



American Rescue Plan Act Funding Plan for Enhanced Federal Match for
Home and Community-Based Services

Office of Community Living Update Webinar

October 14, 2021

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Amanda Lofgren, Division Director

- Office of Community Living Updates:
 - Case Management Verbal Signatures
 - 238 Wage-Pass Through Reporting
 - New Federal Provider Relief Funding
 - OCL Acronym Glossary
- American Rescue Plan Act Update

OCL General Updates

Case Management Verbal Signatures

[Operational Memo 21-070](#)

- **Verbal, digital, and physical** signatures are allowed on forms used by case managers during the Public Health Emergency.
 - This authorization is applicable for signatures provided by a **member, member legal representative, and service providers**.
 - This change is **not applicable** to signatures provided by a **medical professional**.
- Authorization is approved back to March 11, 2020. Case Managers are to follow instructions as outlined in [Operational Memo](#)

Wage Pass-Through Reporting

Reminder: SB19-238 Year 2 reporting tool is open 10/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021

Refer to Memos: [OM 21-063](#), [OM 21-068](#), and [IM 20-054](#)

Providers

- Must demonstrate compliance with Department Wage Pass Through (WPT) rules (8.505 and 8.507)
- Must keep WPT related documentation for at least three years
- Must keep Provider Portal contact information current (name, email, service location address)

Questions: HCPF_WAGE_PASS_THROUGH@STATE.CO.US

New Federal Provider Relief Funding

- \$25.5 billion for health care providers affected by the pandemic
 - \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund Phase 4
 - \$8.5 billion for ARPA Rural funding (seperate from HCBS ARPA funds discussed earlier)
- Application period started 9/29/21
 - ***Deadline 10/26/21 @ 9:59 p.m. Mountain Time***

HRSA will host technical assistance webcasts for potential applicants to review the application process and have questions answered. Register below:

[Thursday, October 21, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MST](#)

More information can be found in [HCPF IM 21-052](#)

OCL Acronym Glossary

- ❖ New page on the website
- ❖ Fully searchable with instant results
- ❖ Will continue to be updated and expanded over time
- ❖ Option to submit suggestions for new acronyms or questions about existing ones

Office Of Community Living Acronym Glossary

Welcome to the Office of Community Living (OCL) Acronym Glossary!

Searching the List

To search the list, type any part of the name or acronym you seek into the search bar at the top of each column. Example: To search for acronyms that have the word "disability" in them, type "disability" above the "Full Text" column to show all relevant acronyms.

We Invite Stakeholder Additions or Corrections

Please submit any additions or corrections using [this form](#), or send an email to [John Barry](#) or reach him by phone at 303-866-3173.

Additional Resource

[Long-Term Services and Supports - Benefits and Services Glossary](#)

Click any column header to sort the text numerically or alphabetically.

Acronym	Full Text	Notes	Website Link
<input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<input type="text" value="Search..."/>
AAA	Area Agency on Aging		
ACA	Affordable Care Act		
ACF	Alternative Care Facility		
ACC	Accountable Care Collaborative	A system redesign initiative by HCPF	
ACO	Accountable Care Organization	An organization within the ACC project	
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act		

hcpf.colorado.gov/ocl-acronym-glossary

American Rescue Plan Act: HCBS Updates



ARPA North Stars

**Supercharge
Existing
Initiatives**

**Support
COVID-19
Response &
Recovery**

**Foster
Innovation &
Long-Term
Transformative
Change**

**Increase
Quality & Good
Fiscal
Stewardship**



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Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Path to Approvals

Pre-CMS Submission



Reviewed Existing Recommendations and Legislative Priorities

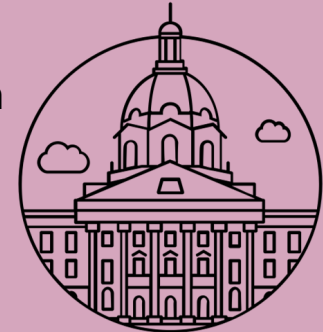
Post-CMS Submission

Additional Stakeholder Engagement



4 targeted meetings
~ 260 People

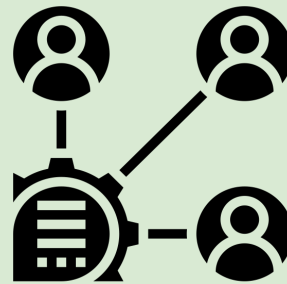
Presentation to Joint Budget Committee



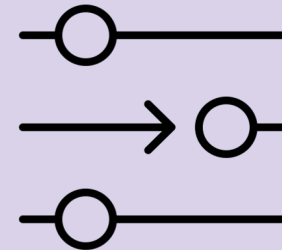
CMS & JBC APPROVAL on 9/21/21

- 7 targeted stakeholder meetings ~800 people
- 375 Pieces of Feedback
- 428 survey responses

Gathered Stakeholder Feedback



Continued To Fine Tune Projects



Project Framework

Recovery Payments

Immediate Relief & Stabilization

Grants

Local Investment

Benefit Changes

Recovery & Creating the New Normal

Program Analysis & Pilots

Testing for Effectiveness

Technology & System Advancement

Efficiency & Future-readiness



Priorities

**STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE & ENHANCE
RURAL SUSTAINABILITY**

IMPROVE CRISIS & ACUTE SERVICES

**IMPROVE ACCESS TO HCBS FOR UNDERSERVED
POPULATIONS**

**SUPPORT POST-COVID RECOVERY AND HCBS
INNOVATION**

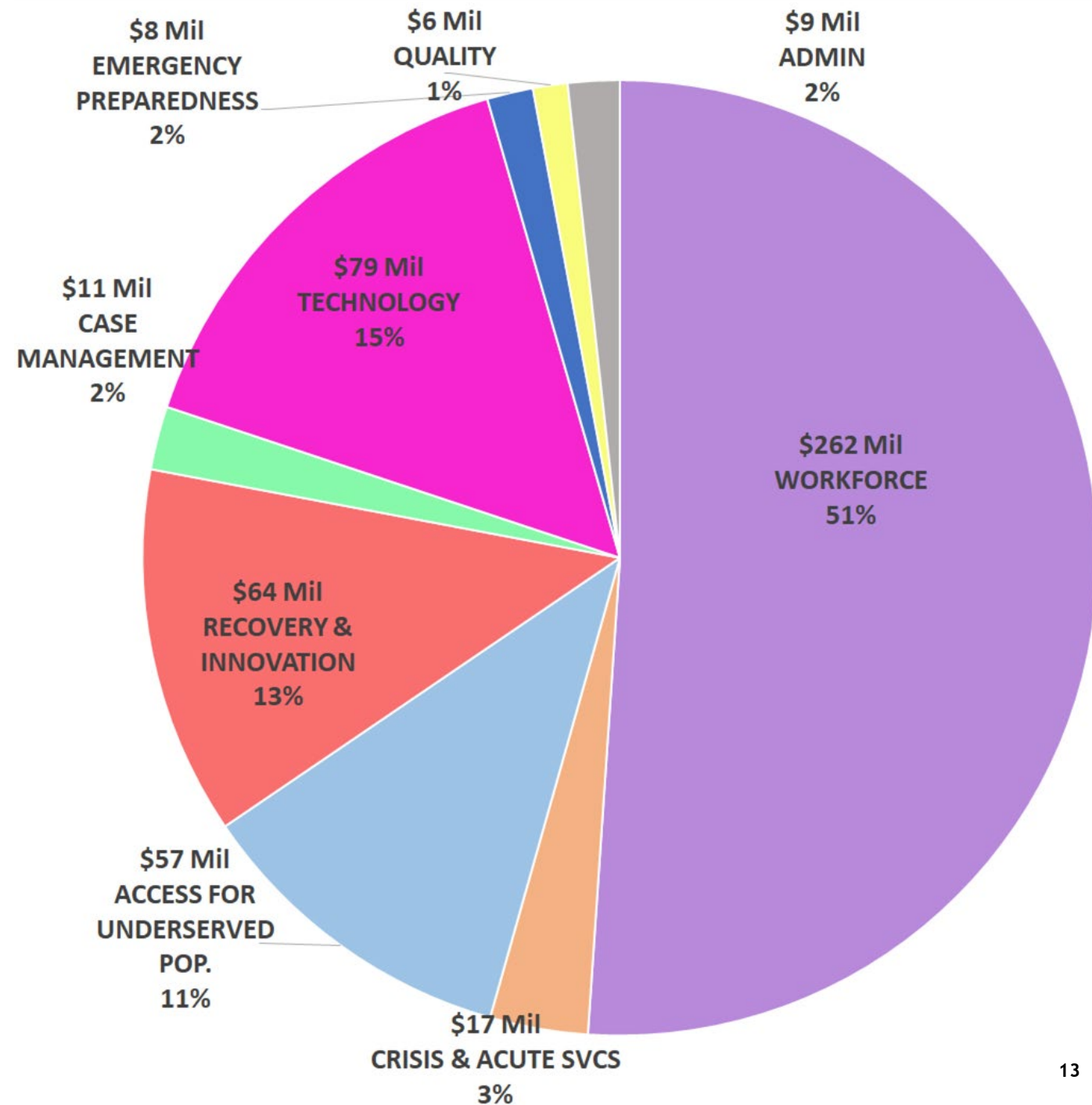
STRENGTHEN CASE MANAGEMENT REDESIGN

INVEST IN TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

ENHANCE QUALITY OUTCOMES

EXPAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

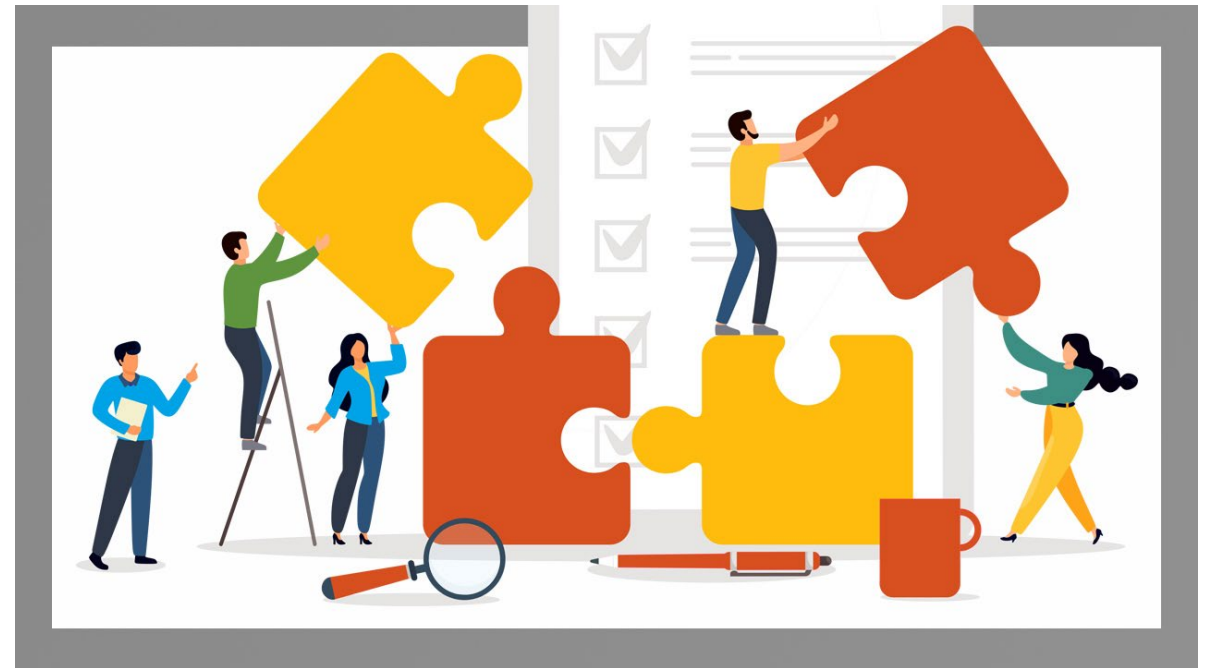


Note: Figures approximated

Project Start Updates

- Currently putting the framework in place for initial project launches

- Project Tracking and Management Systems
- Reporting Systems
- Hiring Starting



- Prioritizing and setting up a phased rollout process for projects
 - Phase 1 Projects beginning no later than October 31, 2021

STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE & ENHANCE RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Rate Increases

Project Budget: \$244M

Initial Projects

Targeted Rate Increases

- 2.11% retroactive rate increase
- April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022
- Upcoming Memo (no later than Friday) will outline services and billing information

Note:

- April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021 has a 2.11% increase applied
- July 1, 2021 forward rates received a 2.5% across the board increase, then the 2.11% increase was applied
- Review corresponding [Fee Schedules](#) to determine the appropriate rate to bill

STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE & ENHANCE RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Rate Increases & \$15/hr Base Wage

Project Budget: \$244M

Initial Projects

\$15/hr Direct Care Workforce Base Wage Initiative

- All Direct Care staff must receive a base wage of \$15/hr
- Rate increase is to be used to get all direct care staff to this base wage
- The \$15.00 per hour Direct Care Workforce Base Wage Initiative Meeting will be Wednesday, November 17, 2021 from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. via ZOOM
 - Watch OCL Stakeholder Calendar for more information:
[Office of Community Living Stakeholder Engagement](#)

STRENGTHEN THE WORKFORCE & ENHANCE RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Standardize Training & Training Fund

Project Budgets: \$11M

Initial Projects

Standardized Training:

- Develop a standardized baseline curriculum that is competency-based and adult-learner centered for homemakers and personal care workers
- Use of this training would not be required but if used, would be transferable across employers
- Additional modules will be developed to assist workers in specializing and advancing
- The goal is to make the trainings free for workers and employers

Training Fund:

- Pool of funding that will be made available to individuals, employers or training providers through an application process

SUPPORT POST-COVID RECOVERY & HCBS INNOVATION

Community First Choice (CFC)

Project Budget: \$4M

Initial Projects

- Will make services available to an expanded population
- Includes mandatory services (Personal Care/Homemaker, IHSS/CDASS, Personal Emergency Response Systems, Member Training)
- States can choose additional services
- Increases access to Consumer-Directed Service Delivery Models
- Compliance with HCBS Settings Rule and CFCM is required prior to implementation

SUPPORT POST-COVID RECOVERY & HCBS INNOVATION

Tiered Alternative Care Facility (ACF) Rates

Project Budget: \$350K

Initial Projects

- Goal of the Tiered Rates is to create multiple levels for ACFs to limit placement into a skilled nursing facility and provide appropriate reimbursement based on the member's needs
- The Department will hire a contractor to develop a tiered rate methodology for setting levels, with an emphasis on secured settings, for the ACF benefit
- The contractor will analyze Colorado's assessment tool to determine to determine if the current, or new assessment tool will be sufficient to determine an appropriate tier

SUPPORT POST-COVID RECOVERY & HCBS INNOVATION

Supported Employment Pilot Extension

Project Budget: \$1.2M

Initial Projects

This project will **extend and expand** the current Supported Employment Incentive Based Pilot Program to determine if expanding incentive based payments for Supported Employment services within the waivers is **cost effective** and produces **positive outcomes**.

This extension will include:

- Increased and expanded member participation
- Expanded provider participation
- Expanded regions being piloted beyond the Denver Metro corridor
- Additional data collection

STRENGTHEN CASE MANAGEMENT REDESIGN

Case Management Agency Training Program

Project Budget: \$525K

Initial Projects

- Develop a mandatory competency-based online interactive curriculum for case managers. Training will include fact sheets and desk aids for the case manager to assist with learning development and content retention.
- Training will focus on multiple elements including, but not limited to:
 - Assessment
 - Support Planning
 - Benefits and Services

Training design and development will begin in Spring 2021.

INVEST IN TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

Eligibility Systems Improvements

Project Budget: \$1M

Initial Projects

- Bidirectional interface between CBMS and the CCM system
- Eliminate need for intermediary, PEAKPro
- Identify other enhancements to CBMS, CCM, & interChange
- Train case managers and eligibility workers
 - System changes
 - Eligibility requirements for HCBS, PACE, NF, ICF-IDD, HCA, & Medicaid Buy-In

Benefit: Improve the exchange of information between CMAs and the eligibility sites, improving efficiency and member experiences

Sign Up for the ARPA Project Pulse!

The Department is implementing a multitude of projects to expand, enhance, and strengthen the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) system from Fall 2021 through Spring 2024 tied to federal funding in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This newsletter will serve as a source for key updates on all project planning and implementation, stakeholder engagement opportunities, and other topics of interest related to the funding.

* Email

First Name

Last Name

County Name

Sign Up

New HCBS ARPA Newsletter

- Launching this fall/winter
- Monthly updates:
 - Project planning & implementation
 - Stakeholder engagement opps
 - Other topics of interest related to funding

Sign up Landing Page:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/hcMkUsw/ARPANewsletter>

Also sign up available at the bottom of the ARPA webpage:

hcpf.colorado.gov/arpa

Coming Soon to the ARPA Webpage

- Job postings
- Quarterly reports to CMS & JBC
- Project-specific sub-pages
- ARPA Project Pulse Newsletter Archive

What else would be helpful?

hcpf.colorado.gov/arpa



Discussion



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Stay Engaged

**Stakeholder
Engagement Page**

hcpf.colorado.gov/OCL-stakeholder-engagement

OCL Webinar Page

hcpf.colorado.gov/office-community-living-update-webinars

2021 Memos Series

hcpf.colorado.gov/2021-memo-series-communication

Email us

HCPF_HCBS_Questions@state.co.us

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ARPA Page

hcpf.colorado.gov/arpa



Upcoming October Stakeholder Engagement

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
27	28	29	30	Oct 1
			1pm Nursing Facility Demonstration	9am Direct Care Workforce Training
		6	7	8
			10am Electronic Visit Verification (E)	
			2:30pm Transitions Stakeholder Adv	
11	12	13	14	15
Columbus Day		10am Children's Disability Advisory	10:30am Webinar: LTSS Provider Up	10am Spinal Cord Injury Waiver Ad
Indigenous Peoples' Day		10am Direct Care Workforce Collabo	3:30pm Webinar - Disability, Older A	1pm Direct Care Workforce Compen
		1pm Home Modification Stakeholder		
18	19	20	21	22
	10:30am Electronic Visit Verification		10am Electronic Visit Verification (E)	10:30am Joint Department/Advocate
				1pm Direct Care Workforce Value &
25	26	27	28	29
1:30pm UR/UM CDASS/IHSS Stakeh		1pm Participant-Directed Programs	1pm Nursing Facility Demonstration	10am Home and Community-Based
Nov 1	2	3	4	5
First Day of American Indian Herit	Election Day		10am Electronic Visit Verification (E)	9am Direct Care Workforce Training
			2:30pm Transitions Stakeholder Adv	10am Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Waiv

me - Denver



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For details: hcpf.colorado.gov/OCL-stakeholder-engagement

2021 Guidance

Case Management Agencies

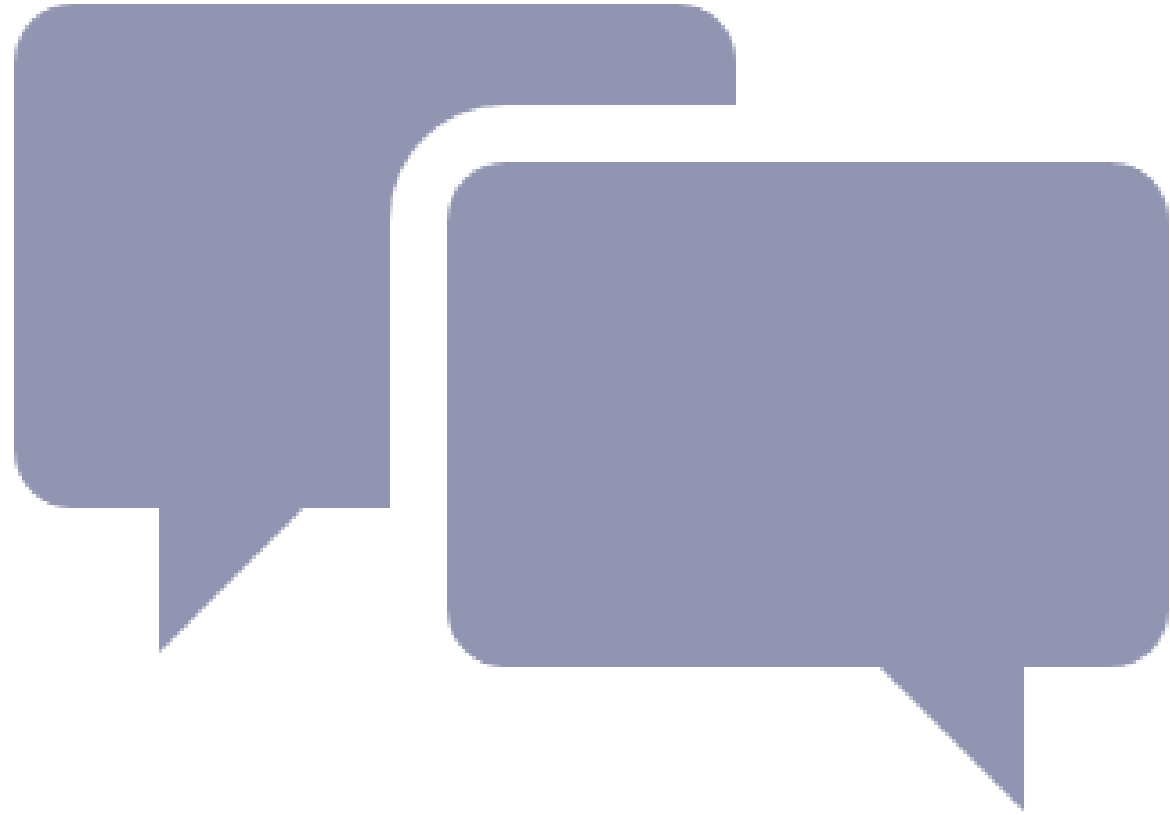
- CDASS FMS Transition Notification
 - [OM 21-010](#)
- Updated CM Opp Changes in Response to COVID-19
 - [OM 21-013](#) [OM 21-024](#)
- Participant Directed Pgms UR/UM
 - [OM 21-014](#)
- LTSS Transition to Telligen for UR/UM
 - [OM 21-017](#)
- Homebound Vaccine Outreach
 - [OM 21-031](#)
- Informed Consent Template for Rights Modifications
 - [OM 21-032](#)
- Level of Care Operational Changes
 - [OM 21-038](#)
- In-Person Meetings
 - [OM 21-040](#)
- Procedure for Starting a New HCBS Enrollment
 - [OM 21-052](#)
- Updated Expectations for Utilization Management Denials
 - [OM 21-060](#)
- CDASS Rate Increase
 - [OM 21-061](#)
- CM Qualification Requirement Changes
 - [OM 21-064](#)
- Regional Center Procedure Code Change
 - [OM 21-065](#)

Facilities and PACE

- PACE Participant Adverse and Expedited Appeals
 - [OM 21-006](#)
- Temporary Rate Increase for NF, ICF, RC
 - [OM 21-008](#)
- New PASRR Vendor
 - [OM 21-0016](#)

HCBS Providers

- EVV Timeline Update
 - [OM 21-007](#) [OM 21-020](#)
- Changes to Benefits and Services Rates in Response to COVID-19
 - [OM 21-009](#)
- Operational changed to NEMT for COVID-19
 - [OM 21-012](#)
- Indiv. Service Addition to Day Hab. Svcs.
 - [OM 21-025](#)
- Changes to CDASS Criminal Barriers Crime List
 - [OM 21-027](#)
- Changes to HCBS Rates in Response to COVID-19
 - [OM 21-034](#)
- Updated Information re: to Day Pgm & Transpo Svcs in Response to COVID-19
 - [OM 21-037](#) [OM 21-042](#)
- EVV Claim Suspension for Non-Utilizing Providers
 - [OM 21-044](#)
- NMT & MCT Transfer of Oversight to HCPF
 - [OM 21-047](#)
- Updated Guidance on Day Habilitation Services in Response to COVID-19
 - [OM 21-048](#)
- Updated: Clarification on Res Hab Services and Supports, SCC and Community Connector
 - [OM 21-050](#) [OM 21-054](#)
- Operational Changes to NEMT
 - [OM 21-055](#)
- Update - Provision of Res Hab & SCC
 - [OM 21-062](#)
- Wage Pass-Through Post-Payment Reviews
 - [OM 21-063](#)
- HCBS Settings Final Rule - Use of Updated Documents
 - [OM 21-066](#)
- Wage Pass-Through - SB19-238 Reporting Tool
 - [OM 21-068](#)
- Resuming in-person inspections home mods & IRSS—host home settings
 - [OM 21-069](#)



Questions

Thank you!