



Recommendations to DHCFP for HCBS Funding

Nevada Medicaid

June 24, 2021

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Background

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) offers an opportunity to enhance, expand, or strengthen Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under the Medicaid program by authorizing a 10 percent increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage between April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Recommendations Received

On June 4th, DHCFP held a Public Listening Session for recipients, family members, caregivers, providers, direct service workers, advocacy organizations and others regarding priorities to improve Nevada's HCBS programs. Below is a summary of written and verbal suggestions received by topic.

Caregiver Support

- Offer family caregivers training, education, mental health counseling and legal consultation.
- Increase respite services and eliminate waitlists.
- Pay providers to train unpaid family caregivers.
- Identify at-risk family caregivers to prevent burnout.

HCBS Workforce

- Allow spouses or parent of minor to be eligible as a paid caregiver.
- Offer a one-time hazard payment for front-line workers.
- Increase hourly wages to the direct-service workforce.
- Offer monetary hiring incentives and retention bonuses for home care workers.
- Eliminate out-of-pocket purchase for Personal Protective Equipment.

Increase Medicaid Rates

- Adult Day Care by 50%
- Home Health service by 10%
- Intellectual and Developmental Disability Service by 19.6%
- Align existing rates with pending minimum wage increases.
- Establish tiered rates for Personal Care Services and rural rate differential to reduce service gaps.

Services for Elderly and Disabled Individuals

- Establish a Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in Nevada.
- Provide vehicle and home modifications including medical monitoring technologies.
- Increase hours for Adult Day Care and Adult Day Health Care.
- Expand individualized services to reduce congregate settings.

Next Steps

The Department of Health and Human Services will narrow the requests to viable options that can be implemented within the timeframe and ARPA parameters. The Division will submit a Spending Plan and Narrative to CMS by July 13, 2021 which will also be made public. The Division is eager to begin enhancing HCBS activities, however, official approval is required prior to implementation. The Division is committed to continuing transparent communication with stakeholders.