

North Carolina Healthcare Foundation Utilizes \$25M in CRF to Purchase and Distribute PPE to All NC Hospitals and Healthcare Systems



UNC_Health_Care
@UNC_Health_Care

...

Thank you to the North Carolina Healthcare Association for their recent donation of earloop masks, gowns, & hand sanitizer! We are very thankful for their support. 🙌👏
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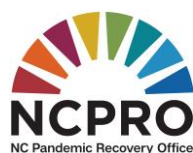


Screenshot of a Tweet by @UNC_Health_Care Thanking the NC Healthcare Association for PPE Donation

In June 2020, the Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) awarded the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation (NCHF) \$25 million in CARES Act funds earmarked specifically for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and lifesaving equipment for North Carolina hospitals and health systems. NCHF recruited NCHA Strategic Partners (NCHASP), the shared services division of the North Carolina Healthcare Association (NCHA), to manage the sourcing and procurement of PPE while abiding by the terms of the grant requirements.

NCHF and NCHASP leadership met and developed a strategy to procure and distribute PPE to all North Carolina (NC) hospitals and healthcare systems. Several factors were taken into consideration to understand the foremost product shortages including highest surge month usage of PPE, COVID cases reported by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and hospital bed size. One lesson learned was that there was no perfect method to allocate PPE. The goal was to make sure every hospital received product to assist them to take care of patients and staff.

During July 2020, NCHA member health systems and hospitals were surveyed to determine the main products that needed to be sourced. Responses received indicated a need for 20 specific PPE items,



including N95 masks, surgical masks, gloves, disposable and reusable gowns, and more. The Strategic Partners COVID response team connected with well-established companies in the supply chain industry to source and deliver the products.

As of February 15, 2021, 99.01% of the initial funds have been spent. With allocated CARES Act Funds, NCHA Strategic Partners and the NC Healthcare Foundation were able to purchase items in 16 of the requested PPE product categories resulting in meeting 80% of PPE needs identified by NC hospitals and health systems. An estimated 72+ million pieces of PPE have been delivered to 78 hospitals and healthcare systems representing 144 individual hospitals in NC. The anticipated delivery date for remaining orders is April 30, 2021.

The NCHA Strategic Partners efforts surrounding sourcing, purchasing and delivering personal protection equipment has been recognized by North Carolina and national news media and by other hospital associations around the country. Most important, we have been proud to be able to provide this important service to hospitals and health systems across the state.

