



**JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
ON MEDICAID AND NC HEALTH CHOICE**

# **Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Update**

**Susan Gale Perry  
Department of Health and Human Services**

**January 12, 2021**

# COVID-19 Response Key Accomplishments

## Prevention

- Worked with stakeholders to develop over 120 guidance resources to help businesses and individuals conduct their activities safely
- Distributed over 65 million pieces of PPE across the state
- Launched a nationally-recognized public prevention campaign statewide
- Stood up a COVID-19 website visited over 25.3 million times in 8 months

## Testing and Contact Tracing

- Supported the administration of over 7 million COVID-19 tests and stood up 750 testing sites across the state
- Distributed over 500,000 BinaxNOW antigen tests to partners such as local health departments and K-12 schools
- Developed a statewide contact tracing system and hired 1,560 contact tracers
- Launched the SlowCOVIDNC exposure notification app, downloaded by over 600,000 users in 2020

# **COVID-19 Response Key Accomplishments**

## **Support Services**

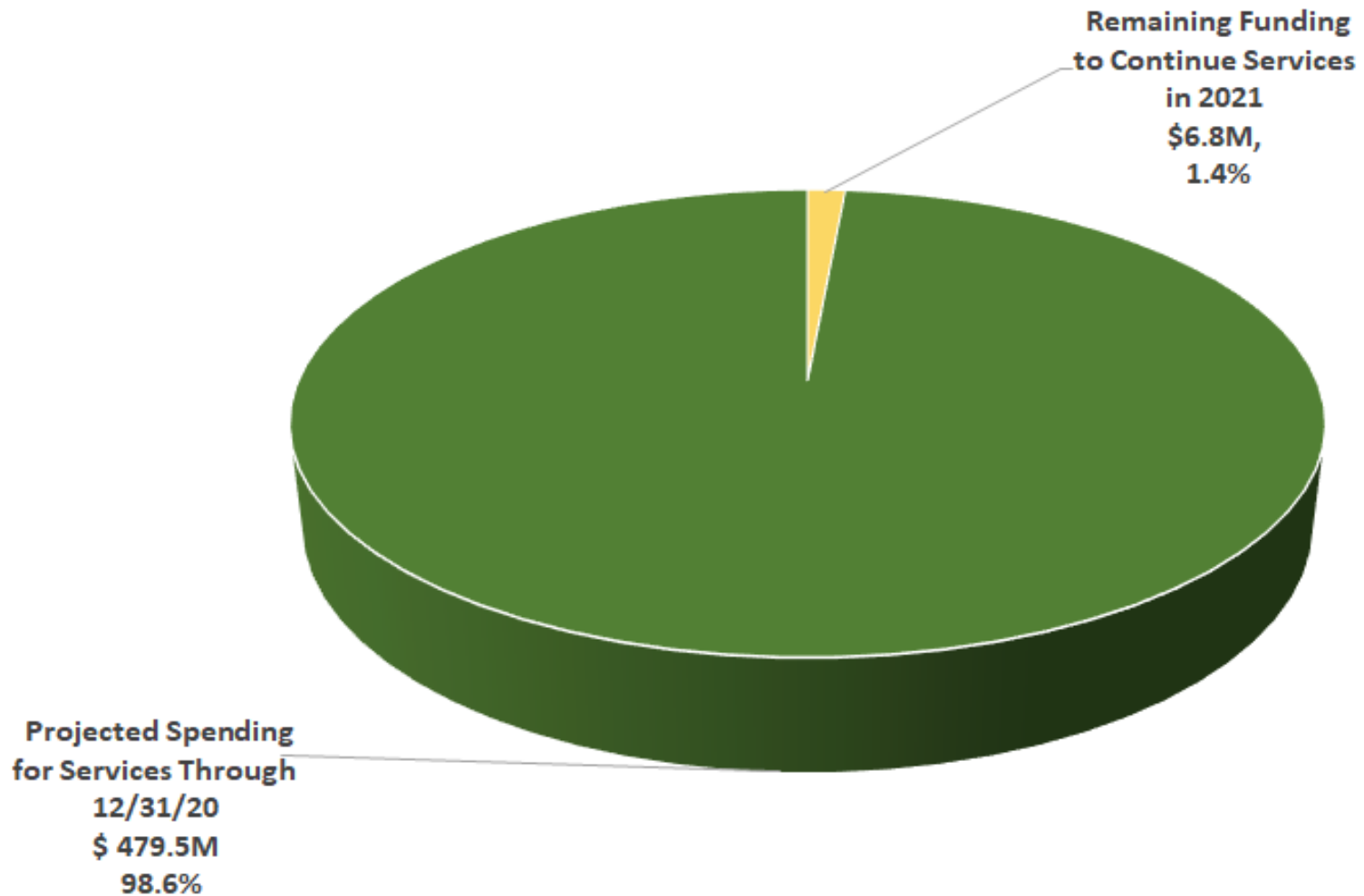
- Employed over 400 community health workers to connect over 180,000 North Carolinians to medical, behavioral and social supports
- Delivered over 26,000 services such as food, relief payments, or primary medical care to 5,500 households who needed to isolate or quarantine
- Provided Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits to over 900,000 children at risk of hunger due to school closures

## **Child Care**

- Provided emergency child care subsidies to nearly 17,000 children of essential workers and school-age subsidies to 7,700 children
- Stabilized 4,200 child care facilities with operational grants and PPE
- Supported 30,00 child care teachers and staff with retention bonuses

# Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Overview – Funding Summary

## Total CRF Funding - \$486.3M



# Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Overview – Funding Summary

## Legislative Allocation

	Original Allocation	Allocations Adjusted to Maximize Impact	Invoices Paid Through 12/30/20	Projected Payments for Work Completed & In Process - Invoices Pending Through 12/2020	Projected Funding to Continue Services In 2021
Mental Health and Crisis Services	\$75M	\$75M	\$60.5M	\$14.5M	\$0
Special Assistance Facilities*	\$45M	\$45.3M	\$45.3M	\$0	\$0
Public Health, Mental Health, and Crisis Services	\$20M	\$20M	\$8.0M	\$12.0M	\$0
Food Safety and Child Care*	\$32.6M	\$35.1M	\$22.1M	\$11.2M	\$1.8M
Early Childhood Initiatives	\$20M	\$20M	\$20.0M	\$0	\$0
Foster Care	\$4.4M	\$4.4M	\$4.4M	\$0	\$0
LINKS Program	\$290K	\$290K	\$290K	\$0	\$0
NC MedAssist	\$6.5M	\$6.5M	\$1.5M	\$0	\$5.0M
Testing, Tracing, and Contact Trends	\$125M	\$125M	\$70.8M	\$54.2M	\$0
Rural and Underserved Communities*	\$50M	\$67.5M	\$28.6M	\$38.9M	\$0
Child Care Operational Grants	\$35M	\$35M	\$35M	\$0	\$0
Early Education - Remote Learning	\$8M	\$8M	\$8M	\$0	\$0
Medicaid Provider Relief Fund*	\$20M	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Foster Care Supports (Children's Home Society)	\$300K	\$300K	\$300K	\$0	\$0
Student Health Collaborative*	\$300K	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Child Care - PPE	\$6M	\$6M	\$3.6M	\$2.4M	\$0
Additional Mental Health/Crisis Funding (LME\MCO)	\$38M	\$38M	\$38.0M	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$486.3</b>	<b>\$486.3M</b>	<b>\$346.3M</b>	<b>\$133.2M</b>	<b>\$6.8M</b>

\* Legislative Allocations where total funding amounts were adjusted.

## Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Overview – Funding (Net) Realignment Across Legislative Allocations

Legislative Allocation	Service	Initial Allocation	Funding Change	Adjusted Balance	Notes About Realignment
Rural and Underserved Community Assistance	<b>Community Health Workers</b> - Deploying over 250 community health workers (CHWs) to assess the needs of individuals for testing, tracing, primary care, isolation or quarantine and to provide support services that allow individuals to safely isolate or quarantine, including nutrition, transportation, emergency relief assistance and COVID-related supplies.	\$21,227,848	\$2,500,000	\$23,727,848	Additional funding was needed to support isolation support services to help people safely isolate and quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Rural and Underserved Community Assistance	<b>Medicaid Providers - Dental Providers.</b> Funds were used to offset provider losses due to COVID and ensure continued access to care, particularly dental care for Medicaid beneficiaries.	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	Dental providers have to date received limited support in response to COVID impacts.
NC COVID Provider Relief Fund	<b>NC Medicaid Provider Relief</b> - Funds to reimburse providers enrolled in the North Carolina Medicaid program for costs incurred in providing COVID-related treatment to uninsured patients in North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$20,000,000	(\$20,000,000)	\$0	Legislation governing the use of these funds limited utilization to costs that were already being covered by HRSA which prevented using these funds as allocated.
Food Safety and Child Care	<b>Back @ Home</b> - Funding distributed to 61 agencies performing Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention activities to allow organizations to serve individuals and families and move them into housing quickly. Funds for Emergency Shelters for renovations and other purchases that enable safer conditions for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and staff.	\$5,700,000	\$2,500,000	\$8,200,000	Additional funding to address the high demand to assist individuals and families in the COVID-driven housing crisis including ensuring adequate shelter space to support social distancing.

## **Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Overview – Funding (Net) Realignment Across Legislative Allocations**

Legislative Allocation	Service	Initial Allocation	Funding Change	Adjusted Balance	Notes About Realignment
Student Health Collaborative	<b>Student Health Collaborative.</b> Funds for facilities licensed to establish a student health collaborative pilot program	\$300,000	(\$ 300,000)	\$0	Not possible to meet significant requirements in timeframe and under pandemic conditions; funds were reallocated to complete special assistance payments.
State County Special Assistance	<b>State County Special Assistance.</b> Additional funding to complete State County Special Assistance payments.	\$45,000,000	\$258,138	\$45,258,138	Additional funds were necessary to complete final payments for State County Special Assistance.
Rural and Underserved Communities	<b>Historically Marginalized Populations -</b> Additional funds reallocated to support rural and underserved communities COVID relief, specifically addressing needs of historically marginalized populations.		\$41,862		Funds remaining from Student Health Collaborative used for services in support of historically marginalized population needs during the pandemic.
<b>Net Total</b>			<b>\$0</b>		

# Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Overview – Funds Remaining Available to Expend Through 12/31/21

Service Title	Service Description	Projected Remaining Funds
Child Protective and Adult Protective Services	\$8.3M was allocated to local departments of social services to address additional, previously unbudgeted costs associated with pandemic-driven workforce shortfalls specifically regarding key areas of child protective service and adult protective services. This included temporary staffing and purchases to support infection control and tools to allow remote work and assistance. Several counties experienced supply chain issues regarding the needed purchases and other challenges affecting expenditures through 12/30/20. With the extension of time allowed for utilization of CRF funding, DHHS will continue this funding so that local DSSs that require more time will be able to complete planned services and/ or purchases.	\$1,600,000
Reinvestment Partners for Produce Prescription	\$2.5M, increased to \$3.5M in HB 1105 directed appropriation to Reinvestment Partners for their produce prescription program, which provides a monthly forty-dollar (\$40.00) per household benefit for each eligible FNS recipient enrolled by the recipient's health care provider for fresh produce. Combating food insecurity is a significant need. Therefore, expenditure of the balance will not be difficult with the extension of time which will minimize supply chain delays affecting this work. Expenditure of the balance will not be difficult with the extension of time which will minimize supply chain delays affecting this work.	\$ 200,000
NC MedAssist	\$1.5M, increased to \$6.5M in HB 1105 directed appropriation to NC MedAssist, a nonprofit corporation, to offset increased costs for providing prescription assistance services during the COVID-19 pandemic to individuals who are indigent or uninsured. The organization has a submitted its proposal for expending remaining funds for these needed services with the additional time afforded in recent federal law.	\$5,000,000
<b>Net Total</b>		<b>\$6,800,000</b>