



Office of the Secretary
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HUMANSERVICES.ARKANSAS.GOV

October 5, 2020

Larry Walther, Director
Department of Finance and Administration
1509 W. 7th St.
P.O. Box 3278
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Return of CARES Act Funding

Dear Secretary Walther:

DHS has completed disbursement of funds for several of the CARES Act initiatives approved by the Governor on recommendation of the CARES Act Steering Committee. By this letter, DHS is releasing the unspent funds back to DFA to be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

- On April 15, 2020, the CARES Act Steering Committee recommended \$80,000,000.00 in funding for Continuity of Care Payments for Hospital & Health Care Facility Workers Due to the COVID-19 Emergency. This initiative enabled hospitals to make pass-through payments to hospital direct-care and non-direct care workers, and for LTSS providers to make pass-through payments to LTSS non-direct care workers. From this funding, a total of \$66,636,860.42 in payments have been made to providers. This leaves a remaining amount after final payout/audit of **\$13,363,139.58** to be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund
- On April 29, 2020, the CARES Act Steering Committee recommended \$1,200,000.00 in funding for Caregiver Payments for Children in Foster Care. This initiative enabled the payment of a fixed, one-time payment of \$500 to each foster care family to help offset the additional costs due to COVID-19. From this funding, DHS made a total of \$1,087,500.00 in payments to eligible foster families. This leaves a remaining amount of **\$112,500.00** to be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- On June 3, 2020, the CARES Act Steering Committee recommended \$109,600,000.00 in funding for the Proposal to Protect, Treat, and Transform During the COVID-19 Emergency. This initiative provided formula-based allotments and COVID-19 cluster payments to Arkansas hospitals. From this funding, DHS made a total of \$108,671,568.64 in payments to Arkansas hospitals. This leaves a remaining amount after final payout/audit of **\$928,431.36** to be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- On June 15, 2020, the CARES Act Steering Committee recommended \$12,127,200.00 in funding for the Proposal to Fund Ambulance Direct Care Workers Due to COVID-19

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Emergency. This initiative allowed for care continuity payments for direct care workers in the State's emergency medical services (EMS) system. From this funding, a total of \$7,626,439.18 in payments have been made to providers. This leaves a remaining amount after final payout/audit of **\$4,500,760.82** to be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

The total amount of funding being returned by this letter is **\$18,904,831.76**. Please let me know of any additional actions I need to take in order for these funds to be available for allocation for other uses by the CARES Act Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Gillespie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cindy" being more prominent than the last name "Gillespie".

Cindy Gillespie, Secretary
Department of Human Services

cc: Elizabeth Smith, Secretary, Department of Inspector General