

## PROVIDER ALERT

### Deputy Secretary Letter, COVID Funding and More September 14, 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:

#### **September BHA Letter from Deputy Secretary**

[Read the September letter from Dr. Aliya Jones](#), Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health. BHA also released a [September Updates document](#).

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Funding opportunity

#### **HHS Announces Availability of \$25.5 Billion in COVID-19 Provider Funding**

The Biden-Harris Administration announced on September 10 that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration, is making \$25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic. [Read the HHS press release](#).

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The HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, in partnership with Health Resources and Services Administration, invites stakeholders to join us on **Wednesday, September 15 at 4:30 p.m.** ET for a stakeholder briefing to discuss HRSA's announcement on Provider Relief Funds.

The stakeholder briefing will overview key policy changes, available funding, and how to apply and will include remarks from:

- Acting Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration Diana Espinosa

- HHS Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Marvin Figueroa

[Please register here.](#)

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### **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. On September 10, World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day, the [BHA Office of Suicide Prevention released a letter](#) honoring those affected by suicide and encouraging others to help increase awareness, decrease stigmatization and spread hope. To learn more and get involved, email: [mdh.suicideprevention@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.suicideprevention@maryland.gov).

*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](mailto:bha.inquiries@maryland.gov).*

Thank you,  
Optum Maryland Team