

CMS is suspending the Advance Payment Program to Medicare Part B suppliers

On Sunday, April 26, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is reevaluating the amounts that will be paid under its Accelerated Payment Program and suspending its Advance Payment Program to Part B suppliers effective immediately.

Since expanding the APP programs, CMS approved almost 24,000 applications, advancing \$40.4 billion in payments to Medicare Part B suppliers, including doctors, non-physician practitioners and durable medical equipment suppliers. The APP is not a grant, and providers are typically required to pay back the funding within one year or less, depending on provider type.

CMS will not be accepting any new applications for the Advance Payment Program and will be reevaluating all pending and new applications for accelerated payments in light of historical direct payments made available through the Department of Health & Human Services' (HHS) Provider Relief Fund.

Apply for funds from the Provider Relief Fund immediately

As reported on Friday, April 24, \$50 billion of the Provider Relief Fund was allocated for general distribution to facilities and providers that billed Medicare in 2019 and are impacted by COVID-19. Of this \$50 billion, the initial \$30 billion was distributed between April 10 and April 17. Payments to providers from that \$30 billion were calculated based on providers' portion of Medicare fee-for-service revenue.

Providers that did not receive an automatic payment should go to the Provider Relief portal linked from [hhs.gov/providerrelief](https://www.hhs.gov/providerrelief) and follow the instructions provided on how to claim the second general distribution as soon as possible. Remember, a facility or provider must have a Medicare billing TIN in order to qualify for this payment.

All providers, including those paid based on the revenue data already submitted in CMS cost reports, are required under the Terms and Conditions to submit revenue information to the provider portal for verification.

For additional information, recipients should visit [hhs.gov/providerrelief](https://www.hhs.gov/providerrelief) or call the CARES Provider Relief line at 866-569-3522.

For an updated fact sheet on the Accelerated and Advance Payment Programs, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>