

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) HCBS Grants

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides qualifying states with federal funding for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) activities. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is investing some of these federal funds to implement a statewide HCBS grant program. The program goal is to enhance, improve, and strengthen HCBS in Wisconsin.



Grants may be used to:

- Support organizations and providers with workforce training and service delivery improvements as they recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Develop and implement 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 individuals with dementia, autism, children's long-term care needs, or persons with other disabilities.
- Expand the use of technology and telehealth by assisting HCBS providers with supplies and equipment.
- Reduce disparities and improve access to a diverse and culturally competent pool of HCBS providers.
- Develop innovative ideas to improve HCBS.
- Prepare educational materials—on public health and other topics—in accessible formats for individuals receiving HCBS.
- Promote access to technology to facilitate human connection for individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS and their caregivers.
- Support quality initiatives that improve services and supports, and increase community engagement.
- Fund recruitment and retention activities for direct service workers of Medicaid HCBS providers.
- Purchase personal protective equipment and routine COVID-19 tests for direct service workers of Medicaid HCBS providers and people receiving Medicaid HCBS.



Applicant Eligibility

The applicant can be any of the following:

- A provider whose work supports HCBS participants. Eligible provider types include:
 - Community based residential facility (CBRF)
 - Residential care apartment complex (RCAC)
 - Adult family home (AFH)
 - Personal care agency
 - Supportive home care agency
 - Home health agency
 - Pre-vocational agency
 - Supported employment agency
- A managed care organization (MCO) active with HCBS programs in Wisconsin
- An IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) 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

Entities not listed above may partner with an eligible applicant. The allowable applicant must be the lead entity and complete the application and any required follow-up information.



Project Eligibility

Project eligibility is based on guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the [CMS State Medicaid Director's Letter](#). Review this letter to see 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
- States must use federal ARPA funds to supplement, not supplant, state Medicaid HCBS spending.



Grant Goals and Focus Populations

Applications must have a goal of enhancing, expanding, or strengthening HCBS. Grants must benefit individuals or family members of individuals participating in a Wisconsin HCBS program or a service provider (or employee of a service provider) of a Wisconsin HCBS program.

- Children’s Long-Term Support
- Family Care
- Family Care Partnership
- IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct)
- Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)



Timeline & Key Dates

Activity	Date
Informational Sessions	February 14 at 9-10 a.m. CST and February 16 from 3-4 p.m. CST
Virtual Office Hours	February 22-March 15, Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. CST
Application Released	February 21
Application Closed	March 21 at 5:00 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

The second payment disbursement takes place after the grantee completes their milestones and spends most of their first payment.

For the most up-to-date information about the grants and updated timelines, check the [Medicaid HCBS Grants Supporting Quality and Innovation webpage](#).



Funding

DHS is investing \$15 million for the ARPA HCBS Grants Opportunity. Grant amounts will vary from \$25,000 to \$1 million.



Application Requirements & Scoring

Through a competitive process, DHS will select awardees based on the quality and scope of their application. Applicants are limited to two applications. The ARPA HCBS Grants Opportunity requirements and scoring system is below. For more information about how the application is scored, review the scoring criteria on the DHS ARPA Grants Opportunity website.

Section	Requirements	Weighting
Section 1: Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact information • Description of organization and diversity and inclusion practices 	5%
Section 2: Project Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description • What the project will achieve • How the objectives will be met • Key personnel that will be involved in the project work 	25%
Section 3: Project Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing strategy for outreach • Who the project will serve • How the project will meet the needs of diverse populations • Partnerships, if applicable 	30%
Section 4: Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed project timeline, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific dates - Key milestones - Deliverables 	5%
Section 5: Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total project cost • Duration • Detailed budget 	20%
Section 6: Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic model that illustrates how the project will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed - Implemented - Analyzed 	15%
Section 7: Attestations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to follow the described attestations 	Pass/Fail
Extra Credit	<p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor’s budget or task force priority • Diversity in leadership • Sustainability • Benefit to diverse populations • Innovation • Covers under-represented program or geographic area 	Up to 5 points per questions
Total		100%

Post-Award Requirements

Once an application is approved, DHS will send an Award Notification Packet to the applicant. The applicant will have 10 days to sign and upload the Grant Agreement form, the W-9 form, and banking information into GrantsConnect. This deadline will be listed in the Awards Notification packet.

Awardees who receive funding must document how they used the awarded funds. The awardee will need to maintain documentation sufficient to demonstrate spent costs have enhanced, expanded, or strengthened HCBS. DHS may perform an audit to ensure the funds were used solely for the purposes of this grant. In addition, the awardee will need to document measures to show the success of the grant and submit the outcomes to DHS. Awardees will submit all information in quarterly reports with supporting documentation (for example, receipts) to DHS.



Need Help?

If you need assistance with your application, you may contact our help desk Monday through Friday from 8-4:30 Central Time at the email and phone number below:

GrantsWIARPAHCBS@pcgus.com

833-660-2499

From February 22 through March 15, 2023, we will hold virtual office hours on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. Central Time to answer questions about the grant process.

[Join virtual office hours on Microsoft Teams](#) when office hours are open.