



**Community Health Centers of Arkansas Inc.**

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Summaries of NACHC and HRSA calls March 24, 2020

### Highlights:

- NACHC now seeking \$8 billion a year, up from \$4 billion
- If Health Centers want access to federal stocks of PPE, they must go through Governor's Offices.

### HRSA call

#### **HSS Secretary Azar said:**

- The 'full weight of the U.S. Government and U.S. industry is working to get you the support you need for your patients.'
- The surveys announced last week and since distributed to CHCs are 'essential info that will allow us to target resources to those most in need.'
- HHS wants to help CHCs with telehealth, supplies, testing. Share with HHS rules that are 'getting in the way of your work and HRSA will do what we can to sweep those away.'
- All requests for supplies must go to Governor's Offices because the federal government has delegated distribution task to FEMA and FEMA works directly with the state EMA coordinators through the Governor's Offices.

#### **Jim Macrae, HRSA BPHC:**

- Re the \$100 million just released, there is great flexibility in spending, has to relate to Covid19, HRSA wants testing to be a focus.
- Encourage drive through and walk up testing sites
- There is \$1.32 billion for CHCs in the current legislation for COVID19 expected to be voted on today, which total about \$2 Trillion for everything. This money will help CHCs keep staff in place among other things.
- Site visits postponed to at least April 30. Quarterly reports such as for HIV-AIDs may be suspended
- Really important to respond to HRSA if they have questions about your UDS data. Need to be able to get an accurate picture on what Covid19 is doing to data and predict a baseline going forward.
- Working on flexibility for dentists who are furloughed and who are still paying their loans.
- Responding to a question about the 'lack of understanding' of CHCs and the fact that the 'national level discussion doesn't include' CHCs ... Macrae said Azar and Tom Engles HRSA administrator 'recognizes value' of CHCs 'and are making sure people know about CHCs.'
- Responding to a question about the 'bidding war' for PPE ... Macrae said feds have delegated to the states distribution of federal stockpiles. He said another avenue is to ask construction companies if they have extra.

### NACHC call

- Tom Van Coverden, NACHC CEO: now requesting \$66 billion, up from the previous request of \$40 billion. That includes a cliff fix of \$8 billion a year, up from \$4 billion a year.
- That's separate from the \$1.32 billion that's in the current Coronavirus bill expected to be voted on today in Washington.
- NACHC will distributed a breakdown of the \$66 billion proposal.
- Tom is confident we will get the \$66 billion. Says Sen. Schumer understands and supports that we need more than a two-year fix. But we must keep the pressure on Congress.