



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

November 25, 2020

Alex J. Adams, Chairman
Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)
304 N 8th St, 3rd Floor
Boise, ID 83702

Chairman Adams,

I have reviewed the recommendations of the Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee, agree with and approve the funding recommendations as follows:

- \$5,000,000 to the Department of Health and Welfare for contract medical staff to Idaho hospitals, as described in Appendix A; and
- \$300,000 to the Department of Health and Welfare for vaccine distribution support, as described in Appendix B.

In my judgment, these are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and align with the U.S. Treasury guidance on allowable uses of funds.

Please work with the State Controller on carrying out these recommendations and reporting all expenditures to Transparent Idaho.

Best regards,

Brad Little
Governor

Appendix A



BRAD LITTLE- Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN - Director

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES SECTION
Division of Operational Services
450 West State Street, 10th Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036
PHONE 208-334-5564
FAX 208-639-5742
PRR@dhw.idaho.gov

TO: Alex Adams, Administrator, Division of Financial Management

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

DATE: November 23, 2020

SUBJECT: CFAC Funding Request for Contract Hospital Medical Staff

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare would like to utilize the State's CARES Act funding to supplement the depleted and exhausted medical professional staff at hospitals through the end of the calendar year and requests an initial amount \$5 million. This request is supported by the Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

Hospitals' staff continue to be depleted by COVID-19 exposure or infection from the community. Many healthcare workers are fatigued or burned-out having worked nearly non-stop for the past eight months. This has resulted in Idaho hospitals that are short on staff to handle significant increases in hospitalization beyond current levels, such as the anticipated increase in COVID-19 cases following the Thanksgiving holiday.

Demand for contract medical staff such as nurses and respiratory therapists (RTs) is up nationally and the cost of contracting those workers has increased significantly during the pandemic. For example, contracts for ICU and Med.-Surg. Nurses are ranging between \$150 and \$200 an hour depending on the length of engagement and vocation.

For a four-week period ending in December 2020, \$5 million would provide Idaho hospitals with the opportunity to staff approximately 150 to 200 contract medical staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical staff contracts have ranged from four weeks to the otherwise typical 13-week engagements. Any portion of agency staffing contracts that extend beyond the end of the year would be the responsibility of the individual hospital(s).

Number of positions at various hourly rates:

Hourly Rate	Hours/week	Weeks	Contract Amount	Positions filled at \$5 million
\$150.00	40	4	\$24,000.00	208.33
\$175.00	40	4	\$28,000.00	178.57
\$200.00	40	4	\$32,000.00	156.25

Appendix B



BRAD LITTLE - Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN - Director

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TO: Alex Adams, Administrator
Division of Financial Management

FROM: Dave Jeppesen, Director
Department of Health and Welfare

DATE: November 24, 2020

SUBJECT: CFAC funding request for COVID-19 medical provider vaccination enrollment and training

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is requesting \$300,000 from the state's CARES act funding to enroll and train medical providers so they can administer the new COVID-19 vaccines. Given the size and scope of this vaccination effort, many more medical providers than are typically involved will need to be enrolled and trained. These funds will be used before the end of the calendar year for this purpose.

A critical aspect of the Idaho COVID-19 response is preparing to distribute and administer the newly developed COVID-19 vaccines once they are approved and delivered to Idaho. The first step is enrolling medical providers to administer the new vaccines. Those efforts involve provider outreach and technical assistance through the enrollment process. This is of particular importance given the number and types of medical providers that will be needed from doctors to pharmacists.

In the Idaho COVID-19 vaccination response plan, provider education plays a key role. Provider education helps to ensure providers are confident and well-versed in topics such as vaccine storage and handling, safety, administration, and patient consultation. With new COVID-19 vaccines becoming available soon and information changing rapidly, provider education is especially important.

For example, the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine requires different storage and handling measures than routine vaccines. One of the vaccines must be stored at -80°C, which is much colder than vaccines have required previously. With providers facing new requirements and a steady flow of new vaccine data, extra attention to provider education is vital. The Idaho Immunization Program wants to ensure that as many medical providers as possible are enrolled to administer the vaccine and have all the information they need regarding COVID-19 vaccines.