



Provider Interim Payment Program

Fact Sheet January 2021

Overview

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) is offering interim primary care provider payments to help stabilize Colorado’s safety net health system and preserve access to care in communities across the state during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Through a unique public-private partnership with five local Colorado health foundations, eligible providers receive a lump sum interim payment that totals their 4th Quarter 2019 Health First Colorado revenue. Thanks to funding from Caring for Colorado, The Colorado Health Foundation, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, Rocky Mountain Health Foundation and Rose Community Foundation, half of the interim payment will not need to be repaid by providers. The other half of the interim payment is funded by the federal government and will need to be repaid. The interim payment received is in addition to regular claims reimbursement, which is paid in a lump sum the quarter after the interim payment is received. Providers will have close to a year to repay half of the interim payment, with a 0% interest rate. Payments will go to individual clinic sites and providers to preserve access to care for Health First Colorado members.

In October 2020, the Department distributed nearly \$600,000 in interim payments to providers known to have experienced revenue loss as a result the COVID-19 emergency. In February 2021, the Department will release another round of interim payments to a new set of eligible primary care providers.

Interim Payment Example

Eligible providers will receive an interim payment totaling their Q4 2019 Health First Colorado revenue.

Example: \$50,000 Interim Payment
 to Provider (based on Q4 2019 revenue)

\$25,000 Grant=
 Funded by local health
 foundations, no
 repayment required

\$25,000 loan=
 0% interest loan with a
 one-year repayment
 period



Regular Claims
 Reimbursement

Providers continue to
 bill for services
 provided and receive
 payment for those
 services the following
 quarter.



The Model

Payment

Primary care clinic sites that meet program requirements (see below) will be eligible for an interim, lump-sum payment based on their pre-COVID Q4 2019 total Health First Colorado revenue. Providers will receive their interim payment through a Gainwell (previously DXC,) transmittal during February 2021 that acts as 90-day payment of all fee-for-service claims between Feb-April 2021. **Providers still need to submit claims during the timeframe they receive the interim payment.** Federal law requires that all regular claims reimbursement be halted during the interim payment period (February-April 2021), however regular reimbursement will resume in May 2021 and the **provider will be reimbursed for all services provided to Health First Colorado during the interim payment period.**

The example below demonstrates how an interim payment will work.

Provider Interim Payment Example		
Interim Payment distributed to providers in February 2021	Example: \$50,000 Lump Sum Interim Payment	The paid amount is equal to claims paid for Q4 2019 by Health First Colorado for fee-for-service. Half of this amount is a grant, and half is a no-interest loan.
Provider bills normally for Feb-April 2021, but payment will be held.	\$0 Claims Payment	FFS payments are held by the Department during this time, but payments from managed care payments will continue.
Feb-April 2021 claims payment made in May 2021	\$40,000 FFS Claims Payment	Provider receives the payment held by the Department after the quarter closes. These are the FFS payments that were not paid during Feb-April 2021. The payment is made through the normal claims payment process.
Total Paid to Provider for Feb-April 2021	\$90,000 Total Payments	Provider received February 2021 Interim Payment <i>plus</i> actual claims billed Feb-April 2021. Repayment of the loan portion of the interim payment does not begin for 6 months- allowing providers to have more cash immediately on hand.
Repayment Process starts October 2021		
Amount provider received for claims	\$40,000 FFS Claims Amount Paid	The payment is made through the normal claims payment process in May 2021.
Amount provider receives as grant	\$25,000 Grant	Half of the February 2021 Interim Payment
Amount provider owes to HCPF	(\$25,000) Federal Loan	Starting October 2021, the provider will have multiple options for repayment as described in the next section. Full repayment is due August 2022.
Net Benefit for Q4 2020	\$65,000	Provider's Net is \$25,000 more than would have been paid that quarter without this program.

Repayment



To ease administrative burden for providers, the Department will be responsible for reconciling the federal portion of the interim payment and will work with the provider to ensure they understand and agree with the amount of their repayment obligation. The Department is currently working directly with primary care providers to develop an efficient and easy to understand reconciliation process.

Options to Repay

Providers will select an option to repay the federal portion of the loan.

- Accounts receivable balances can be deducted from the weekly claims payment displayed on the remittance advice between Oct. 2021-August 2022.

OR

- Send a single check or four quarterly installments.

In October 2021, the Department will begin the repayment process based on the repayment option selected by the provider. The repayment process will begin in October 2021 and must be completed no later than August 31, 2022.

The reconciliation process will take into consideration the federal funds paid through the February 2020 Interim Payment calculated at Colorado's State Plan Rate, excluding any enhanced federal fund match authorized through the Family First Act, and the federal match rate that should have been paid based on the member's eligibility category.

Who is Eligible?

Over the last decade, the Department and the Colorado philanthropic community have invested significantly in supporting integrated care with a focus on behavioral health and dental care in primary care settings. To build upon this investment in whole person care, the interim payment program will be available to primary care providers who had Health First Colorado member attribution in FY 2019-20 *and* who provided integrated health services.

In February 2021, the Department will release additional interim payments to primary care clinic sites that meet program eligibility as follows:

- ✓ Contracted Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) provider
- ✓ Provides integrated behavioral health or dental care as demonstrated through billed claims or through a partner relationship with a provider co-located at your clinic site*
- ✓ Agrees to continue to see the same number of Health First Colorado members, not file bankruptcy or lay off staff during the interim payment period (Feb-April 2021)
- ✓ Attests that any Federal COVID-19 relief funding received will not exceed expected revenue during interim payment period (Feb-April 2021)



- ✓ Billed less than \$105,000 in Health First Colorado (Medicaid) claims in Quarter 4 of Calendar Year 2019
- ✓ Payer mix includes at least 30% Health First Colorado (Medicaid), Child Health Plan *Plus*, and uninsured payor mix in a rural area OR 40% Health First Colorado (Medicaid), Child Health Plan *Plus* and uninsured payer mix in an urban area.
- ✓ Submits a quick & easy program application*

* Provider Interim Payments Contingent upon federal model approval.

Providers that already received an interim payment during Round 1 are not eligible to apply again.

Timeline

Below is the estimated timeline for key decisions and actions.

What	By When
Deadline for providers to submit applications for interim payments	January 18, 2021
Awards designated	January 25, 2021
Providers continue to submit claims as usual, but payment will be held	Feb. 1, 2021- April. 30,2021
Funds distributed	By Feb. 5, 2021
End of claims hold	April 30, 2021
Payments for claims 2/1/2021-4/30/2021 will be processed (in addition to the interim payment- providers will receive claims payment)	May 3, 2021
Department completes the reconciliation process	Aug. 2021
Providers will receive notice of owed amount and will have 30 days to appeal	Sept. 2021
Collection of loan of federal portion will begin	Oct. 2021
All federal funds will be recouped and returned to CMS	Aug. 31, 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Where can I apply?**
A: The application is [here](#).
2. **What can these funds be used for? Are there any restrictions?**
A: The intention of these funds is help preserve access to care to Health First Colorado members. These funds can be used for general operations of the Primary Care Provider so the practice can continue to see Health First Colorado members and



prevent staff layoffs during the public health emergency. Once the federal funds have been returned any surplus can be used at the providers’ discretion.

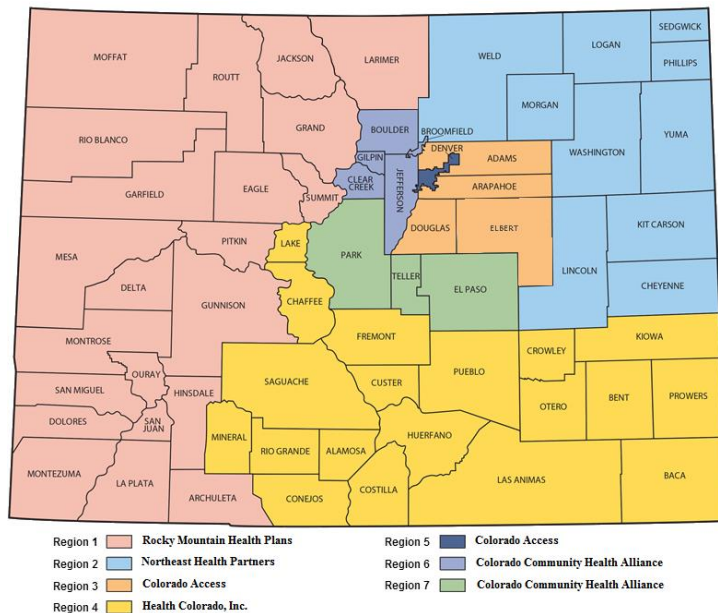
3. Will there be technical assistance for this application and reconciliation process? How can I tell if my practice will be eligible?

A: Yes. The Regional Accountable Entities (RAE) will be providing direct outreach to potentially eligible sites and can provide technical assistance for completing applications and later to understand the reconciliation process. Providers should reach out to their Provider Relations contact below for more information.

To find the RAE for your region please visit the website at:

<https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/accphase2>

- Rocky Mountain Health Plans (Dale Renzi): 970-248-5132
- Northeast Health Partners (Alma Mejorado): 719-529-1468
- Colorado Access (Aaron Brotherson): 303-810-8784
- Health Colorado (Brian Hill or Julia Duffer): 1-888-502-4187
- Colorado Community Health Alliance (Josie Dostie or Andrea Skubal):303-256-1717



For more information visit

<https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/integrated-care-provider>

