



With **Richie Splitt**  
President & CEO

## March 3, 2022

### Healer Labor Pool

Thank you to Healers who have worked in the Labor Pool to support other departments. The Labor Pool was set up to quickly match healers with departments most in need of assistance. You are making a big difference during our time of great need. To sign up, please [click here](#).

### HealthPlex Construction Viewing, Starts March 3

Construction is changing the shape, footprint and size of our HealthPlex hospital! Work has begun in the interior with the main lobby area completely closed for renovations.

While these changes are big, they are difficult to see with certain areas blocked off for safety. Based on feedback from one of our healers, James Forehand, we are opening the 8th Floor Innovation Studio for special Construction Viewing Events.

During these events, healers can visit the 8th Floor of the HealthPlex to observe all the construction activities.

Beginning March 3, Construction Viewing Events will occur on the first and third

## COVID-19 Relief Funds

In the past month several healers have asked about COVID-19 relief funds and the amount received by Norman Regional Health System. Though we've shared that information previously, I thought it might be well-timed to recap federal funds provided to NRHS since the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

**NRHS has received a total of roughly \$34 million to date.** All of these funds were restricted to specific uses as described below. We continue to look for additional federal grants to support our health system's ongoing response to COVID-19. A more exact breakdown is as follows:

- 1. Human Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Provider Relief Funds** were available for healthcare providers to prevent, prepare for, and to respond COVID-19 and for the related expenses and lost revenue attributable to the pandemic. NRHS received a total of **nearly \$34 million** spread across fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. These funds were used to offset the expenses and lost revenue connected to hospital acute care services, supplies, testing, and treatments for COVID-19 patients only. However, **the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NRHS is estimated to be between \$60 million and \$70 million in lost revenue and increased expenses.** That means the roughly \$34 million received by NRHS **covered approximately 50% of the expenses and lost revenue associated with the pandemic.**
- 2. Hospital Association COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Activities Grant** funds were allocated to NRHS to support and improve the preparedness and response capabilities needed for COVID-19. This includes preparing to safely and successfully identify, isolate, assess, transport, and treat patients with COVID-19 or persons under investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19, as well as to prepare for future special pathogen disease outbreaks. **NRHS received \$18,690 in FY20.**

Thursdays of the month as well as the second Saturday of the month.

Upcoming event times include:

- Thursday, March 3, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. and 3 – 4 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 17, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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### Pop Up Auxiliary Business Events

The Porter and HealthPlex Daily Grind and Gift Shop will be open late on Thursday, March 3 from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Bring your coupon books! They will honor them for this event.

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### Readers Choice Awards

It is time for this year's Norman Transcript's Readers Choice Awards and we need your vote! [Vote by clicking here.](#)

Norman Regional is in the running for multiple categories, including: Best Fitness Center/Gym, Best Hospital/Health Care Facility, Best Physical Therapy, Best Physical Therapist, Best Cardiologist, Best Doctor/Physician, Best Physician Assistant and Best Nurse.

I know the healers of NRHS are the best in all categories, so spread the word. It is time to vote for the best!

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### Function Well @ The Well

Join functional medicine physician Castel Santana, MD for "Function Well" - a free wellness workshop every third Thursday of the month at The Well! This is a great opportunity

3. **COVID-19 Telehealth Program** provided funding appropriated by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to help health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **NRHS received \$912,652** that was quickly deployed throughout our primary and specialty care clinics for improved patient access during the COVID-19 shutdown of 2020. NRHS enrolled nearly 200 providers onto our Virtual Care platform in less than 72 hours; an achievement recognized nationally by Amwell, the company that supports our telehealth software.
4. **Oklahoma Ambulance Association (OKAMA) COVID Cares Funds for EMS and Specialty Care Transport** provided NRHS' EMSSTAT ambulance service with **\$142,457 in funding to support emergency medical transportation** during the pandemic. These funds were used primarily to purchase masks, gowns, and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against potential exposures to COVID-19.
5. **Oklahoma Hospital Association (OHA) National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program** provided **\$43,900 in funding** for the urgent preparedness and response needs of hospitals, health systems, and health care providers to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

To summarize, since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Congress, states, and both the Trump and Biden Administrations adopted numerous policies to ease financial pressure on hospitals and other health care providers. The infusion of funds was intended to help alleviate the financial impact of revenue loss due to delays in non-urgent care, coupled with new and unexpected costs associated with COVID-19.

With the ongoing prospect of emerging virus variants, it is unclear how hospitals and providers will endure the costs associated with a pandemic response. However, the American Hospital Association and others continue to urge Congress to make available more funding to support hospitals like Norman Regional and preserve access to care for communities across America.

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## HealthPlex Chapel Moves Next Week

Construction continues at the HealthPlex. The most recent change is the temporary relocation of the Chapel to the second floor in the Labor & Delivery east lounge on Monday, March 7.

to learn more about functional medicine.

March 17

Sleep and Recovery: Get more than just Z's. Sleep can help your body heal itself.

All Function Well events are from 6-7 p.m. at the Well, 210 James Garner Ave, Norman, OK 73069.

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### Hiring Events

In-Person Hiring Events | For Clinical and Non-Clinical positions

4-6 p.m.

Thursday, March 3 at Norman Regional Hospital Education Center

Tuesday, April 5 at Norman Regional Moore Conference Center

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There will be more updates in the near future, but the Chapel moving is the next step in the overall Inspire Health construction project at the HealthPlex.

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## Healthcare Appreciation Day at OU Softball Tourney

The University of Oklahoma Softball team will be playing in the Hall of Fame Classic tournament in Oklahoma City from March 18 to March 20.

The softball program wants to recognize healthcare workers and first responders and give them discounted all day session passes for March 19 when the OU softball team has two games! The tickets can be purchased directly through the link below.

Boomer Sooner!

<https://fevo.me/softballhalloffameclassic>

Be Well,



*President & Chief Executive Officer  
Norman Regional Health System*

