



June 9, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Sent Via Email: Secretary@HHS.gov

RE: Request the **Immediate Dispersment of the Remaining CARES Act and Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act Provider Relief Funds**

Dear Secretary Azar,

On behalf of [Health Center Partners of Southern California](#) and our 16 members, which serve more than 850,000 patients each year for 3.6 million patient visits each year, at 160 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties, **I urgently request you to:**

- **Immediately disperse the remaining CARES Act and Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act Provider Relief Funds;**
- **Ensure this money is allocated directly to Community Health Centers, and not to the state; and,**
- **Fund first Community Health Centers with more than 500 employees which were ineligible for the SBA Paycheck Protection Program.**

While all are extremely grateful for the funding Community Health Centers have received via supplemental HRSA grants included in the CARES Act, the Health Care Provider Relief Fund, Paycheck Protection Program loans, and the special grants for testing included in the Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement program, there are still significant financial gaps. **My member Community Health Centers alone anticipate losing \$241 million over the next six months.** These losses will deplete their reserves and **require layoffs of more than 3,300 employees**, including front-line medical providers.

All are particularly concerned because this situation affects California's 22 largest Community Health Centers with more than 500 employees, six of which are my member organizations. While there are other programs in the CARES Act that can provide relief for small businesses, like the Paycheck Protection Program, these 22 Community Health Centers are too large to qualify for such relief. **I urge you to make funds available to Community Health Centers with 500+ or more employees by June 10, 2020.**



Community Health Centers fulfill an irreplaceable role in the nation's health care system. They are a vital part of the COVID-19 response effort and continue to be medical homes for 29 million patients nationwide. **You and I need to ensure they are funded NOW** via the remaining CARES Act and Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act Provider Relief Funds. Your constituents – my patients – deserve no less.

Sincerely,

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

Henry Nelson Tuttle  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
[htuttle@hcpsocal.org](mailto:htuttle@hcpsocal.org)

CC: U.S. Representatives: Raul Ruiz, Scott Peters, Susan Davis, Juan Vargas, Ken Calvert, Mike Levin, Mark Takano

[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 160 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, Imperial counties, with the seventh largest provider group in the region. [2018/2019 Impact Report](#).