

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):

American Rescue Plan Act: One-Time Supplemental Payment to Address Staff Training, Credentialing, and Business Associates Programs for Employment **Announcement 22-031**

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 to address staff training, credentialing, and business associates programs for employment.

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.

As part of the Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) ARPA plan to strengthen HCBS, providers can receive a one-time supplemental payment to address staff training, credentialing, and business associates programs for employment. The following activities would be supported by this funding:

- Agency adoption of CMS core competency training for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- DSP National Association for Dual Diagnosis certifications
- Agency completion of National Association for Dual Diagnosis Accreditation
- Lifecourse Ambassador Series for individuals or agency hosting of the series.
- Providers are encouraged to be creative in their proposals with an eye towards the development of creating or enhancing career ladders for DSP's, portability, and expansion of a well-qualified workforce and employing the principles of Lifecourse.

Providers interested in applying will complete and submit the attached **Staff Training, Credentialing and Business Associates Programs for Employment Supplemental Payment Application** and submit via e-mail to Rick Smith at riesmit@pa.gov.

Applications will be accepted through **June 30, 2022**.

Funding may be requested up to 1% of ODP eligible service revenue from FY 2019-2020, FY 2020-2021 or \$100,000, whichever is greater.

Approval, Documentation, and Payment:

ODP will review all submissions and notify providers of approval of the project and amount. Providers will implement project plans and upon receipt of supporting documentation of expenses (i.e. paid invoices, accounting records), providers will be reimbursed for eligible expenses up to the approved amount. To assist with cash flow, providers may request up to two *progress payments* in addition to a *completion payment*; supporting documentation of expenses would be required for any 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. If a provider wishes to implement both DSP Training and a Business Associates program, two applications would be necessary; which is accommodated by the attached application.

Attachments:

- Office of Developmental Programs: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initiative Staff Training, Credentialing and Business Associates Programs for Employment Supplemental Payment Application