

Trump administration sends \$12B to hospitals in virus hot spots

By Rachel Rouben

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The Trump administration is sending \$12 billion in relief funds to nearly 400 hospitals in the areas hardest hit by the coronavirus, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said this afternoon.

New York, New Jersey and Illinois received the most funding of any state in this latest batch of hospital bailout funds, she said. The vast majority, about \$10 billion, will go to hospitals with 100 or more Covid-19 patients, and the remaining \$2 billion will go to the 395 hospitals based on the number of low-income and uninsured patients they've treated.

Hard-hit areas receiving the most funds include Manhattan, the Bronx and Cook County, Illinois, McEnany said. The administration will provide a fuller accounting later, she said.

The hospital funding comes from a \$100 billion provider bailout fund included in the \$2.2 trillion relief package Congress approved in late March. The law gave HHS wide latitude to distribute the funds.

Health care providers have urged the administration to quickly distribute the funds, saying they've been losing money at a rapid clip due to the cancellation of elective surgeries that make up a bulk of their revenue. Providers treating poor and uninsured patients have complained that they've been overlooked in the funding HHS has already distributed.

Congress last week approved an additional \$75 billion for the provider fund, but HHS has not yet said how it will be distributed.