

**State of Vermont Agency of Human Services** Office of the Secretary 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671

## For Immediate Release:

August 13, 2020 Conor Kennedy | Agency of Human Services Conor.Kennedy@Vermont.gov

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STABILIZATION GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 15

Eligible Health Care and Human Service Providers Encouraged to Submit Applications Before the First Application Cycle Closes

**Montpelier, VT**— Governor Phil Scott and the Agency of Human Services announced today that the first round of Vermont's Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program will close on Saturday, August 15, 2020. The grant program, first proposed by the Administration and amended by the Vermont Legislature, utilizes up to \$275,000,000 from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide direct cash grants to eligible health care and human service providers who have lost revenue and/or observed increased expenses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"Our health care and human service providers have also experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic," said Governor Scott. "These financial stabilization grants will be awarded beginning in late August and made directly to providers so that Vermonters' access to the health services they need is preserved."

The grants are being administered by the Agency of Human Services for a broad spectrum of health and human service provider types, spanning self-employed practitioners to peer services providers to hospitals. To ensure equity in the process and to encourage all eligible providers to seek funding, applicants have had four weeks to complete the application. Applications for the first round must be submitted by August 15 to be considered.

"The Agency of Human Services designed the Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program application process to support provider organizations of every size and type," said Secretary Mike Smith. "It is important that providers who are eligible for the March 1 – June 15 time period submit their applications by August 15 so that the Agency can consider the total demonstrated need and award funds accordingly."

The Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program application opened Friday, July 17 and providers have through August 15 at 11:59 EST to submit their information electronically for the first application cycle. AHS will administer two application cycles: One beginning July 17 (for the time period March 1, 2020 – June 15, 2020) that closes August 15, and one beginning in October (for the time period June 16, 2020 – September 30, 2020). If demonstrated need in the first application cycle exceeds the allocated funding amount, AHS may prioritize the distribution of funds in the first cycle.



- All applications will be reviewed after the application period closes, not on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Funding determinations will be made based on the total need demonstrated in the applications received, subject to available funding.
- Funding will be issued as one or more grant payments beginning in late-August for the first application cycle. Applicants who apply in the first cycle and remain eligible in the second cycle can update the application from the first cycle.

A broad array of health care and human service providers are eligible for funding through this Grant program. If you are a provider and are not certain if you are eligible, please use the <u>web-based application</u> form to inquire about your eligibility. Eligibility requirements include:

- Organizations must be Vermont-based and have been in operation on/before February 1, 2020;
- Demonstration of lost revenue resulting from COVID-19 and/or increased expenses due to COVID-19;
- Completion of the application and submission of required substantiation documentation through the web-based application form;
- Disclosure of financial relief received to date, including from federal, state, and other sources; and
- Provider agreement to the terms and conditions of grant funding including those in accordance with section 601 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Health care and human service providers are encouraged to sign up to receive an e-mail notifying them of Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program updates by <u>completing an online form</u>.

For more information on:

- The Health Care Provider Stabilization Grant Program, visit <u>https://dvha.vermont.gov/health-care-provider-stabilization-grant-program</u>
- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit <u>www.healthvermont.gov/covid19</u>.
- The Governor's actions, visit <u>governor.vermont.gov/covid19response</u>.
- The State's modeling, visit <u>dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling</u>.

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