

American Rescue Plan Act: Medicaid HCBS Grants Opportunity

Round 2

February 2023

Introduction and Overview

Introductions



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Lead
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GrantsConnect Lead

Webinar Overview

- Introduction and overview
- Grant opportunity
- GrantsConnect application process
- Questions and next steps

Webinar Objectives

Participants in today's webinar will:

- Understand the purpose of the grant program
- Learn how to apply for a grant

Poll Question

Did you apply for the Medicaid HCBS Grants Opportunity in Round 1?

- Yes
- No

PCG Responsibilities

DHS is partnering with PCG to administer this grant program.

PCG's responsibilities include:

- Conducting outreach to applicants if additional information is needed regarding an application
- Sending communication regarding the application
- Relaying award notifications
- Providing support to applicants
- Disbursing payments

Grant Opportunity

Background

- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides qualifying states with federal funding for certain Medicaid activities for HCBS.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is investing a portion of the ARPA federal funds to implement a grant program to support a wide range of activities to enhance and improve HCBS across our state.

Goal and Guiding Principles

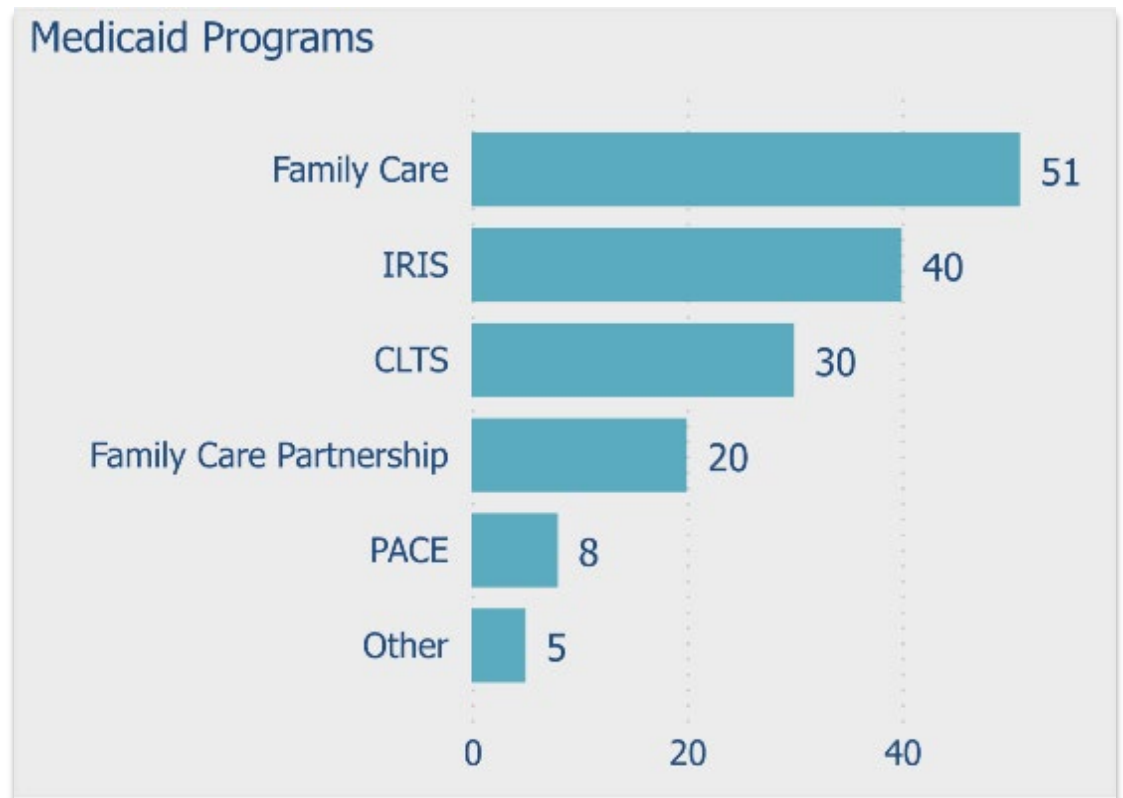
Goal: To provide funds to enhance, improve, and strengthen HCBS in Wisconsin.

Guiding Principles

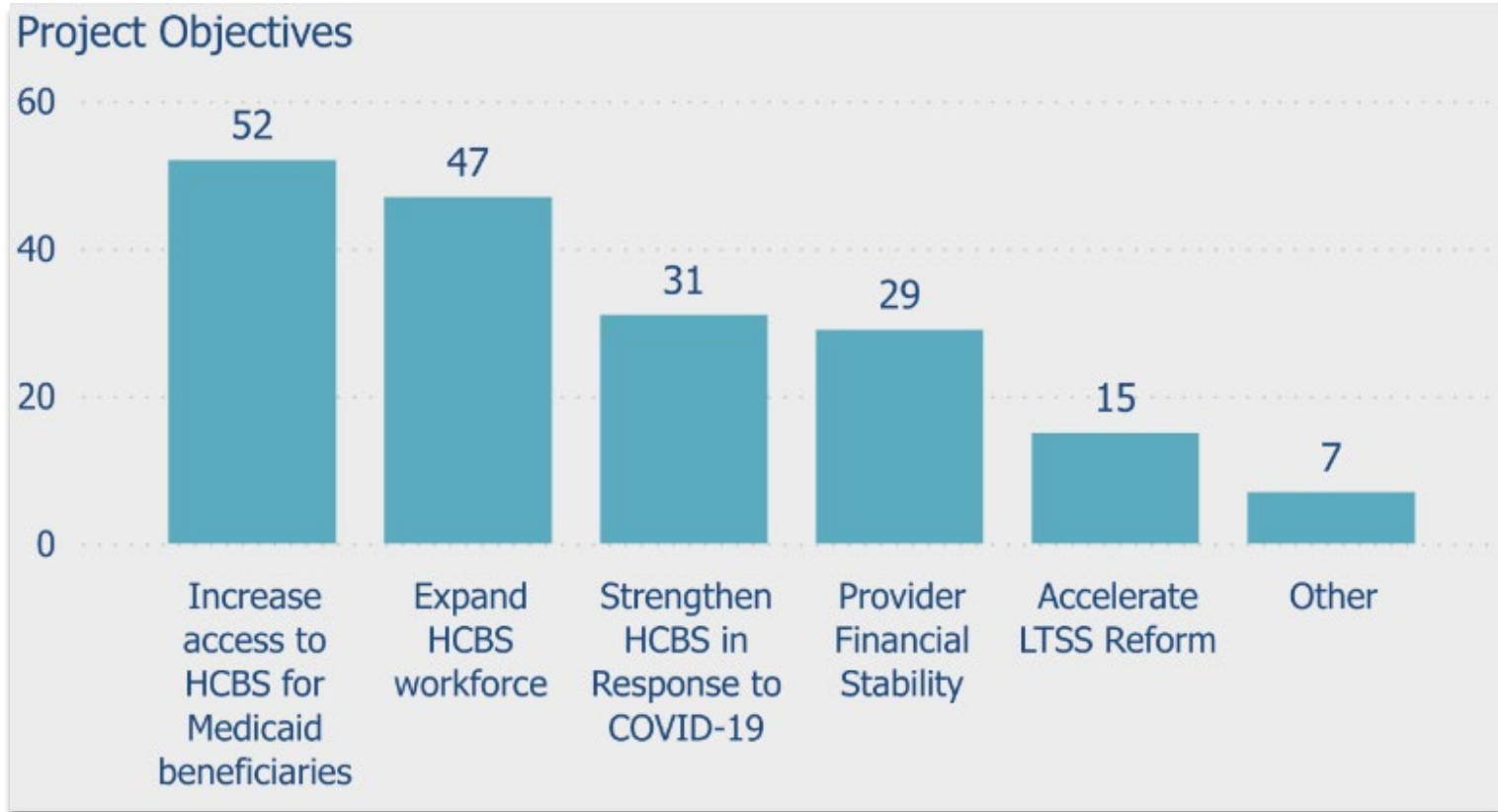
- Provide grants across our Medicaid HCBS programs
 - Children's Long-Term Support Program
 - Family Care
 - Family Care Partnership
 - IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct)
 - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Distribute funds geographically across the state in both rural and urban areas
- Support a diversity of organizations and serve a diversity of populations

Round 1 Summary

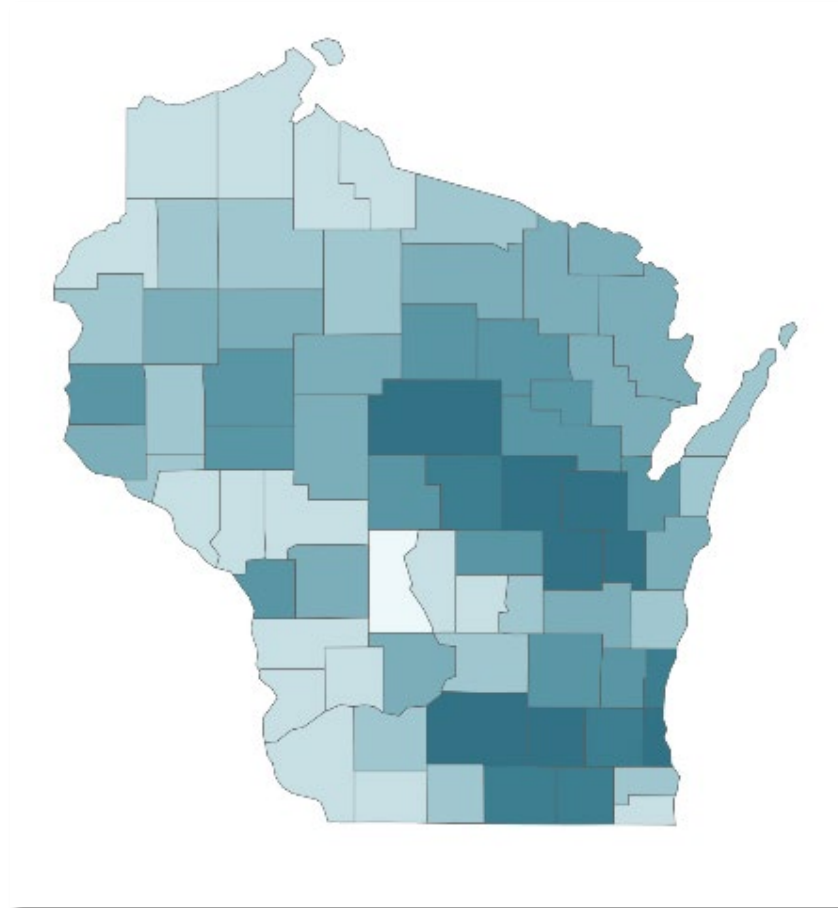
- 717 applications submitted requesting over \$200 million in funding
- **\$17.3 million** awarded to **69 applicants** across Wisconsin



Round 1 Summary Continued



Round 1 Summary Continued



There were grant awardees in all 72 counties across Wisconsin

What Changed from Round 1?

- Funding maximum: decreased from \$2 million to \$1 million.
- Eligible applications not funded in Round 1 can be resubmitted. Original information will remain intact. Applicants can update fields to strengthen their application.
- Application limit: two (2) applications per entity.
- Applicants may upload community letters of support.
- Additional guidance has been developed about project eligibility, including supplanting Medicaid HCBS funds.
- New demographic questions, including provider size and type.

Eligibility

Project eligibility is based on guidance issued by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) in the CMS State Medicaid Director's Letter. Applicants are encouraged to review this letter to learn more about which projects are eligible. Of note:

- **Appendix C** (*page 19*) contains examples of Activities to Support State COVID-Related HCBS Needs
- **Appendix D** (*page 22*) contains examples Activities to Support State HCBS Capacity Building and LTSS Rebalancing Reform.

Eligibility

States must use the federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP **to supplement, not supplant**, existing state funds expended for Medicaid HCBS. Examples of supplementing and supplanting from the WI DHS ARPA HCBS grant FAQ are included below:

- **Supplementing:** Using grant funds to provide an incentive payment to recruit and retain direct care staff. The incentive payment is an addition to their current wage billed to and funded by Medicaid HCBS. This is allowable with grant funds.
- **Supplanting:** Using grant funds to pay direct care staff wages instead of billing them to and having them funded by Medicaid HCBS. This is not allowable with grant funds.

Eligibility

In addition to the guidance provided in the CMS letter, the following types of projects are considered **ineligible** per federal or DHS guidance:

- Building projects
- Room and board, including food
- Tickets for community activities
- Required training for direct care staff
- Capital expenditures
- Projects not focused on Medicaid HCBS
- Therapies currently covered through the CLTS Program (animal, aquatic, expressive, movement, and specialized medical and therapeutical supplies)
- Wages for direct care staff

Eligible Projects

Allowable grant applications may:

Support organizations and providers as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deliver specialized training for direct care workers and managers.

Help individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other significant disabilities find and retain work.

Improve person-centered planning and implementation.

Increase specialized care, services, and engagement for people with disabilities.

Expand the use of technology and telehealth.

Reduce disparities and improve access to a diverse and culturally competent pool of HCBS providers.

Develop innovative ideas to improve HCBS.

Support quality initiatives that improve services and supports and increase community engagement.

Project Guidance

If your project is duplicative of one of DHS' nine ARPA initiatives, it will likely not be awarded grant funding.

Background: Wisconsin's commitment to home and community-based services (HCBS) received a boost, thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). An estimated \$350 million in federal funding will help state residents who are elderly or have a disability receive much-needed services to allow them to live as independently as possible. This new funding supports improvements to Wisconsin's HCBS programs that are unique to the needs and priorities of our residents. Nine strategic initiatives led by DHS and funded by ARPA represent much-needed investments to help our most vulnerable state citizens live their best lives and can be found on the DHS website.

Who Can Apply?

To apply, you must be one of the following:

- A Medicaid-enrolled provider whose work supports HCBS participants
- An MCO active with HCBS programs in Wisconsin
- An IRIS consultant agency
- A university whose work supports HCBS providers or participants
- An advocacy agency whose work supports HCBS participants
- An association whose membership comprises HCBS providers
- A local government agency whose work supports HCBS providers or participants

The following provider types are allowed to apply for this grant:

- Assisted living (community based residential facility (CBRF))
- Residential care apartment complex (RCAC)
- Adult family home
- Personal care agency
- Supportive home care agency
- Home health agency
- Pre-vocational provider
- Supported employment provider

Applicant Partnerships

- Entities not covered on the prior slide may partner with an allowable applicant.
- For partnerships, the allowable applicant must be the lead entity, complete the application, and complete any required follow up information (for example, uploading W-9 information) for the project.

Focus Populations

Grant funds must benefit individuals or family members of individuals participating in a Wisconsin Medicaid HCBS program or a service provider (or employee of a service provider) of a Wisconsin Medicaid HCBS program.

Children's Long-Term Support

Family Care

Family Care Partnership

IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct)

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Funding

Total Available Funding: \$30 million (~\$15 million per round)

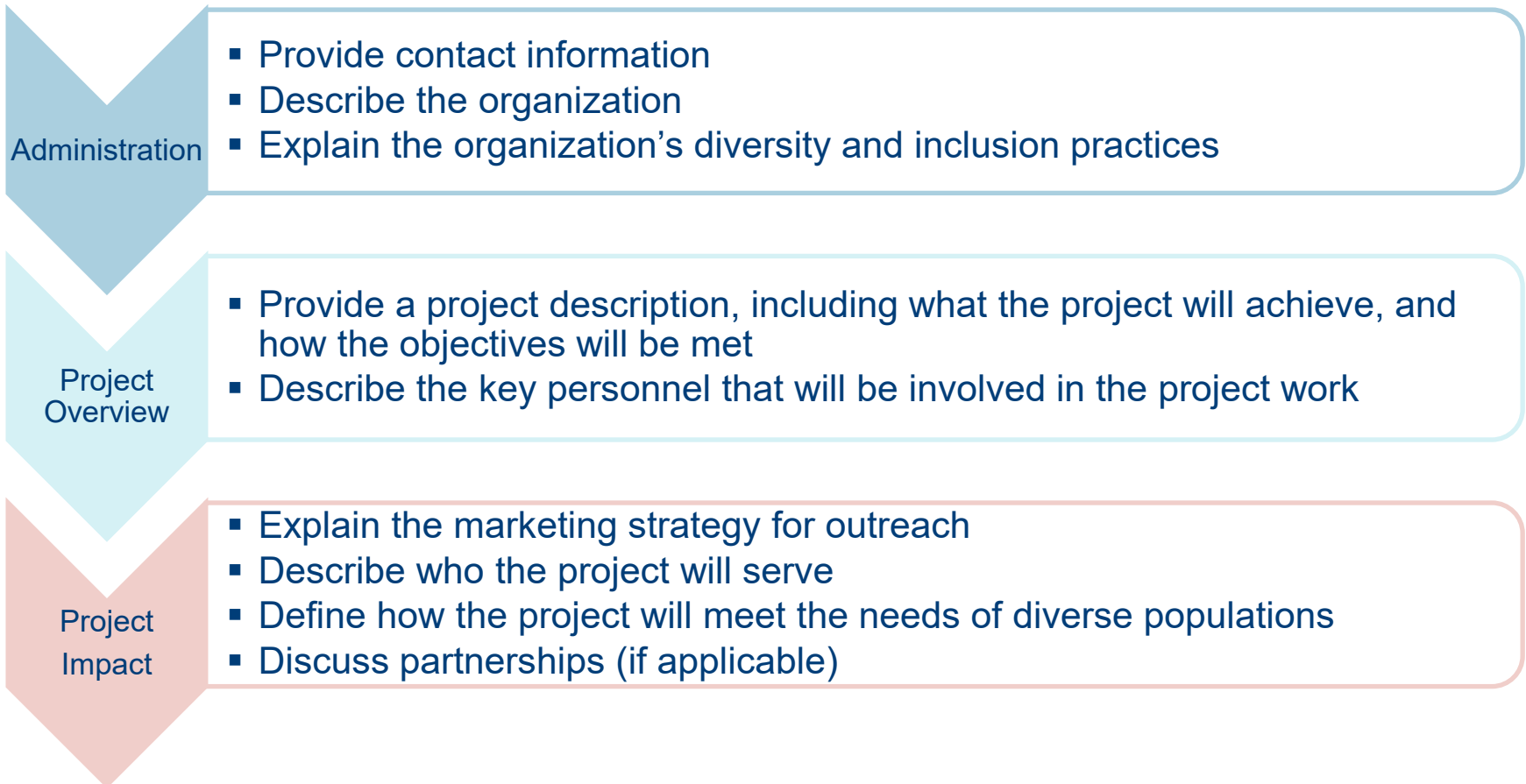
Total Rounds of Funding: 2

Grant Amounts: \$25,000 to \$1,000,000

- If awarded, applicants will receive the full amount they requested.
- If a requested budget is too high for the proposed project, the project may be rejected.
- Applications can not be partially accepted
- Applicants can submit up to two (2) applications, provided each application is for a different project.
- Each organization should only apply for their highest priority projects. Each application should contain one project for the highest likelihood of being selected for funding.

Application Requirements (1 of 2)

A complete application package will:



Application Requirements (2 of 2)

Timeline

- Provide a detailed project timeline including specific dates, key milestones, and deliverables.

Budget

- Provide the total project cost, duration, and a detailed budget.

Evaluation

- Complete a logic model that illustrates how the project will be designed, implemented, and analyzed.

Attestation

- Agree to follow all contract attestations.

Scoring Methodology

Section	Total Points Available
Administration	5
Project Overview	25
Project Impact	30
Timeline	5
Budget	20
Evaluation	15
Extra Credit	25
Attestations	Pass/fail
Total	125

Timeline

Activity	Date
Informational Sessions	February 14 at 9-10 a.m. CST February 16 at 3-4 p.m. CST
Virtual Office Hours	February 22 – March 15, Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. CST
Application Released	February 21
Application Closed	March 21 at 5 p.m. CST
Award Notifications Sent	By June 30, 2023
Awardee Completes Award Notification Packet	Within 10 days of award notification
Awardee Receives First Payment	Approximately one week after award notification packet is complete

GrantsConnect Application Process

GrantsConnect Overview

- Applications are submitted through GrantsConnect
- GrantsConnect is an online application portal that requires the creation of an account

Getting Started

- We recommend you bookmark the link for future use.
- If needed, you may translate the page into Spanish.
- You are required to sign up for a GrantsConnect account.

English (American) ▾

Sign in Sign up

ENTER YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS BELOW

Email address

Password

Remember me

Sign in

Resend account verification email...

Forgot your password?

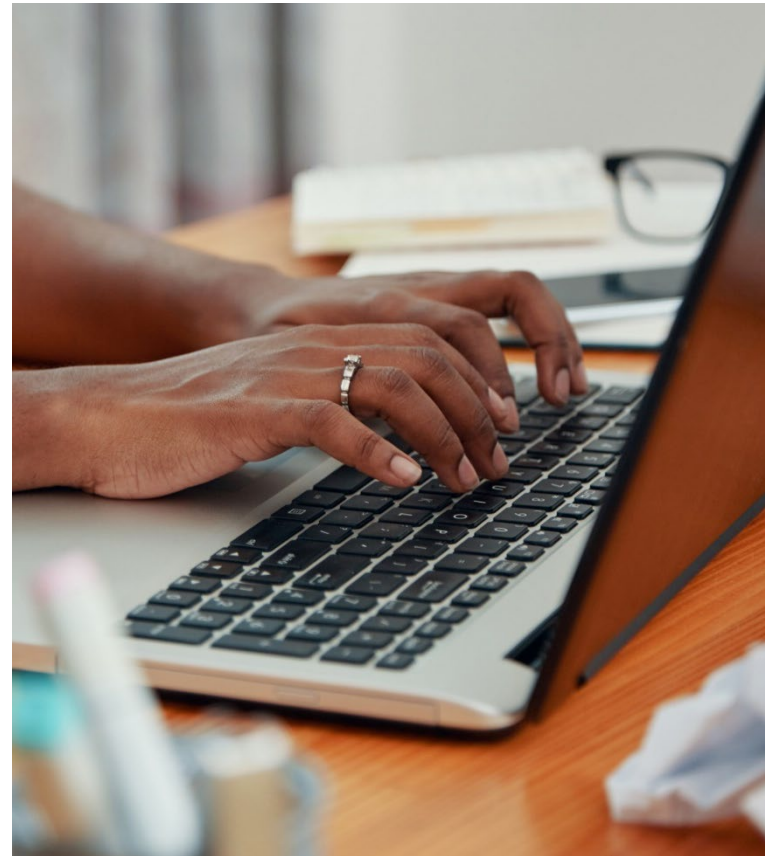
Powered by: YourCause

Need assistance? [Email](#) [Live chat](#)

Password Creation

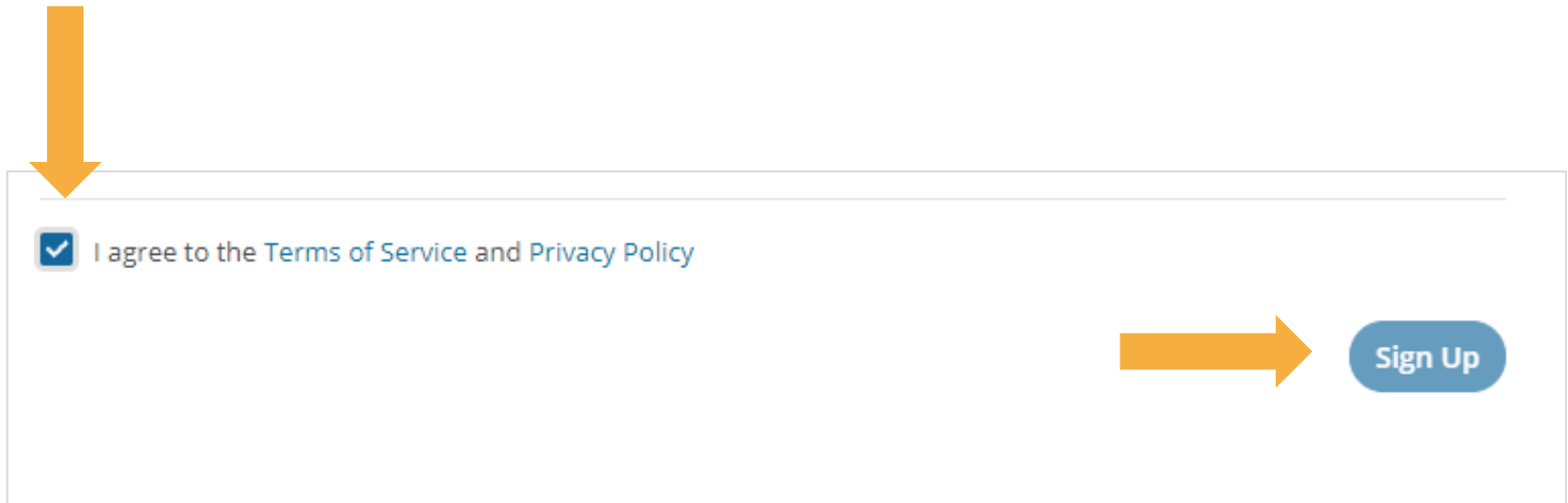
Your password must:

- Be at least 12 characters long
- Contain at least one symbol
- Contain uppercase and lowercase letters
- Contain at least one number



Account Finalization

- Accept the “Terms of Service” and “Privacy Policy.”
- Select “Sign up” at the bottom of the registration page.




A screenshot of a registration form. A large orange arrow points down from the top of the slide to the checkbox. The checkbox is checked and is followed by the text "I agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy". To the right of the checkbox is a blue rounded button with the text "Sign Up". A horizontal orange arrow points from the checkbox area towards the "Sign Up" button.

Account Confirmation (1 of 2)

- You will receive an email from PCG and YourCause LLC welcoming you to GrantsConnect. This confirmation email will contain a link to activate your account.
- If you don't get this email:
 - Check your junk or spam folder.
 - Select “Resend account verification email” on the sign-up screen.

Account Confirmation (2 of 2)



Welcome to GrantsConnect

Dear RI Test,

Your account has been created in the YourCause GrantsConnect applicant portal. Click the button below to confirm your email and log in to the applicant portal.


***Please note this email expires in 24 hours. If you missed that window, you can request the email be resent using the button below.**

Sincerely,
GrantsConnect Support

[Get Started](#)

English (American) ▾

Sign in Sign up



ENTER YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS BELOW

Email address
hwells@pcgus.com


Password
.....

Remember me

[Sign in](#)

[Resend account verification email...](#)

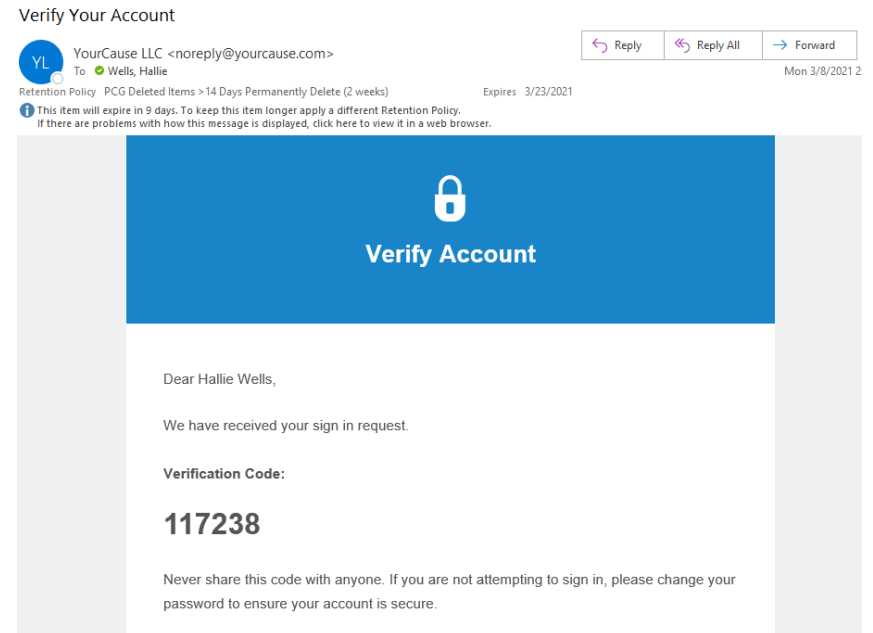
[Forgot your password?](#)

Powered by:  YourCause

Need assistance? [Email](#)

Account Verification

- Securely confirm the appropriate person is accessing your account.
- Verify your identity when first signing in.
- Enter the 6-digit code from email and “Sign in.”
- Select “Remember me on this computer” for easy future access.



Post-Award Information

Award Notification Packet

If an applicant is selected for an award, they will be notified via email. Grantees will be asked to log in to their GrantsConnect account and complete the Award Notification Packet, which includes:

- Signing and uploading the Grant Agreement Form
- Submitting W9 information
- Providing banking information

Applicants have **10 days** to complete the Award Notification Packet. This must be completed before a grantee can receive grant funds.

Fund Disbursement

Funding will be dispersed in two windows.

1. The first half will be disbursed within one week after the applicant accepts and uploads the additional required documents.



2. The second half will be disbursed after most of the initial payment has been spent and milestones have been submitted to and approved by DHS.

Quarterly Report

Grantees will also be required to **submit quarterly reports through GrantsConnect to DHS**. These reports will require grantees to report on the following:

- Outcomes that have been accomplished
- Milestones that are accomplished, in progress, or not started
- Activities that still need to be accomplished
- Changes to the original proposal, if applicable
- Budget showing how funds have been utilized to date
- Projected budget showing how funds are planned to be spent in the future

Questions and Next Steps

Questions



Poll Question

How likely are you to apply for this grant?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unsure
- Unlikely
- Highly unlikely

Next Steps

- Complete an application by March 20, 2023.
- Contact PCG if you have any questions:
GrantsWIARPAHCBS@pcgus.com.

Additional Resources

- Visit the [ARPA HCBS Grant Opportunities](#) page on the DHS website (find a program overview, FAQs, application instructions, and more).
- Read the [CMS Implementation of American Rescue Plan Act Medicaid Director's Letter](#).



Thank you!