



## ACTION NEEDED

### Ventilator repair/refurbishment

Micron Technology in Boise contacted IHA with an offer to help hospitals that may have ventilators currently out-of-service that are in need of repair and/or refurbishment.

Bloom Energy has partnered with Stanford University to oversee a [refurbishment program that could bring hundreds of ventilators back into service](#). Micron, with their clean technology facilities and workers, would like to do the same for Idaho hospitals – if there is a need. Micron will get their workers certified to do the repairs and get a third-party validation on the repairs before returning the equipment to hospitals.

If you have interest in participating, please click on this [short questionnaire](#). IHA will share the contact information and number and types of ventilators with Micron so they can work with you.

## Reimbursement & Policy

### Federal funding ~ a quick update

With all the headlines about the recently passed CARES Act and the \$2 trillion federal stimulus package, there are still few details about when and how those funds will be distributed. We participate daily in conference calls and receive updates from federal agencies, and while the goal is to get money out the door as soon as possible, there are no definitive answers to many of our questions yet. We will let you know any new developments on the following funding opportunities we are tracking on your behalf:

- \$100 billion in financial assistance to health care providers “to ensure health care providers continue to receive the support they need for COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue.” It is directed to be used to offset the costs of providing diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, as well as some of the revenues lost by the significant reductions in services brought about by the national emergency and social distancing recommendations and mandates. We understand this will be released in four “tranches” with the first tranche distributed by formula. The second tranche will be distributed based on need. A third tranche will be used to cover the uninsured. And, a small tranche will be held back for unforeseen needs. We don’t have any additional definitions or guidance beyond the intent to divide that up into four distributions.
- The state anticipates receiving \$1.25 billion in COVID-19 relief on April 24. The Governor has put a working group together to ensure that money is appropriately used to support Idahoans and industries that have been impacted by COVID-19. There is no indication, yet, on whether any of that money will be used to help cash-strapped hospitals. See the next story for more information.
- Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program ~ The revised program allows providers to receive an advance payment, with later recoupment of the advance from future Medicare payments. Essentially, this serves as a short-term loan to bridge part of the financing shortfall until additional federal funds become available. CMS is reporting it has sent close to \$34 billion in accelerated and advance payments to Part A providers, including hospitals, and Part B suppliers in the past week.
- Small Business Administration Loans/Paycheck Protection Program ~ These loans are designed to allow specified businesses with 500 or fewer employees or receipts of up to \$41.5 million for acute care hospitals to borrow up to 250% of an average monthly payroll with loan forgiveness if employees and wages are maintained. It is still undetermined if county and hospital district owned 501(c)3 hospitals are eligible for this program.
- Once the state signs the agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, funding to purchase COVID-related supplies at a cost-sharing rate of 75% federal / 25% other will be available.
- Congress previously authorized an increase of 6.2% in the federal share of Medicaid payments. This is a way to provide a quick infusion of federal funds into states’ coffers.
- Medicare Payments ~ The Medicare sequestration is being temporarily suspended which will increase Medicare payments for services delivered by 2%. There will also be a 20% increase in Medicare inpatient payment rates for treating COVID-19 patients.

### Governor outlines transparency process for federal funds

Yesterday, Governor Brad Little signed an [executive order](#) forming his new Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee to oversee the approximately \$1.25 billion in federal funds that Idaho will receive to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, State Controller Brandon Woolf is partnering with Governor Little to report the use of funds on [Transparent.Idaho.Gov](#), giving all Idahoans the opportunity to see how the federal funds are used.

“This federal funding – the taxpayers’ money – must be prudently managed on behalf of all taxpayers,” Governor Little said. “I can assure Idahoans that the federal funds will not be used to create new government programs in Idaho, and we will uphold our Constitutional mandate to provide a long-term, structurally balanced budget for the people of Idaho.”

The Governor’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee will make recommendations to ensure the federal funds are appropriately prioritized and efficiently distributed across state, local and tribal governments. It also will play a critical oversight role to ensure the federal funds are used judiciously and appropriately. The funds are expected to be available on or around April 24.

“Transparency in government spending is one of my highest priorities, and I am proud that Idaho will lead the nation in shining light on how these public funds will be used to help us fight coronavirus in the state,” State Controller Woolf said.

#### Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee members include:

- Alex Adams, Administrator, Division of Financial Management (Chair)
- Senator Steve Bair, Co-chair, Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee
- Representative Rick Youngblood, Co-chair, Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee
- Josh Whitworth, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Controller
- Jani Revier, Director, Idaho Department of Labor
- Tom Kealey, Director, Idaho Department of Commerce
- Shawn Keough, State Board of Education member
- Lisa Hettinger, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Garden City Mayor John Evans, city government representative
- Seth Grigg, Exec. Dir., Idaho Association of Counties, county government representative
- Chantel Greene, Nez Perce Tribe, tribal government representative
- Dennis Johnson, large business representative
- Matt Newton, small/midsize business representative
- Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Office of the Governor

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