

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Here is a helpful update from Argentum about progress being made on federal CARES Act provider relief funds possibly being made available to assisted living providers.



To: Argentum Owner/Operator Member CEOs; Argentum Industry Partner Member CEOs; Argentum Board of Directors; Argentum State Partners

From: James Balda, President & CEO

Re: HHS Funding Update

In our latest weekly call with HHS, they provided an update on the state of funding for assisted living providers anticipated for distribution from the CARES Act provider relief fund.

We are pleased to report that the final approval for allotment of funds to assisted living providers is now with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). At this point, it appears they are considering providing funding through a similar formula to what they provided through the Medicaid distribution - 2% of gross revenue. While we continue to advocate for the per facility/per bed model we shared previously, we are also discussing with HHS the inclusion of assisted living providers in a future general distribution that would be based upon lost revenue and increased expenses.

Based on our discussion, we believe we could anticipate approval of funding within the next few weeks. To ensure we move the process along, we are encouraging industry lobbyists to ask Republican members of the House and Senate to reach into the White House through the OMB, the Domestic Policy Council, and the Chief of Staff's office. We are also engaging directly with those offices to encourage a rapid approval of funding.

HHS confirmed that to date about 30% of assisted living providers have received some funds and/or have applied through the Medicaid distribution. They also confirmed that HHS now has Tax Identification Numbers (TINs) for approximately 20,000 assisted living providers; they have validated about 25% of those TINs and are continuing the process. For those who have not been validated, they will still be able to apply for funding, but since their data will need to be curated in batches, payments may take longer.

In the meantime, we'll be working on additional outreach on Capitol Hill for the impending COVID 4 negotiated package as we further communicate the critical importance of increased funding and reasonable liability protections for the industry. You may have heard about a "skinny" COVID bill that the Senate may introduce in the next few weeks. While this bill does include the liability language we support, this bill will not be the vehicle for the COVID 4 negotiated package and therefore does not need our advocacy or attention.

As we learn more on the status of HHS funding and the next legislative package, we will keep you updated.

James R. Balda
President & CEO

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