



# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Brad Little - Governor  
Dave Jeppesen - Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
450 W. State Street, 10th Floor  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0036  
PHONE 208-334-5500  
FAX 208-334-6558

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alex Adams, Administrator  
Division of Financial Management

**FROM:** Dave Jeppesen, Director  
Department of Health and Welfare

**DATE:** September 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** CFAC Funding Request

COVID-19 has impacted many parts of the healthcare delivery system in Idaho, including behavioral healthcare. Isolation and fear have led to anxiety, depression, and increased use of drugs and alcohol. The Governor's Office recognizes these needs and would like to dedicate some CFAC funding to assist Idahoans in managing their mental health during the pandemic.

The Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is proposing three uses of CFAC funds to help Idahoans manage their mental health and the effects of COVID-19. The criteria for selection of these uses include:

- 1) Duration - funding will only be available through December of 2020
- 2) One-time - funding is one-time and will not create an ongoing financial obligation
- 3) Relevance - funding is tied directly to areas effected by COVID-19
- 4) Impact – most effective use of funding that help Idahoans during this pandemic

Three programs have been identified that meet these criteria:

**Community Hospitalization – \$200,000** - DHW's community hospitalization budget is appropriated to pay for the treatment of patients committed to the state under Idaho Code § 66-329 awaiting transportation and admission to one of the two state psychiatric hospitals (State Hospital South and State Hospital North). COVID-19 has created delays in admissions to state hospitals while patients wait for COVID-10 test results and quarantine if they are suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19. This results in increased costs to the state to maintain patients in community hospitals. The \$200,000 will assist DHW in paying for increases in the community hospitalization budget to cover COVID-19 related costs associated with delayed admissions.

**Psychiatric Triage Centers - \$200,000** - DHW applied for and received an emergency grant through SAMHSA to manage the impacts of COVID-19. One program supported under this grant is the development of Psychiatric Triage Centers or PTCs. PTCs are intended to divert patients having a behavioral health emergency from emergency departments. This diversion does two things: first it keeps behavioral health patients away from emergency departments that are experiencing a surge in COVID-19 patients; secondly, it keeps patients suffering from behavioral health conditions safe by reducing community spread of COVID-19 in hospital emergency departments. PTCs could include crisis centers or other community settings developed to divert patients from emergency departments. The additional \$200,000 will increase the already dedicated \$800,000 of SAMHSA grant funding directed for PTCs. An application process is currently underway to award these funds.

**Recovery Centers – \$300,000** - Use of drugs and alcohol have increased during COVID-19 and is leading to increases in addiction. Recovery centers are a vital tool for communities that are attempting to manage increased drug and alcohol use. Recovery centers help Idahoans suffering from addiction to manage their own recovery. Patients come to the recovery centers to access treatment meetings, recovery support services, meetings with recovery coaches, and much more. Keeping recovery centers financially viable is critical to helping communities manage the increased need to support Idahoans who are seeking recovery from addiction.

Thank you for your consideration.