



1. FEMA recently extended the time period applicable for COVID-related relief in its public assistance program. What is the approximate magnitude of any potential relief and what considerations have you made in pursuing this potential fund source? If you have already applied indicate any known timing or estimated funds you may receive.

**Springfield Hospital has met twice with Guidehouse Consulting (Disaster Recovery Consultant) and is presently working on the submission of a FEMA application. The process involves a great deal of detail to gather information, invoices, timesheets, and charges. This is a priority following completion of the budget process. Our goal is to file with the State of Vermont by September 30<sup>th</sup> if at all possible; and it is our understanding that the State of Vermont filing is due by no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. It is too early in the process to estimate the amount of funding we may receive.**

2. Describe the method(s) used to estimate the effect of inflation on your expenses. Include how the calculations are applied to expense categories (e.g. wage and salary, pharmaceuticals).

**On average, we included 5.5% for supplies, drugs, outside services, etc. This number was taken in consideration of the IRS projection of a 5.5% increase in 2023, as well as the *National Health Expenditure Projections 2021-2030-CMS* which expected healthcare costs to rise between 5.0% and 5.1% in 2023, and Medicare is expected to rise by 5.9%.**

3. How does your organization evaluate the affordability of services for patients?

**Affordability/access was identified as an issue in our 2019 needs assessment and is also being identified as a priority concern in our 2022 assessment. Online surveys, paper surveys, focus groups, and community leader surveys were used during our assessments. A workgroup began meeting in March 2021. Data is being collected regarding the number of people requesting financial assistance, and levels and types of assistance utilized. A plan will be developed with targets to improve identified baseline measures. This workgroup will be prioritized as a result of our 2022 needs assessment.**

4. Do you anticipate any changes to your budgeted fixed prospective payments for FY23?

**Changes are minimal in FPP plans as Springfield Hospital is limited in OneCare for Medicaid, Blue Cross and MVP.**