



189 Prouty Drive | Newport, VT 05855 | 802.334.7331

- 1) FEMA recently extended the time period for eligible COVID-related expenses in its public assistance program. Do you anticipate pursuing any of this funding? If so, what is the approximate timing and estimated amount of any potential funding?
North Country Hospital did not meet the criteria for FEMA funding initially or currently so we will not be pursuing any future funding.
- 2) Describe the methods 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).

Wages – When determining the amount of the wage increases, we take into account the current rate of inflation and market information. The percentage is applied to a current payroll file and the estimated increase is calculated. This increase is added to the appropriate categories in Adaptive.

Benefits – North Country's largest benefit expense is health insurance. We employ an outside consultant – Acadia Benefits – to assess both the claim history and the inflationary increases expected for the upcoming year and use their recommendations for budget. Other increases are sent to us from the companies providing benefits such as dental, vision, and life insurances and we incorporate these amounts into our expense as applicable.

Supplies – For the budget the supply costs start with an annualization of the current costs. We then consult with the Director of Materials management who provides the best estimate of what costs are going to increase based on his professional knowledge.

Pharmaceuticals – Same as supplies

- 3) How does your organization evaluate the affordability of services for patients?
North Country Hospital currently employs three financial Navigators who assist patients with obtaining health care coverage through Medicaid or the Exchange . The Navigators also help patients complete free care applications. North Country consistently provides approximately two million dollars in free care each year to patients to assist with medical bills.
- 4) Do you anticipate any changes to your budgeted fixed prospective payments for FY23?
No, we do not expect any changes in our budgeted fixed prospective payments for FY23. The amount is based on what has been received this fiscal year annualized and we do not see any material changes in FY23.