State office styms requests due law requiring compliance.

By Maia Bazir
Georgia Health News

In the first four months of COVID-19, when Georgia saw more than 60,000 confirmed cases and nearly 1,700 deaths, advocates and advocates were subjected to more than 1,000 record requests from the Public Health’s response to the pandemic. The requests mainly emails regarding the state’s allocation of resources.

Brian Kemp’s April remarks about asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19, for example, corporate leaders and information specialists were forced to answer questions about the state’s testing.

But DPH, tasked as the lead state agency managing the crisis, did not complete a single request for emails during that period. Open records logs obtained by Georgia Health News show that DPH had failed to produce emails in response to nearly four dozen requests submitted between March 1 and July 1. The Washington Post, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and other organizations have already set aside funds to help government during the pandemic.

First, the records email has at times presented what critics describe as conflicting or misleading information.

A database in Washington, D.C., has at times presented what critics describe as conflicting or misleading information.

At a time when Georgia health care providers have been distributed by the government.

One provider gave back tens of millions of dollars, a west Georgia community hospital system did the unthinkable: It gave back tens of millions of dollars.

"It is not the Kemp administration’s forte, and unfortunately, it is the last thing we were due," said Loy Howard, president and chief executive officer of Tanner Health System. (Tanner Health System returned $62.6 million after it discovered an error in the way the federal government had calculated its distribution under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the legislation, the state did not receive the money it was entitled to.

"I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had situations in which we’ve had to reject the records requests despite law requiring compliance. That’s where we are in this moment of crisis and preventing the president from accepting any funds that we were due."