

From: [PW_OLTL](#)
To: HOME-COMMUNITY-WAIVER-PRVDRS@listerv.dpw.state.pa.us
Subject: Payments to Strengthen the HCBS Workforce and Assist ADS Providers
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 2:54:52 PM

Payments to Strengthen the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Workforce and Assist Adult Day Services (ADS) Providers

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 HCBS. The funding must be used to enhance, expand, or strengthen HCBS.

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) outlined in its plan to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiatives to strengthen the workforce and assist ADS providers. The OLTL ARPA plan directs \$46.5 million to Personal Assistance Service (PAS), Community Integration (CI), and Residential Habilitation (Res Hab) providers to assist with recruitment and retention of direct care workers. The plan directs an additional \$13 million to ADS providers to strengthen ADS. To qualify for these payments, providers must have been in operation as of November 1, 2021.

OLTL sent letters to providers with details about the payments, including information about the approved use of and reporting on these funds. For reference, samples of the letters, a list of qualifying entities and payment amounts, and a blank copy of the Provider Attestation Form are available on the [DHS Long-Term Care Providers page](#) under the heading “American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.”

To receive a Strengthening the Workforce or Adult Day Services payment, providers must complete the OLTL Provider Attestation form and return it to HCBSPayments@pa.gov or fax it to the OLTL Bureau of Finance at 717.787.2145. Providers who return completed forms by January 7, 2022 will receive payment in February 2022.

Strengthening the Workforce Payments

- The total available for a one-time payment to PAS, Res Hab, and CI providers is \$46,500,000. Of that, \$44 million is allocated to PAS and CI, and \$2.5 million is allocated to Res Hab. Amounts allocated to providers in each category were based on fee-for-service claims and managed care encounters for services provided between July 1, 2020 and March ~~30~~31, 2021.
- To calculate each PAS and CI provider’s Strengthening the Workforce payment, OLTL first divided the \$44 million allocation by the total number of fee-for-service and managed care PAS and CI units billed between July 1, 2020 and March ~~30~~31, 2021 to determine a per unit amount. Each provider’s payment was

then calculated by multiplying the per unit amount by the provider's number of fee-for-service and managed care PAS and CI units billed during the same period.

- To calculate each Res Hab provider's Strengthening the Workforce payment, OLTL first divided the \$2.5 million allocation by the total number of fee-for-service and managed care Res Hab units billed between July 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 to determine a per unit amount. Each provider's payment was then calculated by multiplying the per unit amount by the provider's number of fee-for-service and managed care Res Hab units billed during the same period.

Strengthening ADS Payments

- The total funds available for a one-time payment to ADS providers is \$13 million. Amounts allocated to ADS providers were based on fee-for-service claims and managed care encounters for services provided between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.
- To calculate each ADS provider's Strengthening Adult Day Services payment, OLTL first divided the \$13 million allocation by the total number of fee-for-service and managed care ADS units billed between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 to determine a per unit amount. Each provider's payment was then calculated by multiplying the per unit amount by the provider's number of fee-for-service and managed care ADS units billed during the same period.

Acceptable Uses of ARPA Funding

ARPA funding must be used for things such as sign on bonuses, retention payments, COVID-19 related leave benefits and paid time off, vaccination incentives, or the purchase of personal protective equipment and testing supplies. Additionally, ADS providers can use the funding for retrofitting adult day centers, expenses to re-open the centers, and expenses to develop alternative models to provide ADS.

Providers that have questions about the information in this Listserv should contact the OLTL Provider Helpline at 1-800-932-0939.

A listserv has been established for ongoing updates on the CHC program. It is titled OLTL-COMMUNITY-HEALTHCHOICES, please visit the ListServ Archives page at <http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us> to update or register your email address.

Please share this email with other members of your organization as appropriate. Also, it is imperative that you notify the Office of Long-Term Living

for changes that would affect your provider file, such as addresses and telephone numbers. Mail to/pay to addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers may be updated electronically through ePEAP, which can be accessed through the PROMISe™ provider portal. For any other provider file changes please notify the Bureau of Fee for Service Programs Enrollment and Certification Section at 1-800-932-0939 Option # 1.