Highlights from the NACHC policy call on COVID-19 from Tuesday, April 21:

- Health centers will get a share of the additional $100 billion in the pending update of the CARES Act that covers healthcare and testing. Senate will pass by unanimous consent, possibly today, but some in House are objecting to that. Opposition comes from far right and from far left. So, House will have to come to DC to vote. Possibly Thursday or Friday.

- NACHC will continue to press its full ask of $7.6 billion for COVID-19 relief when Congress returns for session May 4. NACHC will also push five-year extended and other things at that time. Focusing on Republicans in Senate, including Blunt, Alexander, Wicker, Rubio, Thune, and Collins.

- Of that additional $100 billion, $75 billion will be distributed to healthcare providers in a similar manner as the original $100 billion for healthcare providers in the initial CARES Act and $25 billion will be for beefed-up testing capacity.

- CHCs will receive testing money from an $825 million share ($600 million for CHCs and $225 million for rural health clinics).

- It’s unclear exactly how the additional $75 billion for health care providers will be distributed. The initial $30 billion distributed was based on Medicare reimbursements. NACHC expects the next distribution to be based on Medicaid reimbursements which will benefit CHCs.

- New money for testing likely to go out as HRSA grants. Unclear if there will be a new mandate or a competitive grants.

- Re PPP applications, if your application has been approved by a bank and assigned a tracking number, it will likely get funded. If not approved yet by a bank, may not get funded.

- Get your applications in now for the FEC telehealth program. Of the 11 awards so far, 5 have gone to CHCs.

- Although CMS has been unwilling to create a special COVID-19 special enrollment period for the Health Insurance Marketplace, those who have lost their jobs can still get coverage through a special enrollment period.

- Some in the administration said CHCs didn’t need to share in the $100 billion for health care providers because CHCs can get PPP money, but NACHC emphasized to those officials that over half of CHCs who have applied for PPP haven’t received any yet.
• **Re telehealth,** Medicare rule change eased site restrictions and reimburses CHCs at $92 for every telehealth visit, which is the average of all physician fee schedule rates. However, PPS rate will be paid through July 1 when it will be reconciled to the $92. This is because of system limitations.

• **Unclear if all types of nurses** can get telehealth reimbursements. NACHC is seeking clarity.