

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Article for Colleagues: COVID-19 Funding Support



Audience: Colleagues

Revision Date: 5/6/2020

Version: #1

Trinity Health Receives Limited Financial Relief from Funding Sources

During this global health crisis, many people are surprised to learn that health care organizations are experiencing significant financial challenges. After all, we are on the front line of the battle against COVID-19 and working around the clock through surges to care for patients who need us. However, like other health care organizations, Trinity Health continues to face major stewardship challenges due to COVID-19 for two main reasons:

- Elective (non-urgent) surgeries and procedures were cancelled or postponed. We lost all the revenue for these services that had provided a large portion of our revenue.
- New COVID-19 supplies, equipment and resources were needed to fight COVID-19 and save lives in the communities we serve. Actions included:
 - Increased ordering of masks, gloves and gowns to help keep patients and colleagues safe.
 - Emergency money spent on COVID-19 surge plans to buy more beds, ventilators, etc.
 - Increased clinical staffing to support surge capacity through redeployment of current colleagues – regionally and nationally, recruitment of more specialized clinical colleagues through our FirstChoice program and other methods.

These revenue losses and emergency spending had a severe negative impact on our financial position. We are doing everything we can to improve our financial position so that we can continue to serve our Mission. The difficult decisions that affect our colleagues, such as furlough and reduced hours, remain necessary.

Reduced Spending

This required us to make difficult decisions affecting our colleagues, including temporary furloughs and reduction in hours for colleagues in non-critical care roles (primarily non-clinical roles). Additional actions included:

- Froze capital spending (such as major building improvements), except for supporting ministries in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Reduced executive leader (vice president and above) pay up to 25 percent, with some voluntary to take a 50 percent pay reduction.
- Worked with vendors to reduce costs.
- Reduced spending everywhere we could such as travel, dues, etc.

We are looking more ways to reduce spending, every day.

Help from the government and other sources

To help essential businesses, national, state and local governments released funding to essential businesses. Trinity Health has accepted funding, which has helped with some of the COVID-19 costs. However, it is not enough to cover our

losses. We are grateful for the support, but the lost income has severely harmed our financial position. The difficult decisions that affect our colleagues, such as furlough and reduced hours, remain necessary.

CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which gave us stimulus checks, is also supporting essential businesses. Health care providers received funds from the Act's \$100 billion Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for Health Care Providers, of which Trinity Health received funding for lost revenues due to COVID-19. Other support received from the CARES Act includes:

- Funds to help create telehealth services.
- Increased payment from Medicare for patients with COVID-19.
- Advanced payments from Medicare (that will have to be repaid)
- Temporary suspension of Medicare penalty payments.

Health Plan and Health Insurance Support (Commercial Payors)

Trinity Health also asked national and regional insurance companies (commercial health plans) for help through improved telehealth coverage and reimbursement and faster claim payments.

Recovery Plans

We continue to be a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities, which is needed more now than ever before. Trinity Health ministries are resuming critical services while enhancing the safety precautions already in place. We are taking a phased approach to resume select services and surgeries to provide clinically-necessary care for our patients.

Colleagues can support advocacy efforts

Over the coming months, more Congressional action is expected to continue to support hospitals and front-lines health care providers. Colleagues can learn more on the Trinity Health Advocacy website, which is Advocacy.Trinity-Health.org. There, you can [sign up to receive email alerts](#) when there are opportunities to support by communicating with your elected officials and other methods. Follow Trinity Health Advocacy on [Yammer](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).