

To: TennCare and CoverKids Providers

Date: September 4, 2020

**Subject: IMPORTANT Opportunity to apply for federal COVID relief funding--HHS Extends Application Deadline for CARES Act Provider Relief Funds to September**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has again extended the deadline for providers to apply for the Medicaid CARES Act Provider Relief Fund distribution. Based on the most recently available data, it appears that the volume of Tennessee providers applying for these funds remains low. You **MUST** apply in order to receive these funds; they will not be automatically sent to you.

**If you are a provider who participates in TennCare and/or CoverKids and have not applied for funds through the Provider Relief Fund the deadline to apply for Phase 2 General Distribution Funding has been extended to September 13, 2020.**

To apply, visit the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Portal at [www.hhs.gov/providerrelief](http://www.hhs.gov/providerrelief) and choose "For Providers". This funding is available to a wide array of providers who meet the criteria. Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, skilled therapists (including respiratory, occupational, speech, and physical therapists), nurses, behavioral health professionals, dentists, pharmacists, home health agencies, HCBS providers, and other providers may be eligible.

If you are unsure if you are eligible for these funds please refer to the eligibility FAQs at <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/faqs/general-distribution/index.html#overview-eligibility-2>

Note that the Medicaid/CHIP provider portal is specifically for providers who participate in state Medicaid or CHIP programs and who have not received provider relief funding from the Phase 1 Medicare General Distribution.

For more information on who is eligible and how to apply, see the HHS provider resource page online at: <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-providers/index.html>.

TennCare will continue to provide updates if we receive them, but as a reminder, **this funding is being administered through a federal program by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. Please continue to visit their website (<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/general-information/index.html>) or reach out to the HHS contacts for any questions you may have.