



Federal Dollars for COVID-19 Testing

The **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** [announced](#) the issuance of \$11 billion in new [funding](#) to support testing for COVID-19 – including \$10.25 billion to states, territories, and local jurisdictions through the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)** existing **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC)** cooperative agreement. The **Indian Health Service (IHS)** will provide \$750 million to IHS, tribal, and urban Indian Health programs to expand testing capacity and testing-related activities. Provided through the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**, the funding will provide critical support to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID-19 tests, conduct surveillance, trace contacts, and related activities. Each Governor or designee of each State, locality, territory, tribe, or tribal organization receiving funds shall submit to HHS its plan for COVID-19 testing, including goals for the remainder of calendar year 2020, to include:

- Number of tests needed, month-by-month to include diagnostic, serological, and other tests, as appropriate
- Month-by-month estimates of laboratory and testing capacity, including related to workforce, equipment and supplies, and available tests
- Description of how the resources will be used for testing, including easing any COVID-19 community mitigation policies

Jurisdictions will use the funding they receive to meet the testing goals laid out in their COVID-19 testing plans, including purchasing supplies (such as test kits and other testing supplies, as necessary), according to HHS.

(Source: *Healthcare Daily Roundup*, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Federal Government Relations, May 21, 2020)