

HHS Update 9-10-21

On Friday, September 10th, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the agency administering the Provider Relief Fund (PRF), posted four announcements:

- 1. Extension of Reporting Deadline – 60 Day Grace Period – Reporting Period 1**
The September 30, 2021 Reporting Period 1 deadline has not changed, however in response to challenges providers are facing given the Covid surges and natural disasters around the country, a 60-day Grace Period is in place. This period allows providers to come into compliance with their PRF reporting requirements should they fail to meet the September 30, 2021 deadline.
<https://www.hrsa.gov/provider-relief/reporting-auditing>
- 2. \$17 Billion Phase 4 General Distribution:**
\$17 billion based on providers' lost revenues and changes in operating expenses from July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
To promote equity and to support providers with the most need, HRSA will:
 - Reimburse a higher percentage of lost revenues and expenses for smaller providers as compared to larger providers
 - Provide "bonus" payments based on the amount of services they provider to Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare patients, price at the generally higher Medicare rates.
- 3. \$8.5 Billion American Resource Plan Rural Distribution:**
\$8.5 billion based on the amount of services providers furnish to Medicaid/CHIP and Medicare beneficiaries living in Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)-defined rural areas.
To promote equity, HRSA will price payments at the generally higher Medicare rates for Medicaid/CHIP patients.
- 4. Phase 3 General Distribution Reconsideration:**
To promote transparency in the PRF program, HHS has released detailed information about the methodology utilized to calculate Phase 3 payments. Providers who believe their Phase 3 payment was not calculated correctly according to this methodology will now have an opportunity to request a reconsideration. Further details on this Phase 3 reconsideration process are forthcoming.