
INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2622-MC-FFS

DATE: August 26, 2024

TO: Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nursing Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),
Iowa Medicaid

RE: 2024 Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Global Public Health Grant Opportunities

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed three grant applications using state Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds to facilitate family/resident visitation during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). Effective September 25, 2023, CMS has authorized the continued use of CMP funds for the PHE grants allowing Medicare/Medicaid participating nursing homes to access the products. Those PHE grant application opportunities are:

- 1) Communicative Technology – Purchase of tablets and accessories
- 2) Visitation I – Purchase tents and plexiglass to create barriers
- 3) Visitation II – Purchase portable fans and room air cleaners with high-efficiency particulate air filters to improve air quality

Nursing facilities approved for these specific application grants have been tracked by the State and CMS since the start of the PHE.

Grant Eligibility

Facilities MUST be a *certified* Medicaid long-term care facility. Assisted living, hospitals and adult day health are not eligible. Each of these grants are a separate one-time opportunity and each has a maximum of \$3,000 per certified nursing facility. If a nursing facility previously received a grant during the pandemic, that facility is not eligible to

receive another one. A nursing facility may receive a grant from each category up to a total of \$9,000.

Communicative Technology Grant ([Previous Informational Letter 2181-MC-FFS-CVD¹](#))

Applications must meet all the following criteria:

- A. Applications must be on the Communicative Technology Application Template.
- B. Applicants must only include requests for funds to purchase approved communicative technology devices (e.g., iPads, tablets, webcams) and accessories (e.g., headphones, protective covers).
- C. Facilities may request up to \$3,000 for communicative technology.

Devices should be shared among residents, with a ratio of one device to 7-10 residents. Facilities will not be permitted to purchase personal devices for any resident. Devices should not be shared between COVID-19 positive (or suspected) and other residents (COVID-19 negative or observation status). Devices must be cleaned and disinfected between residents.

Allowable Communicative Devices and Accessories:

- iPad or iPad Mini
- Facebook Portal
- Amazon Echo Show
- Kindle Fire
- Microsoft Surface
- Samsung Galaxy Tablet
- Or any other device
- Protective covers that allow for cleaning and disinfection
- Cleaning and disinfection products in accordance with recommendations of the device manufacturer; Review the EPA's Disinfectant List for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 to determine if the disinfectant listed in the manufacturer's instructions
- Headphones (for individual use)
- Assistive/adaptive equipment
- Tripods (floor or tabletop)

Prohibited Expenses for Communicative Technology grants:

- Travel
- Internet or software subscription fees
- Administrative fees
- Indirect Costs. For example: federally determined indirect (facilities and administrative) costs such as staff fringe benefits or facility maintenance.
- Shipping or other unanticipated costs not included in the approved application

¹ [https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/impa/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=\(4698df9f-94a9-423e-9cc4-38661a100b4a\)](https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/impa/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=(4698df9f-94a9-423e-9cc4-38661a100b4a))

Visitation Aid I and II Grants ([Previous Informational Letter 2321-MC-FFS-CVD²](#))

Applications must meet all the following criteria:

- A. Applications must be on the In-Person Visitation Aid Application Template.
- B. Applicants must only include requests for funds to purchase in-person visitation aid and shipping costs. Sales tax must be itemized on the application to be reimbursed.
- C. Visitation Aid I and Visitation Aid II are separate grants, each equaling up to \$3,000.
- D. Applicants must ensure:
 1. Requests directly address the need to facilitate in-person visits for residents.
 2. Approval from the State Fire Marshall Division was received, ensuring the appropriate Life Safety Code requirements found at 42 CFR 483.90 are met. This applies only to Visitation Aid I such as tents, other shelter for outdoor visitation and/or clear dividers. Tent size must allow for social distancing to be observed.
 3. Core principles of infection prevention and control practices are followed.
 4. Surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected between resident uses.

Allowable Uses of CMP Funds for in-person Visitation Aids I and II grants:

- Tents including installations (purchase and/or rental)
- Clear dividers (e.g., Plexiglas or similar product) including installation
- If using funds for installation, identify what was included in the cost of installation including materials, labor and the installer's bid
- Indoor portable fans
- Indoor portable air cleaners with HEPA filters

Prohibited expenses include but are not limited to:

- Outdoor furniture (chairs, tables, etc.)
- Ventilation systems
- Lighting system
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Portable fire extinguishers of approved types
- Disinfectant and cleaning supplies (disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- "No Smoking" signage
- Administrative fees
- Indirect Cost. For example: federally determined indirect (facilities and administrative) costs such as staff fringe benefits or facility maintenance.
- Travel expenses
- Infrared temperature scanners
- COVID-19 testing and testing equipment
- Capital improvements

² [https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/imp/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=\(65d0aee5-5ded-44ef-905b-ba9c2b85eacf\)](https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/imp/Information/ViewDocument.aspx?viewdocument=(65d0aee5-5ded-44ef-905b-ba9c2b85eacf))

Submission and Acceptance of Global PHE Grant Applications

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Iowa Medicaid will begin accepting and reviewing Global PHE immediately and applications that meet the defined CMS parameters as outlined above will be approved. Only one CMP grant application will be approved per facility per type of grant. Nursing homes that have received a previous approved grant by type are ineligible to receive another one. These are one-time grants for each of the PHE grant opportunities.

Nursing homes should ensure all anticipated expenditures are included in the application, including any applicable sales tax. Additional expenditures not identified in the original application and approval letter will not be reimbursed. Nursing homes will be reimbursed based on the approved amount or the actual expenditures, whichever is less. If actual expenditures are less than the original approved amount, HHS/Iowa Medicaid will award for the actual expenditures.

To be considered for a Global PHE grant, Iowa Medicaid must receive the required completed documentation located on the [Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Program \(CMPQII\) webpage](#)³ on the [HHS website](#)⁴. Required documentation includes:

- Application on the approved template,
- HHS attestation and
- W9.

Completed application documentation is submitted to the HHS CMP email address: IMECMP@dhs.state.ia.us.

Grant Awards

Applicants requesting grant funds will receive an approval or denial letter via email. Iowa Medicaid may also request additional information or clarifications to the application if needed. Once an applicant receives an approval letter, they may purchase the grant items consistent with the items on the approved application and approval letter.

Approved grant funds shall be used for the sole purpose of providing nursing facility residents with communicative technology or in-person visitation aids to support safe in-person visitation. Any funds spent in a manner not consistent with the certification on the completed application or as outlined in the eligibility criteria, will be subject to recovery.

Payment of PHE Grant Applications

HHS/Iowa Medicaid will only reimburse facilities that have completed an application packet and received an approval letter. For HHS/Iowa Medicaid to process payment of grant awards timely, you must include all the required documentation for payment:

³ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-medicaid-programs/cmpqii>

⁴ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>

1. Copy of HHS/Iowa Medicaid Approval Letter
2. Completed Summary Invoice located on the [Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Program \(CMPQII\) webpage](#)⁵ on the [HHS website](#)⁶. The summary invoice must contain at a minimum:
 - a. Nursing Facility Name
 - b. Address
 - c. CMS Certification Number (CCN)
 - d. Tax ID
 - e. Itemized detail of communicative devices or visitation aids purchased or installed
3. Copies of all receipts for communicative technology and visitation aid purchases, materials and labor for installation.
4. Copy of approval email from the State Fire Marshall Division. Applies to Visitation Aid I grants only.

HHS/Iowa Medicaid will reimburse facilities based on the approved amount or the actual expenditures, as verified on the summary invoice and itemized detailed receipts, whichever is less. If a facility's expenditures, including changes in quantity, exceed the approved amount, HHS/Iowa Medicaid will pay at the approved amount.

Please submit all required documentation for reimbursement requests in one email to the CMP email box: IMECMP@dhs.state.ia.us.

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

- Phone: 1-800-338-7909
- Email: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

⁵ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-medicaid-programs/cmpqii>

⁶ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>