



Home and Community- Based Services (HCBS) Spending Plan and Narrative

*Required by Section 9817 of the
American Rescue Plan Act*

July 15, 2021



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Agenda

- Requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act ((ARPA) Section 9817)
- Overview of initial spending plan
- Next steps and opportunities for input



Requirements of ARPA

- Federal guidance issued on May 13, 2021.
- States may claim enhanced federal matching funds (10% increase) for certain services.
 - Claiming period is from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.
- States must use state revenue savings attributable to enhanced funding to support, not supplant, activities that enhance or strengthen HCBS.
 - Spending period ends on March 31, 2024.
- Maintenance of effort applies during the spending period.
 - States may not be more restrictive in services, eligibility, or rates for HCBS.



Requirements of ARPA (cont.)

- To ensure the state is not supplanting, state funds can not be used for activities in place on April 1, 2021.
- States must submit a spending projection and narrative spending plan within 30 days of federal guidance.
 - 30-day extension option.
- Narrative plan must describe how the state will enhance or strengthen HCBS for each activity.
 - Include how the state intends to sustain activities after the spending period ends.



Texas Spending Plan

- Submitted Monday, July 12.
- Contains request to draw enhanced funding for a subset of services.
 - 1915(c) waiver program services.
 - The portion of the capitation attributable to HCBS services in managed care.
- Activities described in three categories.
 - Provider Support
 - Recipient Support
 - Enhance and Strengthen HCBS Infrastructure
- Plan is contingent on CMS providing clarification



Provider Support

- Provider retention bonuses- one-time financial compensation in fee-for-service and managed care.
- Enhance technology functionality and automate reporting for waiver providers.
- Enhance the long-term care portal to allow submission of documentation through portal (rather than email/fax).
- Develop interfaces between Local IDD Authorities and the long-term care portal.
- Provide technical assistance, technology and training for providers of mental health services in HCBS.



Recipient Support

- Provide individualized skills and socialization (ISS) to replace day habilitation in waiver programs.
- Serve an additional 1,549 Texans in HCBS waiver programs.
- Expand and evaluate pilot delivering outpatient mental health services to Texans with co-occurring IDD and mental health needs.
- Assess needs of Texans on waiver program interest lists and develop a public facing interest list portal.
- Enhance the “no wrong door” system.
- Implement information campaign to support caregivers.



Enhance and Strengthen Infrastructure

- Build provider registry to enhance oversight of ISS.
- Build technology infrastructure for the STAR+PLUS pilot.
- Strengthen consumer directed services with computer-based training.
- Digitize and modernize provider oversight tools to increase efficiency.
- Mitigate the public health emergency's impact on provider oversight activities.
- Enhance portal to support diversion and transition from nursing facilities.



Enhance and Strengthen Infrastructure (cont.)

- Evaluate and assess:
 - Compliance with federal HCBS settings regulations.
 - HCBS Adult Mental Health program
 - Availability of transportation services in HCBS and barriers to access.
- Obtain project management assistance to implement plan.



Next Steps

- Received CMS acknowledgement of plan submission on July 13 and waiting for feedback.
- Waiting for clarification about the requirements described in CMS guidance.
 - Texas will not claim enhanced funding or begin activities until clarification is received and the spending plan is approved.



Stakeholder Engagement

- Discussed at the Executive Council meeting in June and other advisory committee meetings.
- Received stakeholder emails and letters which informed the plan.
- Accepting recommendations or feedback about operationalizing the plan.
- Targeted stakeholder outreach related to specific activities.
- Send any questions or recommendations to the HCBS Mailbox: Medicaid_HCBS_Rule@hhsc.state.tx.us





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Thank You!
