

COVID-19 SHIP
Kansas Specific Questions

Question	Answer
The expense report we submit will only have to show the items we are wanting reimbursed under this SHIP Grant, correct? Not the entirety of our expenses?	That is correct
Can you give examples of movable equipment that would qualify for this grant?	Ventilator, telemedicine related equipment, anything that is not permanently attached to building
How many bids are needed	It is best to have choices so at least two...three is suggested
If we don't use the entire of amount do we send the balance back to you?	Yes, you will return funds that are not used
On the Participation Agreement, can you tell me what is a DUNS number?	The Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit identifier for businesses. https://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html
Where do I find information about SAM accounts?	https://www.sam.gov/SAM/
One hospital I work with has a SAM under The County, the other hospital has a SAM under their foundation. Do we need to get both of these hospitals under just their name?	The SAM Account needs to be in the same name as what is on your participant agreement.
We are needing to update our HVAC in our surgical suite, would this be covered? I feel for appropriate air exchange rate in OR it could be classified as Covid related?	You are allowed to enhance or install heating, ventilation, and HVAC systems to promote facility air quality and hygiene.
We will be modifying patient rooms with negative air flow. A large part of the modifications will be vendor labor. Does vendor labor go to the 10%?	Renovation costs cannot exceed more than 10% of the total award. This would include labor expenses related to the renovation.
Is the purchase of radiology equipment allowed? For example a portable x-ray machine.	Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.
Can we upgrade our CT to more slices for the clot studies necessary for COVID-19 patients?	Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.

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Can we use this money to purchase lab equipment (BioFire) that would perform molecular testing (Covid PCR)?	Funds may be used to support COVID-19 testing and laboratory costs, including purchasing COVID-19 tests, specimen handling and collection, storage and processing equipment.
Would Quantitative fit testing equipment - qualify?	yes
Can funds be used for building a space where people could be tested/assessed that is adjacent to our ER?	If this would be a stand-alone structure or addition to the building, it is not allowed. If you are retrofitting an existing space, that would be allowed. Renovation costs cannot exceed more than 10% of the total award.
We were looking into SQSS (Strategic Quality Support System). Would we be able to make this COVID related since it is about Quality and Risk Management?	This would not be allowed as it is not directly related to testing, treating or responding to COVID-19.
Does equipment ever become ours?	Additional information on equipment purchases can be found at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2015-title45-vol1/pdf/CFR-2015-title45-vol1-sec75-320.pdf
Since CAH hospitals were not eligible for PPP loans when the pandemic first began can we use these COVID-19 SHIP funds for salaries from January 20, 2020 until the date we received our PPP loan and then again after PPP funds are exhausted until the end of the SHIP period of Sept 30, 2021?	Yes, salaries for personnel working directly on COVID-19 activities will be covered at the end of the Paycheck Protection Program entitlements. Hospitals may use grant funds or non-grant funds to continue to pay staff as a means of maintaining capacity during the COVID-19 public health emergency and to help ensure readiness to address the full range of comprehensive primary health care needs, including pent up demand, as the emergency abates. This includes the use of funds for obligations incurred during the course of the emergency, since January 20, 2020, either for current payment or reimbursement of incurred costs, including staff salaries". For additional information https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/coronavirus-disease-2019/faq

The following questions were submitted to the Federal Office of Rural Health on behalf of Kansas hospitals and they provided answers.

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<p>For equipment purchases over \$10,000. Does purchasing through a GPO contract satisfy the competitive bid process?</p>	<p>Documentation of Group Purchasing Organization's (GPO) bidding process would be required. For example, GPO agreement, entities participating in group purchasing arrangement, price of equipment, price of equipment to participants in the group purchasing arrangement, receipts.</p>
<p>Is it permissible to use equipment purchased for covid patients for other patients too? ie. telehealth equipment</p>	<p>Yes. Equipment purchased with SHIP COVID funds is primarily for the use of COVID-related care. However, equipment may also be used for other patients.</p>
<p>Would the purchase a new nurse call system be an allowable expenses?</p>	<p>NO. Operational cost not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Can this money be used for med carts with computers?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can funds be used to purchase a crash cart and defibrillator to be used in the isolation area? Patients coming to ER are being taken directly to isolation if they screen positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can funds be used to purchase badge control access to lock facility down to steer patients to screening entrance, block visitors from rogue entrances, but allow employees access?</p>	<p>NO. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>We have had to rent a house for our on call staff who stay here from out of town as we do not have rooms available due to covid-19. Would the rent be allowed expense?</p>	<p>Please clarify if housing hospital staff or contracted staff?</p>
<p>Would security cameras would be an allowable expense? Currently our ER entrance is our screening entrance but possibly having cameras at other entrances could help us with COVID screenings and knowing who all has entered the facility.</p>	<p>NO. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>

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<p>Is it permissible to use funds to offset costs of a new website? We were in the process of selecting a vendor of a new site when the pandemic struck and that has been put on hold. It has been very difficult for us to communicate to the public with our current site. Our current site is not mobile friendly and is not easy to update, making it hard to communicate about telemedicine, changes to visiting guidelines, and new protocols for screening and entering our facility.</p>	<p>If enhanced website and social media feeds include patient self-assessment tools and facilitate access to telemedicine visits specific to COVID Response, as stated in the Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds document.</p>
<p>If we need to update or replace our telemetry/monitoring system would that be allowable? It would be used when taking care of COVID patients.</p>	<p>Refer to Allowable Uses of Funding , <i>under</i> Response – Detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19. Specifically, bullet #2. on page 2. https://krhop.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-SHIP-Allowable-Uses-of-Funding.pdf</p>
<p>Is the purchase of UV lights for disinfection an allowable expense?</p>	<p>Activities to address COVID-19 must be consistent with CDC guidance for healthcare professionals and federal, state, territorial and local public health recommendations. See the following websites for specific information regarding UV lights. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html & https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-disinfectants-and-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
<p>Is the purchase of electronic signature pads to minimize contact with patients an allowable expense?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Can we use funds for an ice dispenser? We are currently either having to have staff carry 5 gallon buckets of ice to fill the ice bin or we have to purchase a new ice machine that will have a scoop. We are concerned about the infection control issues with this ice bin and scoop system.</p>	<p>No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>

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<p>We had to build a temporary walkway through our lawn that takes you to the door just outside our isolation room on the south side of our hospital. This allows EMS and patients to enter isolation without coming through the building. We are wondering if cement to build a sidewalk would be an allowable expense?</p>	<p>Yes. The sidewalk will not require significant site work so allowable.</p>
<p>Can funds be used for physician salaries?</p>	<p>Refer to Allowable Uses of Funding (Pages 4 & 5) https://krhop.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-SHIP - Allowable-Uses-of-Funding.pdf</p>
<p>Can you use the excess cap salaries that didn't qualify for the PPP and use that portion of salaries with this grant (these are the higher paid individuals)</p>	<p>Meaning unclear. Please clarify.</p>
<p>Is there a limit to the amount that can be used for hazard pay? Does it have to be run through payroll or can it be in gift card form?</p>	<p>No cap on hazard pay but the amount must be reasonable and based on hospital's policies and procedures in place that specifically address unexpected or emergency circumstances (Hazard/premium pay, furlough pay, leave policy, reassignment, lost productivity, etc.). Must also have policies and procedures in place to specifically address the use of gift cards as a form of payment for hazard pay. Unallowable until policies and procedures are in place.</p>

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<p>We would like to give each employee a one-time payment of \$100 hazard pay for working with coronavirus crisis, which would total about \$15,000. We are thinking of doing the \$100 dollars as Chamber Bucks, which is paper money that the employee can spend at the local stores. Then the local stores bring the Chamber Bucks to the hospital to get a reimbursement check issued to them. We are wondering if this would be an allowable and what documentation would we need? We would provide you with a list of employees that received the pay and have list of each check we issued to the local stores. Would this sufficient documentation or would we need more?</p>	<p>Hospital must have policies and procedures in place that specifically address unexpected or emergency circumstances (Hazard/premium pay, furlough pay, leave policy, reassignment, lost productivity, etc.). Must also have policies and procedures in place to specifically address the use of Chamber Bucks as a form of payment for hazard pay. Unallowable until policies and procedures are in place.</p>
<p>Can we use funds on an upgraded electronic health system? Not for the equipment but for the operating agreement/monthly payment. The agreement was signed originally in December 2019 but just finished with all of the installation in May 2020.</p>	<p>NO. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Can we use funds to purchase a copier? We have a copier at the nurses station that will not fax or copy very well so the nurses have to go to a different area to make copies for transfers. With COVID patients, we need to be able to have the copier/fax machine closer.</p>	<p>No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Can we use funds to upgrade our portable xray machine. We would utilize the portable xray machine if we had a COVID-19 patient in order to xray the patient in a more contained manner. Currently we have to take the image, go down the hall to develop it and see if it is a good image, then if it is not go back down the hall to take another picture.</p>	<p>Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.</p>

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<p>Can we use funds to purchase an ultrasound unit? This would allow us to place PICC lines ourselves. We currently have to outsource that and we have had delays of several days. If we were to have a COVID patient, our medical team would like to have the capability to place a PICC line right away in order to give the patient antibiotics, etc.</p>	<p>Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.</p>
<p>Would the purchase of a Fast Sono would be allowable? This would allow less exposure to other health care workers if the provider could do the entire exam and not have to send them to Sono also. It would be used on suspected COVID patients with issues regarding the heart, lungs, blood in the belly, etc.</p>	<p>Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.</p>
<p>Would the purchase the Cerner Acute Case Management (RC-20150) software package from Cerner be allowed? This is a medical management solution that helps establish and maintain an efficient work environment and monitors care process utilization appropriateness. The Cerner Acute Case Management modules help health care professionals translate and integrate existing clinical and financial data into meaningful information that can be used to improve performance and efficiency.</p>	<p>No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Are we able to use the SHIP funds on outreach to the community to help keep them safe? i.e. providing school kids with masks and their own lunch pale to keep them safe or individuals their own water bottle so they don't use drinking fountains</p>	<p>The proposed use of funds is <i>not</i> allowable, since the intent of SHIP-COVID funding is to support hospital staff and patient safety. Allowable activities specific to community safety include outreach and education around hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and COVID-19 transmission, using existing materials where available.</p>
<p>We are doing drive up radiology, the patients no longer walk through the building, they are curbside and come right into the building, we want to put an awning at that entry to cover from weather, would that be covered? Not only safety but handicap accessible?</p>	<p>Funds can be used to retrofit space but not for new construction. Remember that retrofitted cost can only be reimbursed up to 10% of the grant award.</p>
<p>Environmental items like a floor scrubber, stripper to assist with floor cleaning?</p>	<p>No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>

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Would the funds cover electronic doors, no touch handicap accessible automatic doors?	No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.
Do you think a new refrigerator in our lab would fall under upgrading or purchasing lab equipment? Covid tests much be kept cold until picked up by the courier and we are in need of a better fridge. What do you think?	No. This is an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.
We do not have an RT on staff and haven't for probably 15 years. Can we use COVID-SHIP funds to pay for an RT person if we were to hire one? If we had an RT on staff, we would be able to keep hospitalized patients in our facility, instead of transferring them out due to low O2 numbers. Plus, RT follow-up for previously positive COVID patients who now require outpatient treatment from the side effect of having COVID. Or can we use COVID-SHIP funds to pay for an RT consult at another hospital for COVID patients? This would be through an MOU with a sister hospital. We would have RT come over for initial inpatient consult or set up some outpatient RT for those that have had COVID, and it now affects their breathing.	Yes - during the timeframe of this grant period only. Since the grant is for the specific timeframe, the salary post grant period would have to be added to your budget or we have seen people use it to fill temporary positions until they know what their capacity/needs are moving forward. Yes - the consult option would be a very 'easy' way for record keeping of this grant and limits the risk of creating a position and possibly having to lay them off once the grant period is past and/or your grant funds are exhausted.
Signage, lettering, newspaper ads, community communications	Yes
Laptops to keep staff socially distanced and working remotely as needed	Yes
Locks and door upgrades	No. These are an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.
Could the Qualaris auditing tool hospitals use for hand hygiene audits be paid for with SHIP COVID funds?	No. The tool would not be something you would have to have to complete audit, while a nice tracking tool, we couldn't find a specific way to make it fit in the SHIP COVID grant
Zoll AutoPulse Resuscitation: To be used to provide compressions and aid in resuscitation efforts. This will be used for a couple of purposes 1) so that multiple staff can avoid	Yes
LiteGait Hands-Free Therapeutic System: To be used by physical therapists to allow our clinicians to be hands-free when working with patients. This limits the direct physical contact between clinicians and patients to prevent the risk of COVID spread.	No. These are an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.

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<p>Airway Clearance Vest: Used for Respiratory Therapy on COVID patients or other patients with respiratory issues. The system dislodges mucus from bronchial walls and mobilizes secretions and mucus from the smaller to larger airways where it can be cleared by coughing or suctioning. Not only beneficial to improve respiratory conditions, but also minimizes the direct contact from the respiratory therapist who may otherwise have to do this manually through continued direct contact.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Respironics BiPAP V30: An airway management system that could be used both on COVID patients requiring airway assistance. With only one Respiratory Therapist in our hospital, this function is left to nursing personnel, and the V30 takes the guesswork out of titration using technology to automatically titrate pressure to each patients' needs.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Adding negative pressure to the emergency room: to improve air quality.</p>	<p>Yes, but construction costs are limited to 10% of the total award of \$83,612.88</p>
<p>Wheelchairs and ice machine</p>	<p>No. These are an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Is a refrigerator for vaccine and monoclonal antibody storage an approved Covid Ship grant expense?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Our nursing staff has expressed concern with treating COVID patients when most of them come to our facility dehydrated complicating iv placement. Is a vein viewer an acceptable purchase through the COVID SHIP grant?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>We have one hall of acute rooms in our facility with one negative air pressure room. This hall is attached to our senior living and hospital. We could not afford to convert additional rooms to negative air pressure for covid positive patients; therefore, we purchased these IWave units to improve air quality and decrease infectious agent transmission through our air system. Attached is information on IWave units that were purchased and attached to our HVAC system that are designed to purify air and reduce pathogens by decomposing surface proteins and inhibiting their activity. We are asking if these would qualify for use of the Covid 19 SHIP funds.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Do you know if the COVID SHIP grant can be used to purchase a LUCAS device for hands free chest compressions? It would help with staffing issues and infection control since it would take one less person in the room.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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<p>They say you can use your current TVs in patient rooms but we need to upgrade those to commercial grade so they will work with our beds for volume control so I would want to get new TVs plus this system. I think it looks neat and they have other options such as tablets etc. which I think we would use for family calls etc. https://business.amwell.com/telemedicine-equipment/hospital-tv-kit/</p>	<p>Yes - you can enhance telemedicine infrastructure.</p>
<p>I would like to clarify on an allowable purchase for the Covid Ship grant. On the Kansas specific questions: it is asked about a CT upgrade and it says lease or purchase of radiological to aid in testing and dx of covid-19 is allowed. But earlier it said it has to be movable equipment. So, I was just wanting to clarify an upgrade to our CT would be allowable?</p>	<p>Yes - Lease or purchase of radiological equipment to aid in testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 is allowed.</p>
<p>Legal advise on testing employees.</p>	<p>No. These are an operational cost that is not specific to COVID.</p>
<p>Would installing wifi access points be paid for with funds? We are adding more vital machines and telemetry, including in the COVID rooms, but wifi is an issue, so we are installing more wifi for surge capacity and possibly to relocate patients if needed.</p>	<p>Yes - if the funds provide support to the hospitals to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19</p>
<p>We want to buy a vehicle to transfer mass quantities of stuff that we would need for drive up or newly set up testing or vaccination clinics.</p>	<p>This is allowable. Please see below from page 3 of the updated FAQs on allowable equipment.</p>
<p>I am looking at replacing some of our beds, bedside tables, and IV poles, utilizing the SHIP COVID-19 money. I just wanted to make sure that this is an acceptable use for these dollars. In order to prepare for a potential surge, we would not have enough of the above functioning equipment to handle that capacity. We have 16 rooms that are currently routinely utilized (licensed for 25 - and even more with the emergency request for licensing extra bed capacity), but our surge capacity is much higher. We typically use our supply of equipment in the extra rooms for repairing what we routinely use. We would not have enough functioning beds and other equipment to supply the surge capacity. I want to make sure we are in compliance with the guidelines.</p>	<p>This is allowable. Please see below from page 3 of the updated FAQs on allowable equipment. From FAQ page 6: Is it allowable to use equipment purchased for COVID patients on other patients too? For example, telehealth equipment? Equipment purchased with COVID SHIP funds is primarily for the use of COVID-19 related care. However, equipment may also be used for other patients.</p>

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<p>My CEO is wondering if ship covid funds could be used towards replacing the carpet on some of our walls due to infection control issue of not being able to effectively clean the carpet. The cost of replacing all the carpet on the walls in the facility would be a large sum of money. I am assuming after looking at the guidance you sent out previously, that the total cost of the project could not exceed 10% of the ship grant and we would need at least two bids.</p>	<p>Yes, this is allowable, and like the question states, please remember that any alteration/renovation projects have a 10% limit on the cost of actual renovation or contractor costs for labor on that project. Equipment purchases as part of an A/R project are NOT included in the 10% cost. Please see the excerpt below from the COVID SHIP FAQs page 11 below.</p>
<p>We are looking at buying chairs for the waiting rooms that have a cleanable surface. We currently have cloth covered chairs and understand for appropriate infection control we need to replace these. I understand that under the safety section of the allowable uses it states: "Ensure and enhance as needed to align with evolving recommendations, implementation of infection control plans and procedures, particularly regarding surface, space, clothing, and instrument cleaning/sanitization." I feel like this would qualify for this per the verbage above, but I want some clarification in case it is not a covered expense. Any guidance would be appreciated.</p>	<p>This is allowable. Language from FAQ: If these replacements are essential and related to COVID-19 response, as stated in the Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds, it is and allowable expenses. However, if these replacements would be part of the general office maintenance then it is not allowable. A supply purchase if under \$5000.</p>
<p>Can SHIP funds be used to build a helipad in response to COVID. We've had many transportation challenges with COVID some of which would be resolved with the installation of a pad to land helicopters on our campus.</p>	<p>This seems unallowable and NOT in line with the COVID SHIP Allowable Uses of funds. See below from Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds. Moreover, any alteration/renovation projects have a 10% limit on the cost of actual renovation or contractor costs for labor on that project.</p> <p>The following are ineligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Purchase or upgrade of an electronic health record (EHR) that is not certified by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; •New construction activities (new stand-alone structure) and/or associated work required to expand a structure to increase the total square feet of a facility; •Significant site work such as new parking lots or storm water structures; •Work outside of the building other than improvements to the building entry for handicapped accessibility, generator concrete pads, and other minor ground disturbance; •Installation of a permanently affixed modular or prefabricated building; and •Facility or land purchases