

# Medical Assistance Advisory Committee

Office of Developmental Programs

September 22, 2021

## Updates:

- ODP Waiver Amendments and Renewals
  - ID/A Waiver Amendment (7/1/21)
  - Adult Autism Waiver Renewal (7/1/21)
  
- ODP APRA Update

## ID/A Waivers Amendment

- Planned for July 1, 2021
- ODP submitted responses to the Request for Additional Information (RAI) from CMS on July 19<sup>th</sup>
  - CMS submitted follow-up recommendations on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - ODP submitted responses to the follow-up recommendations on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - **CMS requested that the waivers be submitted with the RAI information included which was completed on September 16<sup>th</sup>.**
- **The waiver amendments could be approved by CMS any day.**

# Waiver Renewal Update



- Adult Autism Waiver
- Not able to make changes due to Section 9817 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Extension granted by CMS through 9/28/21.
- After consideration, ODP submitted the renewal **with no substantive changes from the currently approved waiver** to CMS on 9/13/21. Anticipated effective date is retroactive to 7/1/21.
- Changes to align AAW with the ID/A waivers as much as possible will be made with a 7/1/22 amendment.

## SMD# 21-003 RE: Implementation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Section 9817: Additional Support for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services during the COVID-19 Emergency

### ARPA “Maintenance of Effort” requirements:

- Not impose stricter eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures for HCBS programs and services than were in place on April 1, 2021
- Preserve covered HCBS, including the services themselves and the amount, duration, and scope of those services, in effect as of April 1, 2021
- Maintain HCBS provider payments at a rate no less than those in place as of April 1, 2021.

- **Provide Funding to Address High Staff Vacancy and Turn Over Rates**

- One time funding for COVID-19 related staffing expenses, recruitment and retention of Direct Support Professionals or Supports Coordinators to include funding for hazard pay, costs of recruitment efforts, sign-on bonuses and other incentive payments.

- **Respite and Family Support Funds for Individuals on the Waiting List for ID/A**
  - Funding available through 3/31/2024 for one-time family support grants for MA/TSM eligible individuals and families on the ODP waiting list for purchase of respite and other eligible family support services
  - Supplements HCBS by providing short-term temporary relief for those waiting for HCBS waiver services

- **Rate Increase to Address Chronic Staffing Shortages and Quality of Services**
  - ODP is required to refresh the data used for rate setting a minimum of every three years. The data refresh is required no later than 10/2022. ODP would refresh the data and implement subsequent rate increases



- **Provide Funding for Technology that Enhances HCBS Provision**

- One time funding for activities including: purchase of assistive and/or remote support technology, purchase and implementation of new software/technology for electronic health records, quality or risk management functions, technology for professional credentialing identified in ODP provider qualifications

- **Provide Funding for Staff Training, Credentialing and Business Associates Programs for Employment**
  - One time funding up to \$50,000 or 1% of provider annual revenue for the following types of activities: agency adoption of CMS core competency training for DSPs, agency completion of National Association for Dual Diagnosis Accreditation, establishing business associate program in industry to promote employment, Lifecourse Ambassador Program

- **Incident Detection and Incident Reporting Fidelity System**

- Purchase development and implementation of dashboards/software pairing claims data and incident reports to evaluate provider incident reporting fidelity and detect unreported incidents of abuse and neglect. PA's plan of correction in response to January 2019 HHS OIG report included developing a system with this functionality

- **Additional Staff to Support Intake, Eligibility of New Populations, Waiver Capacity and Risk Management**
  - Funding for approximately 80 additional county staff for the following: intake and eligibility for new populations in ODP HCBS waivers; waiver capacity management to accommodate program growth; provider risk audits; monitoring and analysis of health risk screen screening data; conduct independent certified investigations; and capacity building for specialty providers.
  - Funding will be sustained through annual appropriations for ODPs community waiver programs.

- **Provide Funding for Technology that Enhances HCBS Supports Coordination**
  - One time funding for purchase of technology for Supports Coordination Organizations to improve capacity to conduct remote monitoring of individuals; improve efficiency of Supports Coordinators including maximizing time in the field; obtain or enhance secure inter-office communications or implement technology dependent quality improvement strategies.

# • Training to Address Pandemic Related Needs and Promote Initiatives

- Supplement existing training contracts to include the following: peer-to-peer training for individuals and families on topics related to re-engaging in community, addressing trauma and wellness; promoting self-directed services and use of technology/remote services; develop marketing materials to promote lifesharing and supported living models.
- Training and materials developed will be available electronically and through ODP's learning management system to provide access after the funding period..

- **Provide Funding to Support Housing for Individuals Transitioning from Institutional or Congregate Settings**
  - One-time funding not to exceed \$100,000 per request for ICF or Congregate Care facilities for children with medical complexities and \$50,000 per request for all other. Grants targeted to residential providers for housing adaptations and purchase for individuals transitioning from public or private ICF, children transitioning from congregate care, medically complex adults when cost effective and to avoid placement in a nursing facility, and to support adults to age in place or transition to supported living or lifesharing.

- **Transfers from Private Intermediate Care Facility to Community**

- Additional Consolidated Waiver capacity for the transfer of 25 individuals from facility care to HCBS in FY21-22



# • Purchase of Emergency Preparedness Kits

- Provision of emergency preparedness kits to TSM or waiver eligible non-residential HCBS participants (Approximately 42,000 individuals with an assumed participation rate of approximately 10.7%; 4,500 kits provided at a cost of approximately \$115/kit)

# • Technology Accelerator Resources

- Contractor to accelerate adoption of technology through consultation, information dissemination, and training to agencies seeking to adopt remote supports and other technology solutions to support individuals receiving HCBS. Includes funding for 2 statewide technology summits aimed at exposing providers to array of tech solutions.
- Training and materials developed will be available electronically and through ODP's learning management system to provide access after the funding period.



## Questions