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Iowa Health Care Association Foundation Receives \$25,000 from Amerigroup Foundation to Support COVID Recovery Fund

West Des Moines, Iowa – The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Foundation has been awarded \$25,000 from Amerigroup Foundation to support its COVID Recovery Fund for Iowa’s long-term care providers.

“Iowa’s long-term care providers serve Iowa’s elderly and medically fragile citizens, who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IHCA Foundation’s COVID Recovery Fund was established shortly after the pandemic began in 2020 to support those care providers in their efforts to protect their residents and staff from this terrible virus,” said Lori Ristau, IHCA Foundation Executive Director. “The need for support continues, as providers continue to face ongoing challenges related to the pandemic. We are grateful for the support from Amerigroup Foundation, which will enable us to help even more care providers protect their residents and staff from COVID with this fund.”

“We are grateful for the opportunity to work with IHCA to assist our long-term care provider community and their workforce with COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and recovery resources,” said Jeffrey Jones, Amerigroup Iowa Plan President. “This funding from Amerigroup Foundation will provide personal protective equipment, screening materials, cleaning supplies, vaccine education and mental health support for 60 providers so they can do their jobs safely and effectively. These ongoing efforts are part of Amerigroup’s coordinated response to COVID-19 for members, local community organizations, healthcare workers and our provider community.”

In Iowa, there are over 800 long-term care providers, including those who provide skilled nursing care, assisted living programs and home health care. IHCA member providers can apply for support from the IHCA Foundation’s COVID Recovery Fund to prevent, mitigate and recover from a COVID outbreak. Examples of ways the fund has been used include:

Prevention

- Screening supplies, such as thermometers
- Safe visitation or activity resources, such as iPads for socially distanced visits and activities
- Vaccine education for staff, such as bringing in a medical expert/speaker to discuss vaccine facts and answer staff questions or developing training programs or resources for staff specific to the vaccine

Mitigation

- Personal protective equipment, including masks, gloves, gowns and eye protection
- Cleaning supplies and air purification resources

Recovery

- Mental health support for staff, such as establishing an Employee Assistance Program
- Bringing in an educational speaker or crisis counselor to discuss mental health topics with staff

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Since starting the COVID Recovery Fund, the IHCA Foundation has helped 107 care providers with COVID support, thanks to the generous support of the fund's founding donors, including The MolinaCares Accord and Care Initiatives.

About the Iowa Health Care Association Foundation

Founded in 1988 by the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA), the mission of the IHCA Foundation is to foster excellence in long-term care for Iowans by building a stronger workforce. The IHCA Foundation carries out this mission by empowering individuals to reach their career goals in the long-term care profession through scholarships, career education and career access programs. IHCA Foundation programs help support career opportunities available in the long-term care continuum, including nursing facilities, assisted living programs, residential care facilities, senior living communities and home health agencies.

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