



Stakeholder Update: COVID 19

**Medicaid and CHIP Services
October 29, 2020**



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Waiver Extensions

To comply with requirements of the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, HHSC extended functional eligibility assessments, service plans, and plans of care for individuals enrolled in the following waiver programs.

- MDCP
- STAR+PLUS HCBS
- TxHmL
- CLASS
- DBMD
- HCS



Waiver Extensions (cont.)

Individuals who had an original service plan or plan of care end date of March 31 through November 30 will be extended for 12 months.

- Individuals in the waiver programs with a plan of care or service plan with an end date of December 31 or later will not be extended for 12 months.
- Reassessments will start for individuals whose new plan year will begin January 1, 2021 and reassessments going forward.
- Any functional eligibility assessments resulting in a denial will be held until the end of the public health emergency.



Waiver Extensions (cont.)

Managed care:

- Telehealth can be used for the functional eligibility assessments.
- Telephone should only be used as a last resort.
- MCOs must submit a new assessment and service plan for anyone who reports a change in condition.

IDD waivers:

- Telehealth can be used for renewal functional eligibility assessments.
- Telehealth or telephone can be used for renewal plans of care.



Provider Relief Fund: Phase III Expansion

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced an additional Provider Relief Fund distribution of \$20 billion for providers experiencing financial losses due to COVID-19.

- The funding is available for the following:
 - On October 22, 2020 eligibility was expanded to providers such as residential treatment facilities, chiropractors, and eye and vision providers that have not yet received PRF distributions.
 - This opens eligibility to providers regardless of whether they accept Medicare and Medicaid payments



Provider Relief Fund: Phase III Expansion

- Applications will be accepted from October 5, 2020 – November 6, 2020.
- Instructions on how to apply can be found here:
<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-providers/index.html#how-to-apply>



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COVID-19 Response

Communication Channels

Clients

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- Health plan channels and providers

Providers

- [COVID section on HHS site](#)
- [COVID section on TMHP site](#)
- Health plan channels

+ Update calls

Submit questions to:
Medicaid_COVID_Questions@hhsc.state.tx.us



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Thank You!

**Next update:
November 5, 2020**