

July 29, 2021

Urge Your Senators, Representatives to Support Legislation Extending the Deadline for Hospitals to Spend PRF Payments

Bipartisan, bicameral bill would give providers until at least Dec. 31 to spend PRF payments distributed prior to June 30, 2020

The Provider Relief Fund Deadline Extension Act ([S. 2493/H.R. 4735](#)) was introduced yesterday in the Senate and House. The bill would allow providers that received COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments prior to June 30, 2020, to use their payments through Dec. 31, 2021, or the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, whichever is later. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) required providers that received PRF money from April 10, 2020, through June 30, 2020, to spend those funds by June 30, 2021.

Sens. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., introduced the bill in the Senate. Reps. Cynthia Axne, D-Iowa, and Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Iowa, introduced the House bill.

Please contact your senators and representatives and urge them to cosponsor this bill. It is critical that we secure significant support for this legislation so that it can be included as part of a legislative package this year.

Your representatives and senators are expected to be in their home districts for much of August, so please engage them on this legislation as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are once again increasing in many areas of the country. Further, experts continue to warn that the more contagious delta variant, combined with lower vaccination rates in certain areas of the country, could spur a fall and winter surge in COVID-19 cases. Thus, it is important for lawmakers to allow providers additional time to use their unspent funds.

MORE DETAILS ON PRF FUNDS AND REPORTING TIMELINES

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) PRF reporting portal remains open for providers to begin reporting to the government that they used federal emergency relief funds for health care-related expenses or lost revenues attributable to COVID-19. Unless there are legislative changes or changes from HHS, providers that received PRF payments from April 10, 2020, through June 30, 2020, have until Sept. 30, 2021, to submit the required information to HRSA.

Hospitals and other health care providers that received PRF money after June 30, 2020, will need to report on the use of the funds at later dates as outlined in [HRSA's June 11 update on PRF requirements](#).

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please contact AHA at 800-424-4301.