

Deficiency Funding Request For Minnesota Ebola Treatment Hospitals

Background:

- Led by the Minnesota Hospital Association, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota has designated four Ebola Treatment Hospitals— **Unity Hospital (Fridley), Children’s Hospital and Clinics (St. Paul campus), University of Minnesota Medical Center (Minneapolis) and Mayo Clinic Hospital St. Mary’s Campus (Rochester).**
- While all Minnesota hospitals are prepared to screen, assess, isolate and transfer suspected Ebola patients, only the four volunteering hospitals have made the necessary physical plant changes, equipment purchases and intense staff training to provide **treatment** to suspected and confirmed Ebola patients. The CDC has included the four hospitals on its list of Ebola Treatment Centers after a rigorous review of each hospital’s treatment rooms, protocols and staff preparedness.
- There have been costly “rule out” patient cases that have been treated in three of the four hospitals, during which the hospital must operate as if the patient is “positive” until they are cleared. This process takes multiple days and includes implementing an on-site incident command center, transferring and diverting other patients, instituting all proper protocols including the use of personal protective equipment, and hazardous waste disposal.
- The collaboration between the four hospitals and the Minnesota Department of Health has been, and is, critical to protecting the health of all Minnesotans during this public health threat. ***This was an interdependent response – the hospitals could not have responded without MDH and MDH could not have responded as efficiently without the partnering hospitals.***

Why support deficiency funding for the four Minnesota Ebola Treatment Hospitals?

- The four hospitals have incurred significant, unreimbursed costs as part of the state’s response to the Ebola crisis. While not final, a conservative estimate of cost is \$3.6 million for response efforts in 2014 alone.

Hospital	Known expenses through 2014**
Children’s Hospital & Clinics– St. Paul Campus	\$1,288,000
Mayo Clinic Hospital- St. Mary’s Campus	\$750,000
University of Minnesota Medical Center, part of Fairview Health System	\$921,000
Unity Hospital, part of Allina Health	\$401,000

*Expenses include: treatment costs of suspected patients, incident command, staff education/training/drills, purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), specialized laboratory supplies, hazardous waste disposal, physician time, staff overtime, and facilities/construction/renovation costs. **Expenses not included in this estimate: revenue loss from taking rooms out of service/diverting patients, and readiness costs for non-designated facilities.

- By stepping up to serve the state, the four hospitals have taken on the significant financial and resource risk that would have otherwise been borne by every single hospital in the state.
- The four hospitals are bearing a disproportionate burden of the cost to achieve the most efficient and effective statewide response to this public health threat. \$2 million in deficiency funding will help defray some of the costs that these hospitals incurred in 2014.

Please support the \$2 million deficiency request for Ebola Designated hospitals and EMS, and the \$891,000 deficiency request to the Minnesota Department of Health for unreimbursed costs in 2014.