



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Rosenwald
State Senator
New Hampshire State Senate

The Honorable Polly Campion
State Representative
New Hampshire House of Representatives

Dear Senator Rosenwald and Representative Campion:

Thank you for your letter dated May 7, 2020. The Emergency Health Care System Relief Fund Review Committee was established to create a fair and unbiased scoring criteria for determining which hospitals and healthcare facilities were at risk of closing their doors due to a lack of revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Review Committee has been diligent in collecting and analyzing financial information before making allocations from the Fund. As such, the Review Committee has developed an understanding of the most immediate needs of healthcare organizations, including hospitals.

The Fund was designed to guarantee the citizens of New Hampshire that our hospitals and smaller healthcare organizations who are providing front line Covid-19 services would not close due to COVID-19. Due to its critical nature, the healthcare sector has been the only sector of our economy for which we have made such a guarantee.

To date, the Emergency Health Care System Relief Fund has allocated over \$20 million in interest free loans to over 50 organizations. Additionally, The State was able to provide significant relief to all New Hampshire hospitals by deferring approximately \$260 million in Medicaid Enhancement Tax payments until the end of May. Finally, in April New Hampshire Hospitals, as well as many smaller healthcare organizations, received over \$300 million dollars from Cares Act grants and many smaller healthcare organizations were also able to receive funds through the PPP program. These actions served to address many of the most immediate cash flow issues of these organizations across New Hampshire.

It is important to note that the federal guidance on the use of CARES Act flex funds was received only two weeks ago. That guidance confirmed that the Emergency Health Care System Relief Fund is an allowable use of those funds. Therefore, we must ensure that our distributions from the fund comply with federal requirements, which requires further data collection and careful effort.

Although, we have taken considerable actions to quickly provide immediate assistance for healthcare organizations, we understand that there may be future needs that require assistance to ensure doors do not close to our citizens. The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, after extensive work with Legislative Advisory Board and Stakeholder Advisory Board, will soon be making allocation recommendations on large portions of the CARES Act flex funds. Further, additional distributions from the Emergency Healthcare System Relief Fund will be allocated, taking care to ensure that the broad effort to protect our healthcare system does not duplicate efforts and works as effectively as possible. And finally, we expect that healthcare organizations around the State, from hospitals to our smallest providers, will continue to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in aid from further distributions of CARES Act funds.

All applicants that have not received funding remain under consideration as the Review Committee continues its work, and the Committee will continue to recommend allocations of funds for organizations who remain in need and who are unable to access other sources of relief.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor