

- 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.

We have not and do not intend to utilize FEMA funding for our organization.

- 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).

The methodology used to develop a baseline for expenses incorporates actual activity, year-to-date through March. We then apply the inflation percentage necessary to arrive at the final budgeted expense, which incorporates the additional inflationary factors that became effective mid-year FY 2022 (which is not included in the baseline). Additionally, we incorporated the increases in expense due to fuel surcharges as a result of the recent increases in gasoline prices. Furthermore, during the latter part of our budget process, we secured our fuel oil prices, which have increased 47% over the prior season. Due to the recent increases in pharmaceutical expenses, we incorporated the anticipated inflation percentage into our budget.

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

Maintaining affordability for patients is always a consideration when setting a pricing methodology each year. We ensure that we are sensitive to those patients with high deductible plans, patients who are underinsured, as well as our uninsured patient population when we evaluate the impacts of increasing our charges. We recently adopted a proactive approach with uninsured patients to put them in contact with our financial counselor as close to the date of service as possible to evaluate insurance and financial assistance options available to them. For the underinsured, we offer financial assistance and work with those patients on affordable payment plan options. Additionally, we consistently evaluate innovative industry practices related to financial assistance to adopt those that would be beneficial to our patient population.

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

We do not anticipate any material changes to our fixed prospective payments for FY 2023.