

## SHIP COVID-19 FAQs

- A. There are critical access hospitals in my state who do not participate in FLEX or SHIP because they have chosen not to participate in MBQIP which makes them ineligible for regular funding through either grant. Would those hospitals be able to receive COVID-19 funds through SHIP?

Yes. All hospitals that meet SHIP eligibility criteria are eligible for COVID-19 funding:

Eligible small rural hospitals are non-federal, short-term general acute care facilities that are located in a rural area of the US and the territories, including faith-based hospitals.

For the purpose of this program:

1) “eligible small rural hospital” is defined as a non-Federal, short-term general acute care hospital that: (i) is located in a rural area as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d) and (ii) has 49 available beds or less, as reported on the hospital’s most recently filed Medicare Cost Report;

2) “rural area” is defined as either: (1) located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); (2) located within a rural census tract of a MSA, as determined under the Goldsmith Modification or the Rural Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs) or (3) is being treated as if being located in a rural area pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395(d)(8)(E); and,

3) Eligible SHIP hospitals may be for-profit or not-for-profit, including faith based. Hospitals in U.S. territories as well as tribally operated hospitals under Titles I HRSA-16-018 3 and V of P.L. 93-638 are eligible to the extent that such hospitals meet the above criteria

See TASC website for [SHIP eligible hospitals](#) criteria

- B. We have a few Indian Health hospitals that are Critical Access Hospitals are they eligible? We have not been working with them because they have not met the SHIP requirements of MBQIP and reporting HCAHPS.

The IHS hospitals are eligible for COVID-19 funding even if they don’t meet the MBQIP and HCAHPS SHIP priority if they meet the Rural Eligibility requirements stated above.

- C. Are “a small hospital located in one of our larger urban areas—under 20 beds” eligible? No, they are not eligible. See the above Question A that address the criteria for SHIP eligible hospitals.

- D. A few hospitals did not complete an application for FY2020, could they receive Covid-19 funds through SHIP?

Yes. The requirement is that the hospitals be SHIP-eligible. Hospitals **do not** have to participate in SHIP. As long as they are SHIP eligible and could use the money on COVID-19 activities they are eligible to receive funds you can include them on your list for COVID-19 funding.

- E. Could you provide specific examples of allowed activities vs not allowable activities in the operational and clinical sense?

The intent of this award these dollars is to be broad and covers COVID related activities; if the hospital can link purchases and activities to COVID related needs then its allowable.

- F. What type of monitoring and reporting will be required?

The monitoring and reporting requirements are still in development, but will be designed with the goal of minimizing burden on hospitals while providing information to demonstrate the impact of these funds. On your NoA, there will be follow up information requested as a condition on your award and quarterly reporting requirements for the hospitals receiving SHIP COVID-19 funds. If SORH have a streamlined method to assist FORHP with this please let us know.

G. Can you provide me any information regarding indirect? Are there also allowances for our SORH for staffing of the program?

For this funding program, the indirect cost for participating SORH is limited to the lesser of:

- (i) 15 percent of the amount of the grant for administrative expenses; or
- (ii) the state's federally negotiated indirect rate for administering the grant

H. What will the budget period be for these additional funds?

We are anticipating the budget period for COVID-19 funding is 12-18 months.

I. Is it OK to go ahead and notify hospitals of this funding?

Yes tell them now so can submit an updated list of hospitals to [your SHIP Project Officer \(PO\)](#) by COB Wednesday, 4/1/2020.

J. Will there be communication from the feds to the hospitals about this coming funding?

Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy received \$180 million in the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) to support COVID-19 related activities, of which nearly \$150 million will go to hospitals responding to this health crisis.

K. What other Funding Opportunities are available for COVID?

This is complementary funding through other COVID-19 programs, such as the one announced for [financial relief for Medicare providers](#).