

PROVIDER ALERT

Funding Opportunity, Racial Disparities Task Force

October 5, 2021

Target Audience: All Behavioral Health Providers

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) regularly updates resources and information related to COVID-19. Here is the latest information:

Application Cycle Is Now Open to October 26 for New COVID-19 Provider Funding

On September 29, a new application cycle opened for \$25.5B in COVID-19 provider funding. Using a single application, applicants can apply for both [Provider Relief Fund \(PRF\) Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Rural payments](#).

- **PRF Phase 4** is open to a broad range of providers with changes in operating revenues and expenses.
- **ARP Rural** is open to providers who serve rural beneficiaries covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Applications must be received by October 26 at 11:59 p.m. ET. [Learn more](#).

Deadline extended to Friday, October 12, to join Racial Disparities Task Force Workgroup

The Racial Disparities in Overdose Task Force, co-chaired by BHA Deputy Secretary Dr. Aliya Jones, was formed in February 2021.

- The purpose of the Task Force is to explore the contributing factors leading to the accelerating rate of overdose deaths in the Black community.
- Workgroups are currently being formed in alignment with the Task Force's goals.
- To join a workgroup, email marianne.gibson@maryland.gov by **Friday, October 12**. [Learn more](#).

BHA continues to update behavioral health COVID-19 related resources on the [BHA website](#). Please submit COVID-19 related questions [here](#) or email bha.inquiries@maryland.gov.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team