



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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The Honorable John Carney,
Governor

John McNeal, Director
SCPD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 2021

TO: Mr. Stephen Groff, Director
Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Thank you for the opportunity for the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) to provide input regarding Delaware's plan to utilize a 10 % increase in federal matching funds for HCBS. As you know, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress provided a temporary 10% increase in the federal matching on Medicaid (HCBS). In order to claim this enhanced federal funding, Delaware must develop a detailed spending plan for reinvesting these dollars to enhance, expand or strengthen HCBS in a manner that is sustainable after this enhanced funding ends. While there are many vital areas Delaware could address, SCPD has the following recommendations.

Expand workforce infrastructure for all HCBS settings. This should include enabling family members to be paid for providing care. Additionally, it is crucial to address private duty nurse and home health aide (HHA) shortages that lead to avoidable hospitalizations/extended hospitalizations and institutionalization, caretaker burnout, unemployment, financial distress and disruptions in education of children with disabilities. Finally, increasing the wages for the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and attendant care providers who work with people with disabilities in the community, and enhancing the training and support available to DSPs and attendants working with populations with specialized needs would help to address frequent turnover in these positions and improve quality of services and care. Finally, consider a plan to recruit and train persons with disabilities to become personal care attendants.

Enhance funding for direct supported employment and long-term employment supports in work settings so that individuals with disabilities can work successfully in the community if desired. In particular, focus on individuals impacted by the recent passage of HB 122 (which phases out payment of subminimum wages) who desire to transition to competitive integrated employment but require substantial support.

Develop additional and enhance current HCBS options in all areas (e.g. housing, healthcare, DSP support and employment) for persons with more “unique” needs such as individuals with brain injuries who have a varied spectrum of mental, developmental and/or physical disabilities. This population has historically been underserved and is also severely lacking in post-acute follow up. In addition, providing a consumer-friendly navigation system to access such services could be much improved.

Increase access to integrated, accessible and affordable community housing and support programs for persons with disabilities. SCPD encourages investment in developing housing options to address long waiting lists for community-based supports and independent housing for individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our recommendations for utilizing the increase in FMAP funding.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council