

Reminder- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Improvement Funding Opportunity Now Available

The Department of Human Services (Department) Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) has developed a funding opportunity under an approved HCBS spending plan that will provide American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to HCBS providers to strengthen HCBS. The purpose of the funding opportunity is for the implementation of quality improvement projects by HCBS providers to improve the services available to HCBS participants through the Community HealthChoices (CHC) and OBRA 1915(c) waivers. More specifically, this funding opportunity is focused on supplementing activities in a manner that improves and strengthens the quality of HCBS services. The use of the ARPA funding, however, is limited to those activities that supplement HCBS services rather than supplant the existing services.

The Department will provide funding of up to \$40,000 per approved request submission to qualified providers to help HCBS providers implement projects to improve the quality of services provided to individuals in the CHC and the OBRA waiver programs. The Department will approve funding on a one-time basis to each qualified provider. The Department will review and approve submissions in the order in which they are received until the total funding allocated has been exhausted. Funding will only be provided for the following improvement projects:

- Supplemental activities to address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). For example, SDOH activities may include:
- Activities to address affordable and accessible housing (rent and room and board are not allowable expenditures under this funding opportunity)
- Activities to improve access to competitive integrated employment for participants. This may include access to benefits counseling, or remote technology to support employment.
- Activities to improve or enhance transportation for CHC and OBRA participants
- Activities to improve food insecurities for participants
- Purchase of remote support technology by providers. This can include provider technology initiatives that improve service transparency and quality assurance, such as providing direct care workers with access to tablets and software that support in-home documentation of participant conditions and other related care needs.
- Payment for the development and implementation of enhanced training for direct care workers, Medical Assistance (MA) providers or both. This may include enhanced training on infection control practices, which can include the development of videos and on-line modules to address best practices in infection control. This may also include training for professional development. For

example, this funding may be used to promote training or coursework related to the professional advancement or development for direct care workers.

- Purchase and implementation of new software and technology for electronic health records, or quality or risk management functions. This includes funding for providers to contract with a Health Information Organization. Having access to electronic health care records enables HCBS providers to connect with local hospitals and physicians and ensure real time communication between the HCBS provider and the participant's medical providers.

Please see the attached Funding Opportunity document for more information and for the HCBS Quality Incentive Funding Request Form. The document is also available on the Department's [Long-Term Care Providers](#) web page under the heading "Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Improvement Funding Opportunity."

If you have any questions about this message, please send them to the OLTL HCBS Opportunities resource account at RA-PWOLTLHCBSOpportunities@pa.gov.