

To: Community Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Agencies  
From: Mary Shelton, Director of Behavioral Health Operations  
Date: May 7, 2020  
**Subject: Request to CMS for Targeted Payments to CMHCs/SUDs**

First and most importantly, thank you for continuing to provide quality treatment and services to the TennCare members and Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) clients living with mental illness and substance use disorder. We are thankful to your staff for their dedication during this public health crisis.

Both TennCare and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services have heard from several providers about the challenges associated with COVID-19, particularly lower utilization and loss of revenue. We recognize these challenges, and in an effort to ensure we continue to have a successful network of providers to serve our members, we are seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for us to provide additional funds to assist providers during this public health crisis.

This effort seeks to distribute approximately \$5 million in state and federal funding which will preserve a critical provider network for TennCare members and clients of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with significant behavioral health or substance use disorder needs.

This application was sent to CMS on May 6, 2020 and is dependent on approval from CMS, therefore, we do not have a target date for the distribution. As we learn more from CMS, we will keep you updated.

You can also find additional information regarding TennCare's and TDMHSAS' response during this emergency period by visiting:

<https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/information-statistics/tenncare-information-about-coronavirus.html>.

<https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/covid19.html>

Again, thank you and your staff for serving the TennCare members and TDMHSAS clients.

Thank you,  
Mary