



**QUESTIONS ON ISSUES AFFECTING COMMUNITY NONPROFITS  
CONCERNING RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

Follow-up to Governor Lamont's Meeting With Nonprofits  
April 1, 2020

1. On Friday's call, Sec. McCaw announced that grant funds would be paid to nonprofits at the same rate as if programs were continuing uninterrupted, with the requirement that nonprofits not lay off staff. However, she did not make the same commitment to fee for service programs or Medicaid-billable services. Many positions in nonprofit organizations are funded by a variety of sources (including commercial insurance), making the commitment to not lay off any staff impossible to achieve if only grant funding is kept whole. **Can the administration guarantee that nonprofits will be paid as if all their programs were continuing uninterrupted?** This is essential to maintaining the continuity necessary to keep all the programs functioning once the crisis passes.
2. Providers need as much flexibility as possible with state funds to stay in business and continue delivering services as best they can while keeping staff and client safe. **We are requesting that the Governor allow providers to carry over any unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year and give providers more flexibility to move funding between programs and SIDs.** On Friday's call, Sec. McCaw denied our request for revenue retention, stating that some pilots are ongoing. However, to our knowledge, the pilot authorized by P.A. 19-127 has not yet been implemented. It is imperative that the State does not insist on cost settlement and paybacks by providers at the end of the fiscal year. The Governor has expressed an interest in this in the past.
3. Several weeks ago, DDS announced they would be increasing rates for providers by 20% to acknowledge increased costs related to COVID-19, including the need of providers to increase the pay of essential staff who are still reporting to work. **Can the Governor grant an equivalent rate increase across all community nonprofit programs that contract with other state departments, many of whom are experiencing similar issues regarding staff and client care?**
4. **Can the administration provide further guidance for quarantining staff and program participants who have come in contact with people who have tested positive or are presumed positive?** Right now, residential programs in particular have no ability to quarantine individual residents if their symptoms are not severe enough to require hospitalization. Is the administration planning on establishing quarantine sites for community nonprofit programs?

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5. **Regarding the provision of telehealth, are there any services that community nonprofits provide that are still required to be in-person?** If there are exclusions to the emergency provision of telehealth, we hope the administration can remove them to mitigate risk of exposure to COVID-19 while allowing for access to services. Please also **remove all requirements for prior authorization** for telehealth services.
6. Many community nonprofits are incurring significantly increased costs, many of which are one-time expenses such as increased cleaning fees or the purchase of technology to support work from home or telehealth services. **Can the administration create a funding pool that nonprofits can apply to have those costs reimbursed?**
7. Currently, nonprofit staff and clients are treated in the same manner as the general public with regard to testing for COVID-19 and access to PPE, which is having ripple effects regarding contact self-quarantines within community programs. **Please designate nonprofit staff as essential to the healthcare system, giving them the same access to priority testing and treatment as hospitals and nursing homes and prioritize giving nonprofits access to PPE.**
8. The federal CARES Act only provides coverage for half the cost of nonprofits that self-insure for unemployment. While a federal fix may be pursued, **will the Governor support full unemployment protection to hold self-insured nonprofits harmless?**
9. Maintaining mandated staffing ratios is a challenge due to self-quarantine, childcare issues, and an already thin workforce. Some state agencies have waived strict ratio requirements, but the response has not been uniform. **Can staffing ratios be temporarily waived across all programs?**

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