

Summary of American Recovery Plan Proposals for The Chair of Joint Appropriations Committee

Environmental Air Improvements for Nursing Homes Grants: Available to all AL and NH 1st come, 1st serve

Appropriate \$2,500,000 in grant funds to provide licensed long-term care facilities: assisted living (AL) and nursing homes (NH,) opportunities to improve air handling or filtration to reduce airborne pathogens. No individual grant recipient should receive more than \$25,000 or more than \$500 per bed.

Nursing Home Private Room Conversions: for Medicaid residents to prevent spread of infections between roommates

Appropriate funds to the Montana Facilities Finance Authority for nursing homes to make conversions of shared occupancy units to private occupancy units for Medicaid residents. Appropriations could be 50% matching grants: recommended appropriation \$20,000,000 and alternate if allowed would be a forgivable loan program based on Medicaid units converted.

Telehealth Broadband and Connectivity Improvements for Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

Appropriate \$1,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services to provide \$10,000 grants to licensed **healthcare facilities to improve “dead spots;” resulting in more effective telehealth for patients and providers.**

COVID-19 Intravenous Infusion Therapy Partnerships: 5 regional partnerships in the State

Appropriate 5 x \$250,000 grants to five collaborative partnerships between two or more healthcare providers to provide COVID-19 IV Infusion services. These therapies are proven to reduce hospitalization if provided early in COVID-19 detection.

Rapid Response COVID-19 Testing and Surveillance

Appropriate 5 x \$250,000 grants to five “existing” local laboratories that will commit to maintaining core staff and equipment to rapidly respond to future COVID-19 surges in their region over the next two years. These labs must be ready to provide 48 hour results at a moment’s notice. As appropriated funds are for maintenance staff & equipment, labs would be able to charge insurance and contract with state to recover variable cost of tests and increased staffing.

Long-Term Care and Home Bound Vaccination and Testing Support:

Appropriate 5 x \$250,000 grants to five of the largest populated areas of Montana to fund staff and vehicles to provide mobile services for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations to assisted living and home bound seniors for two years. The partnerships will be a high priority recipient of needed supplies from any State supply allocations.

Continuation of \$40 Medicaid Rate Enhancement:

Support revenue improvements through FMAP enhancements.

Center for Infectious Disease Management for Older Adults (CIDMOA): (detailed proposal is attached)

Appropriate \$25 Million dollars of H.R. 1319 section 9901 to the Department of Health and Human Services to establish regional CIDMOAs. \$9,000,000 for a ready pilot CIDMOA in Billings, MT. This is supported by local hospitals, the Montana Hospitals Associations and the Yellowstone County Economic Response and Recovery Team to minimize the impact of business interruption and hospital demands from future COVID-19 surges.