

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Last fall, Mass-ALA provided [information](#) on the deadline for applying for Provider Relief Funds in Phase 4 of the program. The window of time to apply was September 29th through October 26th, 2021. For those of you who have applied, but have not yet received the relief payment, we wish to inform you of a recent announcement we received from Argentum stating that the HRSA expects additional delays in processing Phase 4 relief payments. All remaining payment determinations will occur on a periodic basis through May 2022, with the next periodic distribution anticipated sometime this month.

Argentum stated that previously, the agency estimated that application reviews would occur during the first quarter of 2022, which had already been extended from the initial completion timeline of late January. Please note that while the Phase 4 reconsideration process is open through May 2, applicants will have at least 45 days to apply for reconsideration even if the payment determination occurs after the Phase 4 deadline.

James Balda, Argentum President & CEO, has expressed disappointment by the delay in processing relief payments and has requested a meeting with the HRSA Provider Relief Bureau to stress the urgency in processing the payments going forward. Argentum continues to work with key lawmakers in order to expedite the process as well as to target additional relief to assisted living providers. Argentum stated that they also anticipate the introduction of the Senior Care Equity Act, which would provide a no-cost solution to use existing unallocated COVID-19 relief funds, targeting them specifically for relief for assisted living providers. This legislation is added to the introduction of the SENIOR Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by our own Rep. Lori Trahan and a colleague in the House in January, which would appropriate \$10 billion in new funding for assisted living providers..

If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org

**The information provided in this COVID-19 update is solely for general informational purposes to assist in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID 19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.*

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