

From: HS, Secretary's Office <RA-secretaryoffice@pa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:15 PM

Subject: American Rescue Plan Act Home and Community-Based Services Funding Update

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out today with the good news that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has granted conditional approval for DHS' spending plan for approximately \$1.2 billion in American Rescue Plan Act federal funding to support Medicaid's home and community-based services (HCBS) system throughout the commonwealth, allowing more Pennsylvanians the access to critical services in their communities.

Our service systems, providers and workforce have continued to deliver care throughout the pandemic with incredible resiliency and flexibility. This enhanced funding is an opportunity for us to invest in them as they invest in their communities and the people they serve. Our funding plan focuses on the following domains:

- Increasing access to home and community-based services
- Staff recruiting and retention
- Providing necessary supplies to safely facilitate services
- Additional trainings and learning opportunities through workforce support
- Supporting families caring for loved ones
- Improving functional capabilities of people with disabilities
- Enhancing transitional supports
- Home and community-based services capacity building

We have heard directly from stakeholders like you for the past 20 months about the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on the HCBS system and the individuals who rely on those services, and your insight has been essential to our pandemic response and the provision of services. Thank you for your support and for your patience.

We will be in touch with additional information on how and when initiatives within the plan will be operationalized, including when certain HCBS providers can expect to receive direct funding. We will continue to update the [DHS website](#) with information on the spending plan, and we will be providing information on spending by program office in the coming weeks.

Please be on the lookout for that information, and let us know if you have any questions. Thank you,

Meg