DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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DSS Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

June 11, 2020

ATTENTION: South Dakota Medicaid Providers

FROM: South Dakota Medicaid

RE: HHS Announcement Regarding Relief Fund Distributions

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) <u>announced</u> plans to distribute \$25 billion from the Provider Relief Fund to certain Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.

- The plan aims to direct \$15 billion to Medicaid and CHIP providers that have not received payments from previous distributions and have billed their state Medicaid and CHIP programs between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2020. HHS provides additional details and application information here, and has HHS has launched an "enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal" that you can learn about and link to here. The portal will allow Medicaid and CHIP providers to report their annual patient revenues, which will in turn determine how much money providers are eligible to receive.
- The announcement also describes a plan to distribute \$10 billion to safety net hospitals via direct deposit. Qualifying criteria for these payments are described in the announcement.
- States that on June 8, 2020, HHS sent communications to all hospitals asking them to update
 information on their COVID-19 positive-inpatient admissions for the period January 1, 2020,
 through June 10, 2020. The announcement indicates that this information will be used to
 determine a second round of funding to hospitals in COVID-19 hotspots and is due to HHS by
 June 15, 2020 at 9:00 PM ET.

These funds will flow directly from the federal government to providers; neither South Dakota Medicaid nor the State of South Dakota are involved in the calculation or the distribution of the payments. South Dakota Medicaid encourages providers who have not received payments from previous relief distributions to review the
HHS website for information on provider actions needed to receive a payment.