



COVID-19 – EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR CHSP PROVIDERS

11/09/2020

The Australian Government is providing additional funding to support Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) service providers during COVID-19.

Emergency funding of \$191.6 million includes:

- \$141.6 million for ad hoc proposals
- \$50 million for additional meals services.

Providers may use this funding to:

- meet increased demand for services
- retain key workforce
- adapt to the changing aged care environment
- cover the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- deliver services to residents on short-term leave from aged care homes.

What emergency funding is available to CHSP meals providers?

The Australian Government understands how important meals providers are to help CHSP clients stay safe and independent within their own homes. The Government has allocated \$50 million to help retain and expand CHSP meals service delivery.

Existing CHSP meals providers completed a survey, and the responses used to determine funding offers to CHSP meals providers.

The Government has offered a 50% increase in funding to meals providers who did not complete the survey. Providers do not need to apply for this funding increase.

If you need additional funding above the default increase, you can apply through the ad hoc emergency proposal process.

What emergency funding is available to CHSP providers who deliver other service types?

An additional \$40 million in 2019-20 and \$101.6 million in 2020-21 available for short-term support.

All CHSP service providers impacted by COVID-19 and those delivering support to residents from aged care homes may apply for this grant funding.

To apply for emergency COVID-19 ad hoc funding, read the grant opportunity guidelines (available on [GrantConnect](#)) and the [CHSP 2020-2022 manual](#). You can then apply through a form where you will need to show:

- how your application meets the aims and objectives of the program
- how your application will deliver value for money
- if your organisation has capacity to deliver the proposed services.

The Department of Health will assess applications against specific criteria, including:

- the specific activities you propose
- the grant activity outcomes you expect to achieve
- if you have take advantage of the flexibility provisions
- if you are rolling over allocated funding from 2019-20.

You can request an application form from the Community Grants Hub Funding Arrangement Manager or the Department of Health. Return your completed form to CHSPprogram@health.gov.au.

The Department of Health will prioritise applications from CHSP providers operating in COVID-19 impacted areas.

This measure enables providers to temporarily expand existing services to support the community through COVID-19.

What will CHSP providers not be funded for?

The Department of Health will not consider requests for additional funding to enable CHSP service providers to:

- deliver new service types
- commence the delivery of services in new aged care planning regions
- fund activities identified in the grant guidelines as out of scope of the program.

What can service providers use the emergency funding for?

CHSP service providers may use emergency ad hoc funding to:

- cover the cost of a temporary increase in direct service delivery to new and existing clients

- help cover the cost of home support staff salaries
- help cover business costs
- purchase PPE for staff who require this and where the Department of Health recommends its use
- to support residents from aged care homes to return to the community on a short-term basis.

Why does the CHSP emergency COVID-19 meals funding agreement contain an output target?

All agreements for CHSP emergency COVID-19 meals funding have a performance target and measure, which is an indicator. The funding may not correlate with the actual number of meals identified in the target. Use the free text narrative section of the Performance Report to provide details on the use of funds. This is important if you use funds outside direct service delivery.

You will not be disadvantaged if you cannot meet the performance targets in your CHSP emergency COVID-19 meals funding agreement.

Do the flexibility provisions apply to the emergency COVID-19 ad hoc and meals funding?

Flexibility provisions **do not apply** to the emergency meals or ad hoc grant funding provided to address COVID-19 pressures.

How should you report your service delivery outputs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

You should accurately report all outputs delivered through the CHSP in Data Exchange (DEX), as per normal reporting procedures. This should include outputs delivered through additional COVID-19 meals and ad hoc funding. If you have used flexibility provisions, you should report the actual services delivered.

If you received CHSP COVID-19 Emergency Support you must also complete the performance report template that came with the separate grant agreement. This enables the Department of Health to see how you spent the funds. It also indicates how this met COVID-related costs not associated with additional outputs.

What happens if CHSP service providers are not able to spend their CHSP – Emergency support for COVID-19 funding

The emergency CHSP COVID-19 meals and ad hoc grant agreements expire on 30 June 2021. However, you have until 30 June 2022 to expend the funding. You will need to acquit any emergency funding you haven't expended by 30 June 2022.

Where can CHSP service providers find more information?

The Department of Health has published fact sheets for CHSP providers, including information on:

- [CHSP Flexibility Provisions](#)
- CHSP Other Support and Program Initiatives.

There is also a [fact sheet](#) available to CHSP clients with concerns or questions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[COVID-19 preparedness webinars](#) are also available on the Department's website for on-demand viewing.

Providers should [subscribe](#) to the normal aged care sector email announcements and newsletters.

For more information, contact your Funding Arrangement Manager.