

Approved April 1, 2020



March 30, 2020
RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund

The St. Louis Regional Health Commission (“RHC”) recognizes the burden placed on our healthcare community to respond to our most vulnerable populations during COVID-19 pandemic. On March 18, 2020, RHC approved \$300,000 of funding to support continued access to care for uninsured patients and Gateway to Better Health members (“Gateway Members”) during this time (the “RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund”). RHC will seek to attract funds from, and partner with, public and private enterprises to amplify the use of these funds and ensure that Gateway Members and uninsured individuals receive access to treatment and support to navigate this crisis.

The RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund will be used for such things as urgent medical supplies and equipment, costs of testing for uninsured patients, transitional staffing, treatment services and basic equipment to expand capacity (i.e. telehealth) and navigation services to meet the needs of the increased demand, and with limited resources, for community healthcare organizations during this time.

Distributions from the RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund will be made to support the following priority categories, as the fund balance allows.

Priority Eligibility:

1st: Healthcare organizations in the Gateway to Better Health network.

2nd: Non-Gateway community healthcare organizations, including behavioral health, that serve uninsured individuals and are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3rd: Community based organizations that offer direct social services to meet the health and well-being needs of Gateway Members and uninsured individuals during the crisis.

To apply: Interested organizations should submit a statement of need, a brief description of how the funds will be used, including a description of new or increased costs related to addressing the crisis. If the request is for a new initiative, please describe how soon it will be activated after receipt of the funds. Organizations will be eligible to receive up to 20% of the RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund in response to the requested need. Due to the constant changing environment, requests will be evaluated against current available state and federal funding to ensure RHC funds are used to fulfill needs that do not have a funding source.

Support Services

In addition to the funding priorities identified above, 10% of the RHC COVID-19 Emergency Fund will be designated to fund support services (i.e. transportation, food services, prescriptions, personal care items, etc.) for Gateway Members and uninsured individuals impacted by the pandemic. These funds will be made available through referrals or requests from the RHC advisory boards, community health centers, community health workers, community referral coordinators and/or Alive and Well community consultants.

Review Process: The CEO’s funding recommendations will be subject to the review and approval of the RHC Executive Committee.