



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

MEMORANDUM

To: Michigan Nursing Facilities

From: Michael Daeschlein, Manager
Long-Term Care Policy 

Date: May 12, 2020

RE: Funding opportunity to purchase communication devices for resident use

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided states with an application process for funding communication devices to be used by nursing facility residents. The purpose is to address the greater isolation and stress created by the coronavirus pandemic. The communication devices will allow residents to have visual and audio calls with family members, friends and others. The funding is from Michigan's Nursing Facility Enrichment Program, which awards Civil Monetary Penalty (CMP) funds for projects that enhance the lives of nursing facility residents. CMP funds cannot be used for any other purpose. CMS has created an expedited review and approval process for this purchase of communication devices.

The CMS application describes the funding limit, approved devices and prohibited expenses, shared use, infection control responsibilities and required information. In addition, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) requires the following:

Each nursing facility may submit only one application and, each application may only include the request from one nursing facility. The funds will be distributed to individual nursing facilities.

Applicants must commit to the following provisions:

- Inform all residents, families and legal representatives of the availability of the devices for visual and audio communication.
- The devices must be available during the pandemic and after it ends. The facility is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the devices.
- Ensure appropriate infection prevention and control practices. Devices should not be shared between COVID-19 positive (or suspected) residents and other residents (i.e., COVID-19 negative or observation status). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection and provide this information to all staff members assisting residents. Devices must be cleaned and disinfected after each resident use. Use the EPA's *Disinfectant List for Use Against SARS-CoV-2* to determine if the disinfectant listed in the manufacturer's instructions are listed.
- Keep itemized receipts for all the items purchased with grant funds. These documents must be available for audit by MDHHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Do not include the award amount in your MDHHS cost reporting.

- After six months, respond to a brief survey about the residents' experiences with the devices.

If the application meets the criteria, MDHHS will issue an award letter and the funds will be provided through a gross adjustment. The CMS application does not include all of the information needed for gross adjustments. Therefore, use the attached Excel spreadsheet to provide the information needed for item five (5) of the spreadsheet. Do **not** use the table in item five (5) of the CMS application.

Please send your application and spreadsheet as an email attachment to MDHHS-CMPGRANTS@Michigan.gov. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2020. Applications will be reviewed in the order received.