

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) is writing to again thank the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for its continued strong support of dentists across the country during this public health emergency. We request that any future open phases of applications to the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) again be open to dentists as was the case in past distributions.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) created the eventual PRF by providing up to \$100 billion in funding for health care providers. An additional \$75 billion was appropriated in the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Since first open to applications in mid-2020, "oral healthcare-related services as a dental service provider" were included in the eligibility criteria. With the remaining funds of the PRF, we again call on HHS to allow dentists to apply for relief funding in future phases of distribution. The current outlook of the pandemic remains uncertain and dentists must be able to be equipped to provide oral health care services to Americans without closing. To be able to remain open is essential to our health care system and dentists accessing PRF payments has been a crucial source of financial recoupment. Continued access to this fund will allow dentists to cover lost revenue attributable to COVID-19 or health-related expenses purchased to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you in more detail and answer any questions you have regarding these comments. Please contact David Linn at linnd@ada.org or (202) 789-5170 to facilitate further discussions.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D.
President

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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