



For Immediate Release
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HCAM Requests Additional Funding in COVID-19 Supplemental

The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) today expressed support for additional financial resources directed to nursing facilities facing significant financial challenges due to COVID-19.

“Nursing facilities have been partners in the state’s response to the pandemic, working every day to protect our most vulnerable population,” said Melissa Samuel, President and CEO of HCAM. “Providers need help to bridge the gap in the coming months as we continue the vaccination efforts underway to protect our residents and staff. This will allow for operations to return to normal and census and revenues to stabilize. Providers and caregivers need this help today.”

HCAM is requesting \$30 million from the state’s general fund - a total of \$100 million when federal matching dollars are added - targeted to the facilities hardest hit by the pandemic. The increased costs of the pandemic – PPE, wages, and operational changes – are ongoing, and statewide census has dropped more than ten percent since the start of the pandemic.

Decreased utilization and increased federal Medicaid dollars have resulted in significant savings to the state. HCAM estimates approximately \$160 million in state and federal dollars that was saved in FY 2019-2020 due to statewide census declining more than 10 percent – savings that will also be realized in FY 2020-2021.

Under the HCAM proposal, buildings with a census drop of at least 5 percentage points from their 2019 census would receive additional payment. Facilities that have had census drop of less than 5 percentage points would not qualify for payment.

“Michigan’s skilled nursing facilities have been on the front lines of this pandemic, and it has cost them physically, emotionally and financially,” said Samuel. “They need financial assistance to continue to provide essential services to our state’s seniors.”

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HCAM is a statewide trade association representing 356 nursing facilities, including proprietary, not for profit, county medical and hospital-based long-term skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities.