



A summary of news from Raleigh that affects Duke University, Duke Health, and Duke LifePoint Healthcare.

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N.C. General Assembly Returns Next Week

The North Carolina General Assembly will convene next week for a special session to allocate [remaining funds from the CARES Act](#). The state received more than \$3.5 billion in funding from the federal government and has appropriated a little over \$3 billion of those funds. The legislature could have between \$500 million and \$900 million left to appropriate depending on guidance from the federal government on whether or not states can use CARES Act funding to supplement budget shortfalls.

The House Select Committee on COVID-19 Working Groups on Health Care and Education met over the last two weeks to discuss funding priorities for the upcoming session. Summaries of the meetings can be found on our [blog](#). Next week the legislature will likely focus on funding for immediate COVID-19 related needs, with an emphasis on addressing unemployment benefits, education needs, expanding broadband access, and child care support. The legislature plans to return again later in the fall to allocate funds if Congress passes another federal relief package.

Governor Cooper Releases Budget Proposal

Governor Roy Cooper announced a [\\$25 billion budget proposal](#) on Wednesday in advance of the General Assembly's session next week. The budget would use a combination of existing state funds, federal funds from the CARES Act, and two proposed bond measures. Governor Cooper's funding request included a call for Medicaid expansion, increased unemployment benefits, teacher pay raises, rental and utilities assistance for those affected by COVID-19, education support, testing and tracing efforts, broadband expansion, and investments in infrastructure. In response to [Governor Cooper's budget proposal](#), Republican leaders in the N.C. House and Senate signaled that they still intend to focus on immediate COVID-19 needs and will only allocate remaining funds from the CARES Act.

N.C. DHHS Awards DUHS with Contract to Administer COVID-19 Support Services Program

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Duke University Health System with a contract to administer its new [COVID-19 Support Services](#) program. The program will support North Carolinians in 20 targeted counties who are asked to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 and need assistance such as food, relief payments, or access to primary medical care. Duke University Health System will provide services for Region 3, which includes Durham, Granville, and Vance counties. Under this program, when someone tests positive for or has been exposed to COVID-19, they will receive a call from a health professional providing guidance on what to do to protect themselves, their families and their community. In these counties, people who need help will be connected to a Community Health Worker who will coordinate needed services through Duke.

N.C. Healthcare Foundation Accepting Applications for Diverse Leaders Mentorship Program

The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation is accepting mentee and mentor applications for its Diverse Leaders Mentorship Program. This program connects leaders who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with high-achieving women and men from underrepresented communities. Underrepresented professionals will apply to participate in NCHA-facilitated events that offer inspiring educational opportunities, networking with industry leaders, and one-on-one coaching with a mentor who will serve as a professional ally in career development and advancement. Applications and additional information on the Diverse Leaders Mentorship Program can be found [here](#).



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