

Allowable Uses of Funds
SHIP COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation

The following tables provide information about allowable uses of funds under the SHIP COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation grant. Remember that all costs must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the grant. All costs must relate to testing and mitigation activities. The framework for allowable activities focus on items that improve the hospital and health care operations and systems on the whole, not from the individual patient or provider outcomes perspective and not related to direct patient care

General Testing and Mitigation

Allowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for testing, including procuring, providing or processing COVID-19 tests (including at home testing kits) • Simultaneous multi-disease tests that include COVID • Mitigation activities for COVID and other related respiratory disease • Hospital and community level testing and education (including home health, hospice, long term care partners) • Supporting EMS as they relate to testing and mitigation efforts, and part of a system improvement process
Unallowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs related to treatment or direct care • Vaccine purchase or dissemination, including boosters

Minor Alterations and Renovation

Allowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration/renovations that do not qualify as construction to create isolation areas for potential COVID patients • Alteration/renovations that update surfaces to more sanitary materials • Alterations/renovations that do not qualify as construction to renovate laboratories are other key spaces for more safe and efficient testing • Automating doors and other high touch surfaces, such as sinks and toilets. • Creating negative pressure spaces in common spaces such as waiting rooms and bathrooms • Installing tents, sheds, or other temporary structures to use for testing or mitigation activities • Purchasing and installing HVAC and associated expenses • Purchasing and installing ionized filtration systems for HVAC units
Ask Healthworks Prior to Purchase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Alteration/Renovation request that exceed 50% of the hospital's total award • Creating negative pressure spaces that are not in a common area such as a waiting room or bathroom
Unallowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction costs. Construction includes any of the following:

- Construction of a building addition;
- Construction of a new building;
- Installation of a modular building;
- Building expansions;
- Work that increases the building footprint; and
- Significant new ground disturbance.
- Projects with a total cost of \$500,000 or greater.

Supplies and Equipment

Allowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Devices for fit testing masks or other personal protective equipment ● Educational materials for dissemination to the public ● Lab supplies and equipment for COVID testing ● Masks and respirators ● Portable equipment such as portable x-ray machines that prevent patients from having to be moved throughout the facility ● Sanitation and cleaning equipment, including disinfectant robots ● Temperature screening systems used for mitigation strategies ● Ultraviolet sanitation devices ● Upgrading or expanding for telemetry equipment as part of a larger mitigation strategy
Ask Healthworks Prior to Purchase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional beds ● Communication equipment such as radios for communication between EMS and Hospital ● Diagnostic supplies or equipment ● Electronic messaging boards ● Proximity badge systems ● Vehicles ● Video streaming equipment
Unallowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glidescopes ● Percussion beds ● Ventilators

Staffing

Allowable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost of paying screeners placed at facility entrance doors to protect both patients and employees ● Cost of staff time for testing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of staff time to courier tests to lab • Cost of staff time to develop and implement COVID-19 mitigation, including but not limited to preventing staff burnout and community care coordination activities • Cost of staff time for COVID-19 monitoring programs and/or contact tracing • Care coordination is allowable if it is for system level strategy, not direct individual patient care • Hiring costs such as advertising and recruitment costs
<p>Ask Healthworks Prior to Purchase</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of staff burnout strategies
<p>Unallowable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Childcare Assistance • Hazard pay • Hiring travel nurses • Housing allowances • Increasing salaries for existing staff • Meals for staff • Recruitment or retention bonuses • Staff Bonuses or incentive

Technology

<p>Allowable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital meeting technology in order to maintain physical distancing and reduce traffic throughout the facility. • EHR costs supportive of COVID testing and mitigation.

The following Questions and Answers have been provided by the Federal Office of Rural Health regarding allowable uses of funding.

1. If a hospital is part of a group, does education have to be specifically branded with the awarded hospital information, or can it only like the group? *Education can be branded in whatever way makes sense for the hospital and system and for community impact.*
2. Can funds be used to support home health and hospice agencies? What would the limitations be for that time? This would be to go out and test/support isolation of individuals and/or provide health checks to ensure patients are safe. *Yes, hospitals using funds to support home health and hospice agency for testing is allowed, as would be providing at home testing for patients. For supporting isolation of individuals, if it is structured in a way for system improvements vs individual health outcomes. For example, paying staff person at the hospital to develop a network with other community partners for solutions.*
3. Will funding be available for programs such as a COVID-19 monitoring program? This would be nurses reaching out to patients to support them while they self-monitor at home after a positive diagnosis. *Yes.*
4. Can the grant cover the cost of a creative agency to develop additional materials to educate the public? *Yes.*
5. Can a hospital purchase equipment to bring testing capabilities in house? *Yes.*
6. Could a care coordinator be covered by these funds from a mental health angle, getting needed services secured for patients, and ensuring follow up care for patients that have had the virus? *Yes, a care coordinator to implement system strategies for addressing mental health needs and follow-up care is allowable, but not direct care for individual patients.*
7. Could the use of staff to currier daily the tests from a hospital to a laboratory count? This helps to identify cases more quickly and allows contact tracing to initiate more quickly. *Yes.*
8. Can funding be put through a subcontract to another agency such as a Community Mental Health Center, Emergency Medical Services, or another Community Based Organization that can also support this work? *Yes. Hospitals may work with other organizations to support COVID Testing and Mitigation work.*
9. Can these funds can be used for mitigation activities for other infectious diseases in addition to COVID? *Yes.*
10. Would the cost of building an interface to allow for direct upload from EHR to wherever testing info needs to be reported? *Yes.*
11. Can funding be used to support CHWs? And are there limitations on that usage? For instance, would you be able to pay the salary of the CHW overall instead of payment for a direct service? *Funding may support CHW salary in support of activities specific to COVID Testing and Mitigation.*
12. Can funding be used to support EMS? And are there limitations on that usage? Would the creation of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare program to support testing and isolation efforts be allowed if it is a lump sum to support/collaborate with EMS? *These funds can support EMS as they relate to testing and mitigation efforts, and part of a system improvement process. Supporting the direct care of patients would not be covered.*

13. Will these funds cover the staff salary for the time they spend doing these activities? *Yes, provided that staff time is specific to Testing and Mitigation activities, staff-specific, and not charged to another federal award. The funding through this award should be used to complement, not duplicate or supplant, other funds received through existing payment or other programs supporting hospitals.*
14. Would these funds cover activities at the Hospital for our staff and providers continued training and education on prevention? Or is this just for education & activities we would do out in the community? *The funds cover hospital and community level education.*
15. Would a hospital be able to utilize the COVID Testing and Mitigation funding for adding broadband capacity to expand the range of mitigation and educational activities to the community and their patients? *Yes, this falls under “use digital technologies to strengthen the hospital’s core capacity to support the public-health response to COVID-19.”*
16. A hospital (Federal Identification Number) includes the ownership of both the hospital and long-term care facility, they are currently testing long-term care and residential housing employees weekly. Is this an eligible cost? *Yes.*
17. The examples indicate that funds may be spent on education on prevention of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Are there other areas where the approach to COVID mitigation might include other infectious diseases as well? *Yes, as many strategies would have overlapping impact with COVID and other related diseases.*
18. May SHIP ARP funds be used for the emerging testing technologies that include COVID-19 with other diseases in one test? *Yes.*
19. Can the funds be used to pay the cost for COVID reagents for the PCR unit we use for testing? *Yes*
20. Our hospital waiting room is a single, large room so we have no way to segregate outpatients waiting for COVID testing from other, perhaps “well” patients who are here for outpatient testing. Could these funds be used to renovate our waiting room to provide more segregation of patients? *Yes*
21. Can we spend funds on COVID booster shot related expenses anticipated? *These funds cannot be used to purchase or disseminate vaccines, however, vaccine education is allowable.*
22. Could funds be used to support COVID long hauler symptoms, or for example, post-COVID syndrome patients may need financial assistance for travel to specialty clinic in Boston? *No, treatment for COVID long haul or covering travel for patients is not allowed.*
23. Could these funds support Employee PPE for N95 access if another wave? *Yes*
24. Employee daycare options/assistance. *No*