



HealthierHere Response to Covid-19

To: HealthierHere Governing Board Members
From: Susan McLaughlin, Executive Director
RE: HealthierHere's Response to Covid-19
Date prepared: March 22, 2020

We are in unprecedented times in King County as our region continues to respond to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Attempts to assess and treat individuals coupled with the growing restrictions and closures of businesses has put significant stress and pressure on our health and social service systems. HealthierHere is in a unique position to help support our partners thru these challenging times in line with our mission to ensure that individuals in King County, especially those who are most vulnerable, have access to what they need to support health and well-being.

HealthierHere has been speaking with clinical, community and tribal partners, as well as our Public Health partners and has developed several strategies that, when implemented immediately, can help support our partners to meet the growing need of community members, especially those most vulnerable and at risk of exposure to and contracting Covid-19.

	2020	2021	Total
CIE	\$2,430,000	\$1,470,000	\$3,900,000
Shared Care Plan	\$1,200,000	\$1,800,000	\$3,000,000
Innovations	\$4,700,000	\$5,600,000	\$10,300,000
Social Determinants of Health	\$3,350,000	\$2,450,000	\$5,800,000
Population Health/Value Based Care	\$5,425,000	\$2,925,000	\$8,350,000
Access and Engagement	\$1,650,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,850,000
Reserved / Unallocated	\$3,000,000	\$1,100,000	\$4,100,000
	\$21,755,000	\$16,545,000	\$38,300,000

Funds Available By Provider Type:

Medicaid \$15.9 Million
CBOs \$14.0 Million
Tribes \$4.3 Million



Additional Unallocated Funds Available:

Equity and Wellness Fund	\$4.8M
Interest Earned	\$270k as of February 2020
VBP and Other Incentives Earned	\$330k as of February 2020
2019 Community Innovation Fund	\$1 Million
Unallocated IMC Funds	\$3 Million
Total Unallocated	\$9.4 Million

Strategy 1: Immediate Loosening/Relief of reporting and performance obligations for first reporting period 2020 (Jan – June)

HealthierHere has made the following changes to partner contracts:

- 1) All three funded Innovations (2 MAT and 1 Community Paramedicine) continue with existing payment plan, as long as services are maintained and even if milestones have not been met. Reassess milestones at end of Q3
- 2) All 7 Testing Models for Integrated Care be put on hold until June 1st. Consider whether to delay further in mid-May
- 3) July reporting period for Clinical, Tribal and Community partners be 100% pay for reporting (no improvement-over-self is required) for *waiver required measures only*. Keep the focus on building capacity. Add questions about how partners responded to COVID (will be needed for SAR)
- 4) Refocus the Statewide Collective Ambulatory workgroup to assess the potential to use this platform for Covid-19 response; If not, suspend through end of April – reassess in mid-April
- 5) Suspend SCP Workgroup and Pilot – reassess in mid-April

Strategy 2: HealthierHere Covid-19 Resource directory and response page

- 1) HealthierHere would serve as a "hub" for accurate, timely source of COVID-related information for our partners with an emphasis on CBOs. This would include:
 - a. Gathering relevant questions / challenges from CBOs
 - b. Finding accurate and timely answers (in collaboration with our partners at Public Health, HCA, health systems and CBOs)
 - c. Curating where available funding is so partners can easily link and apply
 - d. Communicating that information back to the entire network
 - e. Identifying trends / patterns across questions / needs to inform public health / business partners
- 2) HealthierHere assists partners in finding partnerships to enhance a coordinate response to Covid-19 addressing specific challenge/gap areas. Facilitate resolving gaps to address need.

Strategy 3: Make investments to maintain continuity of care, build partner infrastructure and capacity to respond to Covid-19, and ensure that the most vulnerable populations in our region have access to the care and supports they need.

1) Increased capacity for traditional medicine/health \$150,000

What would resources do: Direct provision of Traditional medicine, herbs, culturally responsive care and support for AI/AN/I people in King County

Who is eligible to receive: Native-Led / Native-Serving HH Community/Tribal Health Partners, Community Grants Recipients

How much would partners receive: \$15,000 per organization for up to 10 organizations

This would be a one-time grant for partners to increased capacity to provider traditional medicine, herbs, culturally response care and support for AI/AN/I people in King County in response to Covid-19. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere’s Semi-Annual Report.

Fund Source: \$150,000 from approved 2020 Innovation Fund Allocation

Timeline: Released Monday March 30, 2020 to 8 of 9 Native-serving partners; 9th is getting registered in FE portal and will receive resources the week of April 13th.

2) Telehealth and Technology Support Fund \$500,000

What would resources do: Provide funding for clinical and community partners that need to set up infrastructure to deliver services from alternative locations and thru electronic methods due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Who is eligible to receive: clinical, community and tribal partners

How much would partners receive: up to \$10,000 per partner

This would be a one-time grant for partners to support equipment, licenses, internet, data integration, data storage, staff training, etc. for the provision of telehealth services in response to Covid-19. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere’s Semi-Annual Report.

Fund Source: \$270,000 in unallocated interest earned thru February 2020 and \$230,000 in unallocated VBP and other incentives earned thru February 2020.



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Timeline: Approved by Executive Committee on March 23, 2020; Launched on March 25, 2020 and first payments uploaded on Monday March 30th for 15 partners for \$143,930.

3) Community Navigators **\$375,000**

What would resources do: Increase capacity of providers to perform essential health navigation services, benefits enrollment, state food assistance, unemployment etc. for those impacted by Covid-19

Who is eligible to receive: Community based organizations who are currently providing these services or can quickly create capacity to provide them for an underserved/at risk population; Specialty organizations that serve at risk/vulnerable communities

How much would partners receive: \$25,000 per organization/per month for 3 months (\$75,000 total) for up to 5 organizations

This would be a monthly payment once a month for 3 months to support increased capacity to assist community members in navigating access to a variety of benefits. With an increasing number of individuals losing their jobs, there will be increased need to help people enroll in benefits such as unemployment, Medicaid, Food Assistance, etc. to ensure their basic needs are met. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere’s Semi-Annual Report.

Fund Source: \$375,000 from approved 2020 Access and Engagement Allocation.

Timeline: Developing a request for applications/qualifications process and should launch sometime next week

4) Multi-Lingual/Specialty Mobile Teams **\$225,000**

What would resources do: Support the needs of our ESL and non-english speaking residents by establishing mobile, multi-lingual teams that can provide essential services including BH services

Who is eligible to receive: Specialty organizations that serve at risk/vulnerable ESL and non-English speaking communities

How much would partners receive: \$25,000 per organization/per month for 3 months (\$75,000 total) for up to 3 organizations

This would be a monthly payment once a month for 3 months to provide mobile, multi-lingual teams to serve a ESL and non-English speaking communities. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere’s Semi-Annual Report.



Fund Source: \$100,000 from unallocated VBP and other incentive funds and \$125,000 from 2020 unallocated IMC funding

Timeline: Funding reallocation approved by Executive Committee on March 23, 2020; Still in development; will launch in mid-April

In addition to the above strategies that are already in process, HealthierHere and the Executive Committee are making a request to the Governing Board to reallocate Funds in the following ways:

5) Clinical Partner Resiliency Fund \$2.5 Million

What would resources do: stabilize organizational infrastructure and enhance response to Covid-19

Who is eligible to receive: clinical safety net providers including BHAs and FQHCs

How much would partners receive: \$50,000 per organization for 50 organizations

This would be a one-time unrestricted infrastructure/operations grants for partners to use however they need to support ongoing operations and response to Covid-19. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere's Semi-Annual Report.

Fund Source: \$2.5 Million unallocated IMC Funds

6) Community and Tribal Partner Resiliency Fund \$1,120,000

What would resources do: stabilize organizational infrastructure and enhance response to Covid-19

Who is eligible to receive: Tier 1 & Tier 2 Community Practice Partners; Community Grants Recipients; Community Innovation Partners

How much would partners receive: \$20,000 per organization for 56 organizations

This would be a one-time unrestricted infrastructure/operations grants for partners to use however they need to support ongoing operations and response to Covid-19. Partners would be asked to report how the funds were used in early July 2020 to be included in HealthierHere's Semi-Annual Report.

Fund Source: \$1 Million unspent 2019 Community Innovation Fund and \$120,000 in approved 2020 Access and Engagement Funds

Emerging Areas of Need



We recognize that things are evolving and changing on a near daily basis. Additional needs may arise as we get further into the response and recovery. Issues we are starting to hear about:

- 1) Care Transitions and continuity of care: as people are recovering, how do we ensure safe and successful transitions back to community and maintain continuity of care
- 2) Preparedness for congregate care settings (i.e., public/affordable housing buildings, especially for seniors) so that if there is a positive case, teams can be mobilized to respond to limit spread

Needs outside of HealthierHere's Scope

- 1) **Testing and testing sites:** CHCs are frustrated because communications points people to primary care for tests but primary care has no tests; would like to see PH set up testing tents (could even be in front of clinics) to slow traffic of people coming just to get tested
- 2) **Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs):** there is a HUGE statewide shortage for everyone
- 3) **Child Care** for working families, especially health care and first responders