



March 29, 2020

Mr. James Macrae
Associate Administrator
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Health Resources &
Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Ms. Tonya Bowers
Deputy Associate Administrator
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Health Resources &
Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Jim and Tonya:

I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to talk as planned before this all happened. I'm sure you know the mix of emotions felt by your field staff since this virus has come along. It is my sincere hope we will be here after its over to show appreciation for what each of us has done to make the world a better place.

With that said, on behalf of our [16 member organizations](#) (HRSA-funded Federally Qualified Health Centers, Indian Health Centers and Planned Parenthood) [serving 850,000+ patients in three southern California counties \(San Diego, Imperial and Riverside\)](#), thank you very much for getting the initial financial support out the door so quickly. With our larger members ready to lose between \$3M and \$6M per month, every effort matters, every dollar counts. So thank you, very much!

And if I may, on behalf of the [29 million patients](#) America's Community Health Centers serve, we **thank you** for the leadership and the support you have shown as we work to respond to and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 within our communities.

As I know you are aware, the submission deadline for the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) re-deeming application comes at a time when our members are grappling with the unprecedented impact of COVID-19. This impact includes multiple, overlapping stressors on our systems; declining patient numbers; need for rapid screening of patients outside our sites; need to develop and implement testing protocols under ever-changing guidance; and, shortages of and challenges securing personal protective equipment. Furthermore, our staff are experiencing stress from potential exposure and many others are out sick and/or quarantining - if exposed.



Based on the impact of COVID-19 on our members, and their sister health centers across the country, I respectfully requests one of two actions: (1) extension of the 2021 FTCA deadline by a minimum of 30-60 days; or, (2) extension of the current deeming status for an additional six months (through June 30, 2021) to allow for an application process later in 2020 to cover the remainder of 2021 and perhaps 2022.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Health Center Partners is proud to partner with you to strengthen the primary care safety-net, particularly in times of crises. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, I understand you will have many priorities in need of your attention, and I stand ready to support you in those efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry N. Tuttle".

Henry N. Tuttle
President and CEO
htuttle@hcpsocal.org

Copies to: members of the Health Center Partners Board of Directors

[Health Center Partners of Southern California](#), a family of companies, includes a 16-membership organization of federally qualified health centers, Indian Health Services Organizations, both urban and sovereign, and Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, collectively serving 850,000+ patients each year, for 3.6 million patient visits each year, at 140 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, Imperial counties, with the seventh largest provider group in the region. [2018/2019 Impact Report](#).