

Kentucky Office of Rural Health

Program Spotlight: Coronavirus State Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP COVID19)



SHIP COVID19 One-time funding awarded through HHS HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to support small rural hospitals in efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to Coronavirus. This was funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Hospitals were to have flexibility to use the funding as the coronavirus and related community, patient, and organizational needs evolved. Among other uses, funds were to be used to:

- Ensure patient and hospital personnel safety and otherwise minimize COVID-19 exposure.
- Address emergent COVID-19 issues, including testing and laboratory services, and patient and community education.
- Restore, sustain, and strengthen hospital capacity and staffing levels by reinstating and reassigning providers, hiring new providers or contractors, and/or increasing staff time to respond to coronavirus and continue hospital operations.
- Complete minor alteration and renovation activities to adapt and improve physical infrastructure to maximize isolation precautions, facilitate the use of telehealth, and reconfigure space as needed.
- Purchase equipment, including health information technology and telehealth equipment, vehicles, triage tents, and mobile medical units.
- Purchase supplies, including COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines, when available.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible small rural hospitals are non-federal, short-term general acute care facilities that are located in a rural area of the US and the territories, including faith-based hospitals.

- "eligible small rural hospital" is defined as a non-Federal, short-term general acute care hospital that: (i) is located in a rural area as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d) and (ii) has 49 available beds or less, as reported on the hospital's most recently filed Medicare Cost Report;
- "rural area" is defined as either: (1) located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); (2) located within a rural census tract of a MSA, as determined under the Goldsmith Modification or the Rural Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs) or (3) is being treated as if being located in a rural area pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395(d)(8)(E); and,
- Eligible SHIP hospitals may be for-profit or not-for-profit, including faith based. Hospitals in U.S. territories as well as tribally operated hospitals under Titles I HRSA-16-018 3 and V of P.L. 93-638 are eligible to the extent that such hospitals meet the above criteria

Participation

Awards issued: 04/17/2020

Project Period: 04/01/2020-09/30/2021

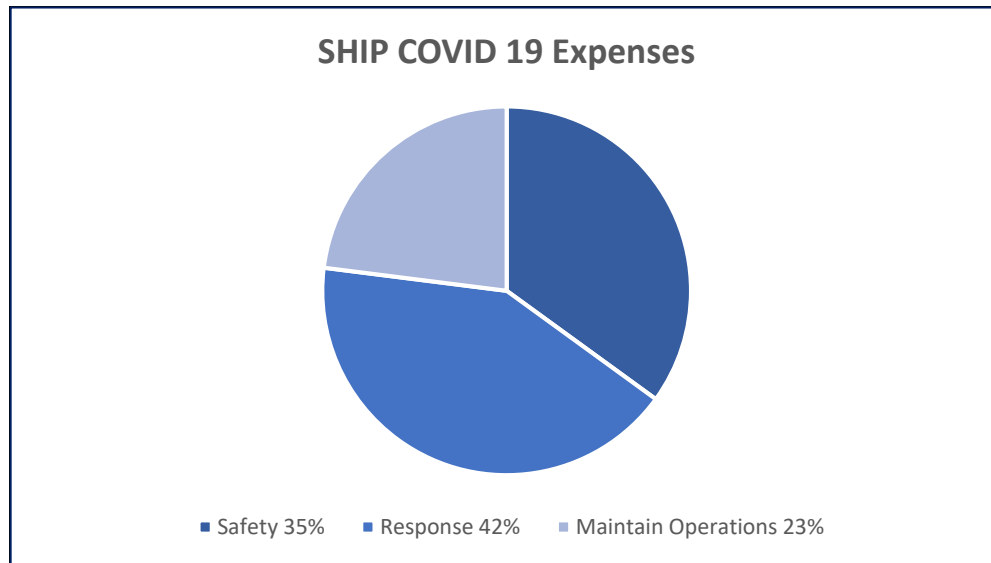


46 Eligible Kentucky Small Rural Hospitals (28 CAHs) received **\$73,319 each** for a total investment of **\$3,372,674**. *(KORH staff recruited 10 hospitals not typically participating in SHIP)*

- AdventHealth Manchester (formerly Manchester Memorial Hospital)
- ARH Our Lady of the Way
- Barbourville ARH
- Bluegrass Community Hospital
- Bourbon Community Hospital
- Breckinridge Health Inc.
- Caldwell Medical Center
- Carroll County Hospital
- Casey County Hospital
- Crittenden Health Systems
- Cumberland County Hospital
- Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital
- Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin Hospital
- Flaget Memorial Hospital
- Fleming County Hospital
- Harrison Memorial Hospital
- Jane Todd Crawford Hospital
- Kentucky River Medical Center
- Livingston Hospital
- Logan Memorial Hospital
- Marcum and Wallace Hospital
- Marshall County Hospital
- Mary Breckinridge ARH
- McDowell ARH
- Methodist Health Union County (formerly Methodist Hospital Union County)
- Middlesboro ARH
- Monroe County Medical Center
- Morgan County ARH
- Ohio County Healthcare
- Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital
- Paul B. Hall Regional Medical
- Pineville Community Health Center
- Rockcastle Regional Hospital
- Russell County Hospital
- Saint Joseph Berea
- Saint Joseph Mount Sterling
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare - Grant County
- The Medical Center at Albany
- The Medical Center at Caverna
- The Medical Center at Franklin
- The Medical Center at Scottsville
- Three Rivers Medical Center
- TJ Health Columbia
- Trigg County Hospital
- Twin Lakes Regional Medical Center
- Wayne County Hospital

100% of hospital awards were fully expended by the end of the project period.

Allowable Expenses



Safety

- Purchase supplies for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Purchase PPE or supplies to fashion protection
- Review, update, and/or implement your emergency operations plan
- Refresh training for all staff on standard and contact precautions, respiratory hygiene, and infection control
- Review your infection control plan and make necessary adjustments to align with CDC
- Ensure and enhance implementation of infection control plans and procedures,
- Create new and enhance existing preparedness and response workflows to embed CDC guidelines
- Train staff, establish workflows, and designate space for COVID
- Purchase and post visual alerts providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- Embed CDC guidance into electronic health record (EHR) clinical decision support tools
- Purchase and install temporary barriers or reconfigure space through minor alteration to support physical distancing or isolation of COVID
- Renovate interior floor plan and/or purchase equipment to maximize the use of telehealth
- Enhance or install heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to promote facility air quality and hygiene



Response – Detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19

- Support COVID-19 testing and laboratory costs, including purchasing COVID-19 tests, specimen handling and collection, storage, and processing equipment
- Purchase ventilators or respiratory equipment
- Support increased capacity for patient triage, testing and laboratory services, and assessment of symptoms
- Enhance telehealth infrastructure to perform triage, care, and follow-up
- Perform outreach and provide patient and community-wide education on hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and COVID-19 transmission
- Purchase and administer COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines
- Enhance staffing and purchase equipment and supplies to create separate temporary testing areas
- Enhance website and social media feeds to include patient self-assessment tools and facilitate access to telemedicine visits
- Enhance telemedicine infrastructure to optimize virtual care
- Enhance workflows, health information exchange capacity, and data exchange
- Provide or support enhanced medical respite/recuperative care services.
- Purchase or lease radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis
- Purchase a mobile unit to provide testing and/or to deliver care
- Coordinate with public health entities to help develop and enact the local and state emergency response plans
- Support transitions in care and coordination with health care partners
- Increase enabling services that address social risk factors amplified by the public health emergency



Maintain hospital operations

- Support personnel salaries in response to COVID-19 impacts
- Support transitions as necessary to increase access to care through telehealth
- Repurpose office space and/or reassign personnel to maintain or increase capacity
- Develop new and/or update existing patient registries
- Provide paid leave to exposed or vulnerable hospital staff
- Hire and/or contract with new providers and/or other personnel to support COVID19 demand
- Purchase equipment to enhance electronic tracking, data exchange, reporting, and billing
- Purchase or upgrade of an electronic health record

The **Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH)**, established in 1991, is a federal-state partnership authorized by federal legislation. The UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, located in Hazard, serves as the federally-designated Kentucky Office of Rural Health. The mission of the KORH is to support the health and well-being of Kentuckians by promoting access to rural health services. The program provides a framework for linking small rural communities with local, state and federal resources while working toward long-term solutions to rural health issues. The KORH assists clinicians, administrators and consumers in finding ways to improve communications, finances and access to quality health care while ensuring that funding agencies and policymakers are made aware of the needs of rural communities.