittable.com/submit>

Applicants will submit their application through the online application portal and must complete the following sections in order for the application to be considered complete:

- Provider Legal Name
- Provider Location Information
- Payment Information
- Contact Information
- Provider Service Information
- Risk Assessment
- Provider Documentation

Application must include all required material, including attachments. Do not provide any material that is not requested in the application, as such material will not be considered nor evaluated. The CRF Office reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet these requirements.