

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

American Rescue Plan Act: One-Time Supplemental Payment to Provide Funding for Technology That Enhances the Provision of Home and Community Based Services

Announcement 22-043

AUDIENCE:

ODP Qualified Providers
Supports Coordination Organizations
All Interested Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

To provide guidance about the process for providers and Supports Coordination Organizations to request one-time payments for technology that enhances the provision of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

DISCUSSION:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provides a temporary 10% increase to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for certain Medicaid expenditures for home and community-based services (HCBS). The funding is to be used to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS beyond what is available under the Medicaid program as of April 1, 2021 and through March 31, 2024.

Providers:

As part of the Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) ARPA plan, providers can receive a one-time supplemental payment for technology related activities that strengthen and enhance HCBS. The following activities would be supported by this initiative:

- purchase of assistive and/or remote support technology
- purchase and implementation of new software or technology for electronic health records
- technology associated with improving quality or risk management functions
- technology professional credentialing identified in ODP provider qualifications
- purchase of consultation services to enhance technological capabilities

This initiative is designed to enhance HCBS by:

- replacing staff functions with the use of technology, allowing staff time to be directed to other care activities.
- providing individuals greater independence and choice using technology
- improving quality of care through implementation of solutions like electronic health records and integrated data solutions.

Supports Coordination Organizations:

As part of the ODP ARPA plan, SCOs can receive a one-time supplemental payment for technology related activities that enhance HCBS by:

- improving capacity to conduct remote monitoring of individuals
- improving efficiency of Supports Coordinators including maximizing time in the field
- obtaining or enhancing secure inter-office communications
- implementing technology dependent quality improvement strategies.

Application Process:

- Providers or SCOs interested in applying will complete and submit the respective attached **One-Time Supplemental Payment to Provide Funding for Technology That Enhances the Provision of Home and Community Based Services Application** and submit via e-mail to Rick Smith at riesmit@pa.gov.
- Applications will be accepted beginning immediately and end **October 31, 2022**.
- For details regarding funding available for this initiative, please review the respective application.
- ODP will review all submissions and notify providers or SCOs of approval of the project and amount. Providers or SCOs will implement project plans and upon receipt of supporting documentation of expenses (i.e. paid invoices, accounting records), providers or SCOs will be reimbursed for eligible expenses up to the approved amount.
- To assist with cash flow, providers may request a *progress payment* in addition to a *completion payment*; supporting documentation of expenses would be required for a progress payment.
- One-Time Supplemental funding must be utilized prior to October 31, 2023. ODP will begin accepting applications immediately and will notify providers of approval on a rolling monthly basis around the 15th of each month.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Office of Developmental Programs: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initiative One-Time Supplemental Payment to Provide Funding for Technology That Enhances the Provision of Home and Community Based Services Application for Providers
- Office of Developmental Programs: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initiative One-Time Supplemental Payment to Provide Funding for Technology That Enhances the Provision of Home and Community Based Services Application for Supports Coordination Organizations