



6/29/2021

The Honorable Spencer J. Cox
State Capitol
350 State St,
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Dear Governor Cox:

On behalf of the members of the Utah Assisted Living Association (UALA) we thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UALA is made up of owners and operators of assisted living, memory care, continuing care retirement and independent living communities. These communities care for over 15,000 across 209 facilities seniors in Utah. These residents average 85 years of age, with the majority having chronic health conditions and needing assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, eating, toileting, as well as personal and health care services—services which cannot be socially distanced.

I am writing today to ask that \$250K be allocated amongst all providers on a per licensed assisted living/personal care bed basis to help senior living providers recoup some of the financial losses they have incurred as a result of extraordinary efforts to keep residents and employees safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. A table is included in this correspondence detailing our request.

Senior living providers have incurred \$253,585,131 in expenses for procuring gowns, gloves, masks and other infection prevention and control supplies, hero pay, additional staff and lost revenue due to record-low occupancy rates—losses which are long-term, compounding, and unsustainable. Unfortunately, these facilities have not had the same access to federal relief as other providers. Through the federal Provider Relief Fund, which was established by the CARES Act, assisted living facilities have received to-date roughly \$1 billion nationwide (compared to \$12.5 billion for skilled nursing facilities, which also serve the same number of seniors (two million) as senior living facilities.

Over 85% of the residents that live in senior living communities privately pay for their care. Senior living provides an affordable option for seniors preserving Medicaid for the most financially challenged and frail seniors.

Unfortunately, senior living, including assisted living providers, were not addressed with any funding in the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 despite caring for the most vulnerable and most susceptible population to COVID-19. However, \$2.542 billion was provided for state and local funding to Utah.

We respectfully ask for your consideration to provide at the very least \$250k to senior living providers to enable them to continue operations and remain viable options for seniors to receive the care they need and to maintain Medicaid funding availability for our state's poorest citizens.

Sincerely,

Katie Mansell
Executive Director
Utah Assisted Living Association

Utah Assisted Living Association

Senior Living COVID-19 Provider Sustainability Relief Request

TOTAL ASSISTED LIVING LICENSED FACILITIES	TOTAL ASSISTED LIVING LICENSED BEDS	TOTAL ASSISTED LIVING ESTIMATED EXPENSES AND LOSSES*	RELIEF REQUESTED ALLOCATED AMONGST ALL PROVIDERS - PER BED
209	15,480	\$253,581,131*	\$250,000

*Loss projections are based on national loss data and severity of COVID-19 within the state.