

# FY 2020-21 HCPF County Administration Budget Supplemental - Public Health Emergency (PHE)

## PHE Current State

- More than 300k members currently locked in, who will require an Eligibility Review at end of PHE, with more members added each month. Current work efforts are robust but insufficient to decrease the number of members on the report and/or requiring an Eligibility Review
- It's clear that the PHE Locked In/Eligibility Review workload cannot be managed with current resources
- The current end date of the PHE is January 21, which creates additional uncertainty

## HCPF PHE County Administration Budget Supplemental

- HCPF submitted a budget supplemental for FY 2020-21 to address workload relating to the PHE. Focus had to be on resources needed for the PHE.
- Budget supplemental approved by Governor's Office and released on January 4, 2021. The supplemental will go before the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) January 14th and 15th.
- Budget supplemental addresses four critical areas:
  - County Administration resources to add new staff to work the COVID Locked-In Report and the Eligibility Reviews that must be completed when the PHE ends
  - County Grant Program resources for counties that cannot hire new staff because of local budgetary impacts and no local share available
  - Appeals resources needed to adequately manage the anticipated increase in county- and state-level appeals from the PHE Eligibility Reviews
    - Backlog resources needed to implement a new eligibility overflow processing center that will be contracted with a county, which will assist other counties with backlog or situational circumstances (disasters, staff departures, etc.)

## County Administration Resources

- Requests time-limited increase in HCPF county administration funding by \$11 million (75% federal/15% state/10% local share), specifically for new staff to manage PHE workload
- Counties will submit staffing plans through Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for the majority of the allocation
- Supplemental assumes new staff is needed for six months - three months of hiring/training, three months of PHE Eligibility Review work
- If PHE extended, staff hired will manage COVID Locked-In Report workload until Eligibility Reviews must be completed

## Additional Assumptions for County Administration

- The requested increase assumes PHE will end in January 2021, but this will likely be extended to April 2021. A revised request will be submitted to reflect this change
- Requests roll-forward authority to next FY as contingency if PHE is extended beyond January 2021
- Funding formula is flexible enough to adjust to extended timeframe - the longer the PHE is, the more Eligibility Reviews will have to be completed

## Considerations for Staffing Plan

- Consider workload beyond just the COVID Locked In Report and Eligibility Reviews
- Customer service/member experience must be addressed - are Medical Assistance applicants and members getting their calls answered timely? Do they have a positive member experience? Do you have a feedback mechanism in place to address complaints?
- How are you addressing the needs of Long Term Care (LTC) applicants and members?

## County Grant Program Resources

- Requests a time-limited, \$1.5 million increase in County Grant Program funding to implement new Local Share Support grants
- Counties can apply for these grants if they do not have the local share to pay for new staff paid for by the county administration funding increase
- Have to demonstrate budgetary impacts from COVID-19
- Counties can also apply for grants specific to Medical Assistance PHE needs not covered by staffing proposal

## Appeals Resources

- The large number of Eligibility Reviews will likely drive a corresponding increase in county- and state-level appeals
- Request includes appeals resources for the Office of Administrative Courts (OAC) to address state-level appeals
- Request also includes \$1 million increased funding for HCPF county administration to address Eligibility Review county-level appeals
- Rule (10 CCR 2505-10 8.057.3.F) requires that a member have a county-level appeal, in addition to state-level appeal, as an option



## Backlog Resources

- Requests annual funding to implement a new back-office processing contract to provide counties and eligibility sites with processing assistance, managing backlog or situational circumstances (disasters, staff departures, etc.)
- Contract will be awarded to a county in a process like the Consolidated Returned Mail Center
- Contract anticipates up to 30 county eligibility workers providing assistance statewide
- Additional details will be shared in the next few months

## Next Steps for Budget Supplemental

- Budget supplemental must still be approved by the JBC. They can still deny request.
- Counties should begin to consider their options around staffing plans. HCPF will provide a framework for the staffing plans and a formal template later.
- HCPF will prepare draft allocations and funding agreements.
- IF JBC approves request, HCPF will send staffing plan template, data on locked-in population and draft allocations.
- Draft allocations will be reviewed in the Finance Sub-PAC after approval.
- Follow up communications and meetings will occur after approval

## Next Steps for PHE Locked In Grants - Update

- Total of \$500k available now
- 35 counties have opted-into funding and will receive additional grant dollars reallocated from those who opted-out
- All plans were approved
- Expenditures starting January 1, 2021 eligible to be charged
- CFMS codes and grant agreements will be sent later in January 2021



# Thank You!