

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for Respite and
Family Driven Support Services
ODP Announcement 22-019 UPDATE**

AUDIENCE:

Individuals, Families, Administrative Entities (AEs)

PURPOSE:

To inform stakeholders of ARPA funds that are available to AEs to disperse in order to meet respite and/or the Family Driven Support Services (FDSS) needs of individuals on the waiting list who do not currently receive waiver funded services. This communication is intended to:

- Describe eligibility criteria for the use of these funds
- Describe eligible expenditures
- Describe responsibilities of counties in allocating funding
- Reporting requirements

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) dispersed funding to counties based on the number of registered individuals on Emergency PUNS who are not currently enrolled in an ODP waiver and are not receiving services. The intent of the funding is to address

short-term respite or family support needs. The ARPA funds are categorically allocated as “ARPA respite” and not subject to county match.

Eligible individuals will not be enrolled in an ODP waiver (Consolidated, Community Living, or Person/Family Directed Support [P/FDS] or the **Adult Autism Waiver [AAW]**) and meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Have an active PUNS in the Emergency category; or
- B. **Be experiencing a short-term emergency that ARPA FDSS will relieve but do not require their PUNS status to be updated.**

The AE should first reevaluate the individual’s status on PUNS and ensure the PUNS status does not need to be updated. If the emergency is short term in nature and does not require PUNS to be updated the ARPA FDSS can be utilized without the individual being placed on Emergency PUNS. The ARPA FDSS funds are to be used for individuals not enrolled in an ODP waiver.

An individual cap of \$2,000 per person has been set in order for AEs to serve as many individuals in need as possible.

Eligible expenses include services and supports as outlined in Chapter 6350.

ODP has created a QuestionPro tool for AEs to submit when they review requests for ARPA FDSS funds. The tool will help the AE determine whether the individual is eligible for ARPA FDSS funds or if the AE should use alternative funding options available for that individual.

The tool can be accessed [here](#).

ODP has created a spreadsheet for counties to submit on a quarterly basis to track spending.

The spreadsheet must be submitted to riesmit@pa.gov at the reporting schedule indicated below.

Reporting schedule is as follows:

<u>REPORTING PERIOD</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
February 11, 2022-February 29, 2022	March 15, 2022
March 1, 2022-June 30, 2022	July 15, 2022
July 1, 2022-October 31, 2022	November 15, 2022
November 1, 2022-February 28, 2023	March 15, 2023
March 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	July 15, 2023
July 1, 2023-October 31, 2023	November 15, 2023
November 1, 2023-February 29, 2024	March 15, 2024
March 1, 2024-March 31, 2024	April 15, 2024

CONTACT:

For questions about the use of funds or submission of quarterly reporting please contact Lauren House(LAUHOUSE@PA.GOV).

ATTACHMENTS:

Tracking Spreadsheet

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) County Allocation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)