

COVID-19 FAQ

4. We believe that lost revenue and other costs/expenses will be much less than our stimulus payment and we fear the quarterly reports will show this disparity and subject us to scrutiny. We are thinking about not accepting the money, but what are the advantages of keeping the stimulus payment?

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Answer: There are numerous ways in which the funds can be spent, and from what we currently understand, there is no requirement that the stimulus payment be refunded if it is not completely used. Remember that the stimulus money can have a fairly broad application, and not solely limited to covering lost revenue from balance billing and direct transport costs. One significant requirement is that **payment will only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and shall reimburse the Recipient only for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus.**

Ultimately, whether or not your service wants to accept the money or return it (hoping to muddle through with your current reimbursement) is a business decision. However, factors that need to be taken into consideration include:

- If overall call volume is down, the lost revenue from this decreased volume is an allowable expense this stimulus payment is designed to help cover.
- Employees are sick, quarantined, or calling off work (for fear of becoming infected), so overtime costs are up, or salaries are temporarily boosted to thank those employees for their hard work and dedication.
- Health insurance costs for employees might increase, as might workers compensation premiums. This could factor into the added expense.
- There is no telling how long this health crisis will last. Although things might be going well for your service right now, at some time down the road, costs, and expenses attributable to COVID-19 might increase.
- Costs and expenses already incurred prior to receiving the funds can still be factored into the overall expense. The government recognizes that these extraordinary circumstances have caused additional expenses that companies were not expecting.
- The stimulus money should be placed into a separate account and careful tracking must occur when it is accessed to cover costs and expenses.