

Dear AAP members:

Yesterday, Congress passed needed supplemental funding to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This program has helped many pediatrician practices and we encourage those still eligible to apply.

Earlier this week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released its second wave of funding through the CARES Provider Relief Fund. The AAP has been working hard to assure that pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgeons receive needed help. We have been in regular communication with HHS senior officials and the White House and had been assured that pediatricians would be included in this round of funding. Unfortunately, we were not.

The round of funding [announced](#) by HHS targets hospitals, Medicare providers, and rural hospitals and clinics. While pediatricians who have provided COVID-19 testing or treatment to uninsured patients [can apply for reimbursement](#), we are deeply concerned that pediatricians are left out of the funding going out in this round. We have reason to believe that pediatricians may be eligible for an additional allocation of funding, the details and timing of which have yet to be announced. We will make every effort possible to advocate for this.

Pediatric practices across the country are hurting. This [New York Times article](#) published yesterday crystallizes one especially dangerous outcome of the crisis on pediatricians' ability to continue to keep the doors open: missed appointments for childhood vaccines. A vaccine-preventable disease outbreak during a global pandemic would be a public health crisis adding needless morbidity and mortality to a health system already stretched thin.

AAP President Sally Goza, MD, FAAP, did 20 television interviews yesterday on a virtual media tour, all focused on the urgent need for parents to continue seeing their pediatrician and on the tremendous challenges pediatric practices, including hers, are facing right now.

If you've had to make changes to your practice, whether furloughing or laying off staff, or if you have genuine concerns about your ability to stay open for business over the next month or two absent federal funding, please share your perspective with us at www.aap.org/COVIDstory. In addition to using these stories as advocacy tools, we will be sharing them on social media using [#PedsPutKids1st](#) to highlight all our members are doing to keep children and communities safe during COVID-19.

We are not done fighting for this needed financial relief. Far from it. As we continue to make the case to the Administration and Congress to provide this essential, urgent funding for pediatricians, we need your help to amplify our message. The more stories and data we can point to on the ground of the toll this lack of federal support is having on pediatric practices, the more effective our advocacy will be. Thank you for all you are doing every day.

Sincerely,

Mark Del Monte, JD

Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President