

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Axne  
United States Representative  
State Capitol Building  
Attention: Denise Fleming  
Via email: [Denise.Fleming@mail.house.gov](mailto:Denise.Fleming@mail.house.gov)

F20-179

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

This letter is in response to your recent questions regarding the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) accounting of federal funds allocated for relief of the COVID19 pandemic. Specifically:

The total funding amount spent in Iowa, by DHS, including a summary of that funding broken down by grant program, loan program, direct support, or other funding measure, and a summary of where in Iowa that money was spent or given, wherever possible to record that information.

**Response:** Please see Attachment 1: COVID-19 Funding Summary

For specific responses related to your remaining questions about DHS programs, please find the attached summary documents for the following services in Iowa:

- Attachment 2: Child Welfare Services
- Attachment 3: Economic Support Services
- Attachment 4: Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Attachment 5: Mental Health Services
- Attachment 6: Refugee Services

The Agency Point of Contact (POC) to submit a question or request to is:

Carrie L. Malone, J.D.  
Legislative Liaison - Department of Human Services  
5th Floor, Hoover State Office Building  
1305 East Walnut Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114  
office: 515-281-4387  
cell: 515-401-6180  
[cmalone@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:cmalone@dhs.state.ia.us)

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Carrie L. Malone, J.D.  
Legislative Liaison

CM:jlm

Attachments: (6)

Title	Federal Law	Description	Program	Grant Award Received	Award Amount	Additional Information
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) allocation	Food Assistance	Yes	\$735,827 (admin grant) Additional \$2,186,878 available for food, but not issued as a grant.	N/A
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	CARES Act	The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748) allocation	Food Assistance	Yes	\$1,103,741 (admin grant) Additional \$2,185,407 available for food, but will not be issued as a grant.	N/A
6.2% FMAP Increase	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	Medicaid received a 6.2% FMAP increase retroactively from January through current emergency status.	Medicaid	Yes	QE Mar-20: \$81,136,000 QE Jun-20: \$95,697,000	DHS will only draw what has been earned. Earned amounts are estimated at \$66M per quarter.
6.2% FMAP Increase	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	The CHIP enhanced FMAP will increase for states coinciding with the duration of the 6.2 percentage point increase to the FMAP.	CHIP	No	\$0	No new award will be received. Funds will be earned from the existing CHIP allotment.
Payments To States For The Child Care And Development Block Grant	CARES Act	The CARES Act (PL 116-136) provides over \$2 trillion for widespread assistance to individuals, corporations, and state and local governments. \$3.5 billion is specifically for CCDBG funding to states.	Child Care	Yes	\$31,899,093	N/A
CARES Act Provider Relief Fund	CARES Act	Relief funds to hospitals and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the coronavirus response. This funding will be used to support healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 and to ensure uninsured Americans can get testing and treatment for COVID-19.	MHIs	Yes	\$112,134 \$59,774 Cherokee \$52,360 Independence	There will be future distributions from this funding source. The amount the MHIs may receive from these distributions is not known.
Child Welfare Services	CARES Act	For child welfare services as authorized by subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act without regard to matching requirements	IV-B Child Welfare Services	Yes	\$476,722	N/A
6.2% FMAP Increase	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	IV-E Adoption, Foster Care, and Guardianship received a 6.2% FMAP increase retroactively from January through current emergency status.	IV-E	Yes	QE Jun-20 FC: \$232,068 QE Jun-20 Adopt: \$990,255	It is expected the March quarter amount will be issued as a settlement grant once the quarterly federal expenditure report is approved.
Covid-19 Testing	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	Provides states the option to extend Medicaid eligibility to the uninsured for the purpose of Covid-19 diagnostic testing during the emergency period.	Medicaid	No	\$0	Receipt of new funding will be dependent on DHS implementing the program.
Corona Virus Relief Fund	CARES Act	The CRF provides \$150 billion for expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. \$139 billion is allocated to states with a small state minimum of \$1.25 billion.	Food Assistance	Yes	\$1,000,000	For the Double Up Food Bucks program working with the Supplemental Need Assistance Program.
			Food Assistance	Yes	\$1,000,000	To provide grants to the food banks in food and supply acquisition.
FEMA Crisis Counseling Program	Existing Law - The Stafford Act	The Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Immediate Services Program provides funding following a presidentially declared disaster.	MHDS	Yes	\$995,184	N/A
FEMA Public Assistance	Existing Law - The Stafford Act	Assists applicants with the response and recovery from disasters using Federal and State grant funds to reimburse eligible disaster related costs.	TBD	No	\$0	DHS has not yet applied for this funding but may do so in the future.

In response to your request for additional detail on the use of federal funding resources by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS):

**Child Welfare Services in Iowa:**

Which programs are available under your division for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, where are the website links and relevant application information?

*Providing COVID-related funding support in 3 major areas: increased daily rate to residential providers, foster parent enhanced payment, and technology grants for family support programs.*

[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS\\_GroupCareShelter\\_CARESAct.pdf?052220200224](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS_GroupCareShelter_CARESAct.pdf?052220200224)

Outline each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure that has been provided to Iowa and a summary of what each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure is being used for. This should be specific to DHS use, provider groups, entities, etc. (not individuals).

*CARES Act: Iowa received \$476,422 in discretionary funding for child welfare services.*

As much information as possible about which businesses, communities, counties, and other state agencies have received funding from DHS' overall funding. This information should include locations, what type of funding (e.g.: grants, loans), and total dollar amounts.

*Group and shelter providers will receive \$286,250 to cover the increased staffing costs for these contractors.*

*Family support contractors will receive \$55,000 to provide technology to support virtual connections to telehealth services and to facilitate visits with children in foster care.*

*An enhanced foster parent payment is available in the event a child in their care tests positive for COVID. \$35,000 has been set aside to cover these \$500/payments.*

If there are pending applications for federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

*There are no additional pending applications or decisions related to federal funding related to Child Welfare.*

If there have been denials for federal funding, please provide information on why those requests were denied.

*There have been no denials for federal funding related to Child Welfare.*

In response to your request for additional detail on the use of federal funding resources by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS):

### **Economic Assistance Programs in Iowa:**

Which programs are available under your division for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, where are the website links and relevant application information?

#### *Child Care:*

- *Change absent day billing policy for 4 day limit to unlimited days for duration of the health emergency and full day care for school age children due to school closures, paying for enrollment*
- *Provide child care providers with related supplies and pay for additional supplies related to cleaning requirement to prevent COVID-19 spread*
- *Monthly stipend to child care centers and homes that are open or reopen and remain open*
- *Add-on stipend to child care providers that supports the essential workforce*
- *Paying child care providers Child Care Assistance family co-pay amounts thus relieving the families' responsibility to pay*
- *Rejuvenation grants for supplies and start-up funds for closed child care programs to re-open*

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare/funding-opportunities>

[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS\\_COVID-19\\_Childcare\\_Sustainability\\_Plan.pdf?050520202303&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS_COVID-19_Childcare_Sustainability_Plan.pdf?050520202303&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Outline each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure that has been provided to Iowa and a summary of what each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure is being used for. This should be specific to DHS use, provider groups, entities, etc. (not individuals).

*Child Care: CARES Act: Iowa DHS received \$31,899,093 in discretionary funding from the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDF)*

*The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):*

- *Families First Coronavirus Act: Iowa received \$735,827 in administrative funding for TEFAP distribution and \$2,186,878 in food purchasing funds*
- *CARES Act: Iowa received \$1,103,741 in administrative funding for TEFAP distribution and \$2,185,407 in food purchasing funds*

As much information as possible about which businesses, communities, counties, and other state agencies have received funding from DHS' overall funding. This information should include locations, what type of funding (e.g.: grants, loans), and total dollar amounts.

*Child Care COVID:*

- *Co-pay Reimbursement is \$386,387.*
- *Rejuvenation Grants is \$119,100.*
- *Supplies to child care provider is \$5,000*

*TEFAP:*

- *Food bank providers will receive \$1,839,568 to cover the administrative cost of distributing TEFAP.*
- *Eligible Iowans who utilize emergency feeding organizations (such as food pantries) will have access to the foods purchased with the total food funds.*

If there are pending applications for federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

*There are no additional pending applications or decisions related to federal funding for Iowa's Economic Programs.*

If there have been denials for federal funding, please provide information on why those requests were denied.

*There have been no denials related to federal funding for Iowa's Economic Programs.*

In response to your request for additional detail on the use of federal funding resources by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS):

### **Medicare & Medicaid Services in Iowa:**

Which programs are available under your division for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, where are the website links and relevant application information?

*The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) has established a website to provide Iowa Medicaid members and stakeholders information on the availability of supports and services during the federal emergency period due to COVID-19. A link to the site is:*  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/COVID19>

*The Department has requested a number of flexibilities of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support Medicaid members and providers serving members during this federal emergency period. A list of the requests made to CMS to continue serving Medicaid members during the COVID-19 emergency can be found at:*  
[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS\\_COVID19\\_Waivers.pdf?051820201819](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/DHS_COVID19_Waivers.pdf?051820201819)

*Also as described in the federal requests, Iowa:*

- Is preparing to implement effective June 1, 2020, the new optional Medicaid eligibility group. This will allow Iowa Medicaid to provide the uninsured with coverage of testing and testing related services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa will receive 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for this new coverage group.*
- Has expanded home delivered meals, homemaker, and companion services for Medicaid members who meet specific eligibility criteria. Members who meet the eligibility criteria may access these services. These expanded services are available March 13, 2020, through the duration of the emergency proclamation. Information can be found at:*  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/COVID19/services>
- Developed a process to allow for retainer payments for specific Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) services. This allows payments to providers for the specified services when a member was unable to receive normally authorized and scheduled services due to hospitalization, short term facility stay, or isolation; or due to closure of a provider's service line(s) for reasons related to the COVID-19 emergency. Additional information can be found at:*  
[https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2136-MC\\_HCBS\\_Retainer\\_Payments\\_0.pdf?051820201310](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2136-MC_HCBS_Retainer_Payments_0.pdf?051820201310)

*A number of Informational Letters (ILs) have been issued by the IME during the COVID-19 emergency period to clarify and explain new and existing program and policy. The ILs specific to COVID-19 include a modifier after the IL number of "CVD" for Coronavirus Disease. The ILs can be found here:*  
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/rulesandpolicies/bulletins/bulletins2020>

*Recognizing that Medicaid Members may either a) be quarantined to home or b) self-quarantined due to indirect contact with the COVID-19, ILs were issued describing virtual care and telehealth codes that were updated to allow for a provider to deliver Telehealth services to a member if they are quarantined at home.*

Outline each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure that has been provided to Iowa and a summary of what each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure is being used for. This should be specific to DHS use, provider groups, entities, etc. (not individuals).

*There is an increased FMAP available for allowable Medicaid medical assistance expenditures for which federal matching paid ordinarily at the state-specific FMAP rate as defined in the first sentence of section 1905(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Iowa is eligible for this 6.2 percentage point FMAP increase, authorized in section 6008(b) and (c) of the Act. The increase does not apply to the following Medicaid expenditures:*

- *Medicaid administrative expenditures, for which the matching rate is not defined in section 1905(b).*
- *Adult group expenditures matched at the “newly eligible” FMAP specified in section 1905(y) of the Act.*
- *Adult group expenditures matched at the “expansion state” FMAP specified in section 1905(z) of the Act.*
- *Expenditures for family planning services eligible for 90% match as specified in section 1903(a)(5).*
- *Expenditures for services “received through” an IHS facility (including an IHS facility operated by an Indian tribe or tribal organization), as the 100% match rate for these services is not the same as the state-specific FMAP defined in the first sentence of section 1905(b) to which the 6.2 percentage point FMAP increase applies.*
- *Expenditures matched at 100% for individuals in Qualifying Individuals programs.*
- *Health home services under section 1945 of the Act when these are matched at 90% as specified in section 1945(c)(1). After the initial enhanced FMAP period for these services that is described in section 1945(c)(1), they will be matched at the state’s regular FMAP, which might be subject to the 6.2 percentage point increase under section 6008(a).*
- *Community First Choice (CFC) 1915(k) service expenditures already eligible for a 6 percentage point in Federal match rate increase.*
- *Any other expenditures not matched at the FMAP determined for each state that is defined in the first sentence of section 1905(b).*

*In order to qualify for this increased FMAP, states must, from March 18, 2020, through the end of the month when the public health emergency ends:*

- *Maintain eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures that are no more restrictive than what the state had in place as of January 1, 2020 (maintenance of effort requirement).*
- *Not charge premiums that exceed those that were in place as of January 1, 2020.*
- *Cover, without impositions of any cost sharing, testing, services and treatments—including vaccines, specialized equipment, and therapies—related to COVID-19.*
- *Not terminate individuals from Medicaid if such individuals were enrolled in the program as of the date of the beginning of the emergency period, or becomes enrolled during the emergency period, unless the individual voluntarily terminates eligibility or is no longer a resident of the state (continuous coverage requirement).*

*CMS has issued an FAQ on the increased FMAP and can be found here:*

*<https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/covid-19-section-6008-faqs.pdf>*

If there are pending applications for federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions. Additionally, if there are pending decisions related to the use of federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

*CMS issued Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of COVID-19. This guidance directs nursing homes to significantly restrict visitors and nonessential personnel to protect nursing home residents. Recognizing that visitor restrictions may be difficult for residents and families, CMS has developed an application template for facilities to request the use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Reinvestment funds to provide residents with adaptive communicative technologies. The IME developed a process for Iowa Medicaid enrolled nursing facilities to apply for this funding. Information on this process can be found at: [https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2133-MC-FFS-CVD\\_CMPQII\\_COVID-19\\_Tech\\_Grants\\_2020.pdf?050820201236](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2133-MC-FFS-CVD_CMPQII_COVID-19_Tech_Grants_2020.pdf?050820201236)*

*Below is the breakdown of applications processed as of 5/2/2020:*

*Total Approved: 119 applications (184 facilities)*

*Total Dollars Approved: \$451,571.44*

*Total Pending Additional Information or clarification: 10*

*Total Pending Initial Review: 4*

*Total Denied: 10*

*The IME has taken a number of steps to ensure continuous coverage for Medicaid recipients and that providers are able to provide the critical services needed. This includes implementing telework and virtual call centers as well as design, development and installation activities to support Iowa's emergency response implementation of the federal flexibilities requested in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure our agency is able respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, IME has submitted an emergency Federal Financial Participation (FFP) request. As a next step, Iowa must formally submit an Advanced Planning Document (APD) by August 14, 2020.*

In response to your request for additional detail on the use of federal funding resources by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS):

### **Mental Health Services in Iowa**

Which programs are available under your division for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, where are the website links and relevant application information?

*COVID Recovery Iowa: [www.COVIDrecoveryiowa.org](http://www.COVIDrecoveryiowa.org), 800-447-1985 to connect with a counselor specializing in rural issues and agriculture*

*Iowa Warm Line: 844-775-9276; to connect with a peer counselor or request to get in touch with a COVID Recovery Iowa counselor*

Outline each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure that has been provided to Iowa and a summary of what each program, grant, loan, or other funding measure is being used for. This should be specific to DHS use, provider groups, entities, etc. (not individuals).

*FEMA's Crisis Counseling Assistance, and Training Program (CCP): The State of Iowa received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance on April 30th, 2020, specifically for Crisis Counseling Assistance. The State applied for CCP to fund statewide virtual counseling, outreach, information, and referrals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Awarded on May 22, 2020, services start immediately, and effective until June 29, 2020.*

As much information as possible about which businesses, communities, counties, and other state agencies have received funding from DHS' overall funding. This information should include locations, what type of funding (e.g.: grants, loans), and total dollar amounts.

*Total Award - \$995,184 Statewide:  
Includes statewide, virtual services to individuals, families, and groups, program marketing, and purchase of software and other technology support.*

<i>Department of Human Services (printing, virtual meetings)</i>	<i>\$ 46,642</i>
<i>Contracts to support statewide service provision:</i>	
<i>    Full Identity (ID badges)</i>	<i>\$ 1,232</i>
<i>    Broken Arrow Wear (branded shirts)</i>	<i>\$ 1,584</i>
<i>    Joy Design Solutions (website)</i>	<i>\$ 15,100</i>
<i>Contracts to provide virtual services statewide:</i>	
<i>    Abbe Center Community Mental Health</i>	<i>\$ 22,191</i>
<i>    Heartland Family Services</i>	<i>\$688,779</i>
<i>    Pathways Behavioral Services</i>	<i>\$123,892</i>
<i>    Iowa State University Extension</i>	<i>\$ 67,929</i>
<i>    University of Iowa, Centers for Development and Disabilities</i>	<i>\$ 27,835</i>

If there are pending applications for federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions. Additionally, if there are pending decisions related to the use of federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

*There are no additional pending applications or decisions related to federal funding.*

Any other information you think is important to share.

*During the CCP grant period, Iowa will determine the need and apply for a FEMA Crisis Counseling Regular Services Program grant to continue the virtual mental health and outreach.*

In response to your request for additional detail on the use of federal funding resources by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS):

### **Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services**

Which programs are available under your division for individuals to use for COVID-19 assistance, where are the website links and relevant application information?

*No CARES Act funding has been allocated to the Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services. No additional services specific to COVID-19 are available.*

If there are pending applications for federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions. Additionally, if there are pending decisions related to the use of federal funding, please provide this information as well as expected dates of those decisions.

*The Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services has not applied for any CARES Act funding or any other pandemic-related federal funding.*

Any other information important to share:

*The regulatory waivers the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has offered states a step in the right direction. The modest expansion of the eligibility period for the small amount of assistance available to a very small proportion of Iowa's refugees through the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) program is a start.*

*The Bureau anticipates that Iowa's refugees will need additional transitional housing assistance, nutrition supports and adult basic education resources in order to not be "left behind" as economic activity recommences.*

*The bureau will continue to help refugees connect to accurate public health information and recovery resources (unemployment benefits, TANF for those eligible, education and employment services).*

*The multilingual hotline the bureau is funding through the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa has been a valuable resource for Iowa's refugees, and has resulted in an additional three to five calls to the bureau per day from refugees or hotline workers.*

*So far the bureau has been able to respond effectively to the increase in our workload and assure this influx of new clients receives accurate information and effective assistance accessing services and relief programs.*