

# **Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan and Narrative – Quarterly Report**

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
Section 9817**



**Florida Agency for Health Care Administration  
Florida Medicaid Program  
October 15, 2021**

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October 15, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Bowdoin  
Director, Division of Community Systems Transformation  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Bowdoin:

Enclosed you will find the State of Florida's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quarterly Spending Plan and Narrative for the quarter beginning January 1, 2022. This update provides a progress report on the State's activities intended to enhance, expand, and strengthen HCBS using the enhanced HCBS Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) allocated under Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This report also presents an estimate of the funds attributable to the increase in FMAP that the State has claimed, and anticipates claiming between April 1, 2021, and March 22, 2022. Further, this report will enumerate any expenditures, both anticipated and actual, for the State's upcoming and implemented activities.

The State contacts, Maureen Castano, Budget and Fiscal Planning Supervisor, Medicaid Program Finance, [Maureen.Castano@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Maureen.Castano@ahca.myflorida.com), Kristin Sokoloski, Program Coordinator, Division of Medicaid, [Kristin.Sokoloski@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Kristin.Sokoloski@ahca.myflorida.com), and Ann Dalton, Bureau Chief, Medicaid Policy, [Ann.Dalton@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Ann.Dalton@ahca.myflorida.com), assure that the State will comply with the applicable requirements set forth under Section 9817 and fulfill the requirements stated in State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) #21-003.

Sincerely,

Tom Wallace  
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid



## ARPA of 2021 and Enhanced HCBS Funding Quarterly Summary

On September 28, 2021, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the State of Florida's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quarterly Spending Plan and Narrative for enhancing, expanding, and strengthening HCBS programming using the enhanced FMAP allocated under Section 9817 of the ARPA. This conditional approval allows Florida to implement the activities in the narrative and spending plan, while continuing to develop the delayed egress activity.

In anticipation of approval of the State of Florida's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Initial Spending Plan and Narrative, the State's Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) staff-initiated planning for the proposal's enactment. Agency staff worked to identify expenditures, incurred since April 1, 2021, that were eligible for the FMAP enhancement. A multi-disciplinary team, charged with developing a distribution plan, began developing operational plans relating to the application for and distribution of funding for the identified activities.

In addition, this team began conversations with partner agencies to facilitate the delivery of, and training in the use of, devices that will expand the technology available to HCBS beneficiaries. These collaborative efforts also identified areas to expand access to additional equipment and enable home remodeling to promote independence and/or support community integration. Having received conditional approval, Florida will now apply these plans to effect enhancement, expansion, and strengthening in the State's HCBS programming. Florida's plan intends to utilize the enhanced funding for activities that are self-limiting.

As conditional approval was received on September 28, 2021, the State of Florida's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quarterly Spending Plan and Narrative for the quarter beginning January 1, 2022, includes the updates below. The Agency anticipates more robust updates on enhancements, spending, and sustainability will be available for the next State of Florida's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quarterly Spending Plan and Narrative for the quarter beginning April 1, 2022.

## Comprehensive Assessment of HCBS Activities for Florida

### I. Improving Provider Delivery System Capacity

As a part of its HCBS FMAP increase plan, Florida is proposing a series of incentives to directly confront the recruitment and retention challenges faced by the healthcare sector. Florida proposes several measures to take on this challenge, including:

*One-Time Provider Stipends:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

*One-Time Provider Retention Payments:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

### II. Enhancing Infrastructure that Supports, and Encourages, HCBS Quality of Care

Florida is committed to ensuring its HCBS population can not only live safely, but also thrive within their communities. To that end, the Agency wants to provide an infrastructure that will allow beneficiaries to flourish in the least restrictive setting possible. As a component of its HCBS FMAP increase strategy, Florida is proposing a

series of incentives to meet the many needs of its residents. The measures proposed to strengthen infrastructure include:

*Implement Improvements to Quality Oversight Activities:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

*One-Time Subsidy Payment:* The Agency, in collaboration with the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) has developed a plan to implement the activity and keep Florida seniors aging in place, avoid institutionalization, and prevent caregiver burnout while further supporting and extending the time that clients and caregivers can remain in a home and community-based setting as opposed to a long-term care setting. This plan includes working with local Aging and Disability Resource Centers to identify eligible seniors, their needs, and ensuring the work is completed. The program plans to spend \$6,000 on each eligible individual. The partner agencies have also created an evaluation plan that studies outcomes of interest, including the recipient's health outcomes, healthcare economics, and as yet unmet social needs.

*Assistance with Implementation Services:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

### III. Expanding Patient Access to HCBS Services

*Providing Additional Equipment or Devices (Technology):* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

*Access to Additional Equipment that Promotes Independence:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

*Expand iBudget Waiver:* On July 1, 2021, Florida's fiscal year (FY) 2021/2022 budget became effective. This included \$95 million to reduce the number of people on the Developmental Disabilities Individual Budgeting (iBudget) Waiver waiting list. Since July 1, 2021, the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities has sent or is in the process of sending enrollment letters to 870 individuals on the iBudget waiting list. At this time, 175 individuals have accepted enrollment into the iBudget Waiver, with an additional 158 individuals in the process of enrolling. With the enhanced FMAP increase, Florida expects to continue to reduce the number of clients on the iBudget waiting list.

*PPEC Rate Increase:* The PPEC Rate Increase became effective with the start of Florida's FY 2021/2022 on July 1, 2021.

### IV. COVID-19 Related HCBS Needs

*Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services:* Currently planning for the implementation of this activity.

## Appendix A: Proposed Activities for Florida – Spending Plan

While the Agency has not implemented any of its activities, it estimates the State of Florida will expend \$4.8 Billion on eligible HCBS expenditures between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, with the ten percent FMAP enhancement projected at \$480 million. The spending estimates, as of the date of this report, remain unchanged.

Activity Title	Description	Cost Estimate <sup>1</sup>
<b><u>HCBS Capacity Building- Expanding Provider Capacity: One-time provider stipend</u></b>	Offer one-time stipend to HCBS waiver providers to support program activities.	\$356,426,996
<b><u>HCBS Capacity Building- Expanding Provider Capacity: Creating financial incentives to both recruit new workers and increase the retention rates of the direct care workforce</u></b>	Offer one-time direct payments to all HCBS waiver providers for capacity building and workforce retention/development.	\$266,604,000
<b><u>HCBS Capacity Building- Quality Improvement Activities: Implementing Improvements to quality oversight activities</u></b>	Purchased delayed egress systems for group homes and adult day training centers.	\$12,000,000
<b><u>HCBS Capacity Building- Expanding Use of Technology</u></b>	Not limited to the purchase of smartphones, computers, and/or internet activation fees for people receiving HCBS to address functional needs, promote independence, and/or support community integration.	\$63,584,500

<sup>1</sup> Cost estimate includes both federal and state funds



<b>Activity Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Estimate<sup>1</sup></b>
<u>HCBS Capacity Building- Providing Access to Additional Equipment or Devices</u>	Not limited to the purchase of eyeglasses, wheelchair transfer boards, adaptive cooking equipment (as not otherwise available), and additional environmental modifications that address functional needs, promote independence, and/or support community integration.	\$63,584,500
<u>HCBS Capacity Building- Addressing Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities</u>	Supports care for Floridians aged 60 and older in family-type living arrangements within private homes, as an alternative to institutional or nursing home care.	\$127,932,000
<u>COVID Related HCBS Needs - Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services</u>	Assist eligible individuals in receiving mental health services, substance abuse treatment and recovery services, and necessary rehabilitative services to regain skills lost during the pandemic by expanding provider capacity.	\$50,000,000
<u>HCBS Capacity Building- Implementation</u>	Use contracted services funding to assist with implementation activities and required reporting.	\$4,000,000
<u>HCBS Capacity Building- Expand iBudget Waiver</u>	Expand the Home and Community Based Services Waiver by removing the greatest number of individuals permissible under the additional funding from the waiting list.	\$191,333,692
<u>HCBS Capacity Building- PPEC Rate Increase</u>	Increasing provider rates to assist eligible children with medically complex conditions to receive continual medical care.	\$10,755,580
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b>\$1,146,221,268</b>