

Template for Legislator Memo to HHS re: Targeted Allocation for Residential Addiction Treatment Providers

To: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

From: Sen/Rep \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September \_\_\_\_, 2020

Re: **Request for Targeted Allocation from Provider Relief Fund for Licensed, Residential Addiction Treatment Providers (“Residential Providers”).**

I am writing to request that HHS issue a targeted allocation from the Provider Relief Fund to the group of Residential Providers referenced above. My constituent, [organization name], has brought this issue to my attention. These providers offer residential treatment and detox services -- levels 3.5 and 3.7. according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Residential Providers have experienced a **significant decrease in revenue due to COVID-19**. Some people delay treatment, concerned about coronavirus, and providers need to take social distancing measures and serve fewer people – while at the same time, expenses for providing treatment during COVID-19 have increased.

Residential providers **face similar challenges as hospitals, nursing homes, and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs)**, including:

- serve clients 24/7 in congregate/residential settings;
- spend additional funds to clean facilities to combat COVID-19;
- test for COVID-19; and
- have had both patients and employees diagnosed with COVID-19.

**HHS has created several targeted allocations for similarly hard-hit provider categories, including rural providers, Indian Health Service, and SNFs.** HHS could make relief fund distributions similar to the methodology it used for SNFs: each facility could receive a fixed distribution of \$50,000, plus a distribution of \$2,500 per licensed bed.

**The need for mental health and substance use treatment services has increased due to the pandemic.** This targeted allocation will help ensure that Residential Providers are able to continue providing high quality services to my constituents and others across the country who need addiction treatment services.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact [name, email, phone]. Thank you.