



Medicaid e-News

Medicaid news for members, providers and stakeholders.



Feedback Requested for Iowa Medicaid's American Rescue Plan Act Funds

On March 11, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of which provides qualifying states with a temporary increase in federal funding for certain Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. Under ARPA, states can implement a variety of activities using this funding, including enhancements to HCBS services, eligibility, infrastructure, and reimbursement methodologies, to enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid HCBS.

The time-period allowed to expend funds attributable to the increased federal funding will provide Iowa with sufficient time to design and implement short-term and sustainable activities to strengthen the HCBS program in the state.

Due to the specific needs of the Iowa program, the Department is soliciting ideas from the public for strategies to improve the quality and access to Medicaid HCBS utilizing the following three levers:

- **Increased Training and Support** HCBS providers work diligently to provide comprehensive training to their staff, however there may be spaces in which training is needed to provide more specialized care and expand services to individuals with more complex needs. Training can be challenging to find and expensive for provider agencies to seek out individually. Investment in a

statewide training system may provide consistent, innovative, and more efficient training opportunities to staff in all areas of the state and across provider types.

- **Expanded Access** Provider and service access across the state can be a barrier for a number of reasons. Providers may be willing to expand services geographically or enhance services for those individuals with complex or specialized needs but lack the up-front investments and resources needed to do so. Utilizing this funding to invest in sustainable provider expansion is critical at a time where need is increasing.
- **Workforce Support** While workforce is a substantial concern for a number of sectors, this is an area of particular concern for HCBS providers across the state that has only been made worse by the pandemic. Investing in meaningful and sustainable solutions to attracting and retaining individuals to the important work of HCBS is critical.

The Department is requesting feedback from the public for strategies to improve the quality and access to Medicaid HCBS utilizing the three levers listed above.

Please provide feedback by Wednesday, July 7, 2021,
to IMECOVID19@dhs.state.ia.us.

Additionally, the Department will hold a virtual town hall on **Thursday, July 8, 2021, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** to discuss strategies to improve HCBS. Those interested in attending the meeting can register [online](#). Meeting details will be emailed to registered guests the day of the meeting.

EVV Update for Assisted Living Facilities and Residential Care Facilities

On June 18, 2021, the Department of Human Services (DHS) issued [Informational Letter 2239-MC](#) which gave clarification regarding Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) and Residential Care Facilities (RCFs).

EVV will be optional for all personal care services provided by ALF and RCF shift workers. ALF and RCF providers must complete an [attestation](#) identifying their exemption status with the IME **by July 31, 2021**, and annually via the provider self-assessment thereafter. Failure to comply with the attestation requirement may result in disenrollment, sanction, termination, recoupment of funds, and/or liability under Iowa Code chapter 685 or other federal and state law and regulations.

EVV implementation for ALF and RCF providers who use non-shift workers for personal care services are required to use EVV beginning August 1, 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced new COVID-19 vaccine information and resources.

Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)

The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) connects callers to information about how to access the COVID-19 vaccine and related supports for people with disabilities. [DIAL](#) connects callers to vaccine sites and provides information related to barriers to vaccination by referring callers to local and national disability resources. For more information, see act.gov/DIAL.

We Can Do This Campaign

The HHS [We Can Do This](#) campaign is a national initiative working hand in hand with trusted leaders and community organizations to continue to build confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and get more people vaccinated. This campaign offers tailored resources and toolkits for stakeholders to use to provide COVID-19 vaccine information to at-risk populations.

Public Notices

The following public notices have recently been posted on the DHS website:

[Public Comment Period for Requirements for Collection of Estate Recovery](#) (Comments Due July 21, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Pharmacy Dispensing Fee Rate and Reimbursement Methodology for Covered Outpatient Drugs](#) (Comments Due July 22, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Medicaid Home Health Low Utilization Payment Adjustment \(LUPA\) Rates](#) (Comments Due July 26, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Medicaid Payment Rates for Nursing Facilities](#) (Comments Due July 26, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Medicaid Payment Rates for Air Ambulance Services](#)(Comments Due July 28, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Iowa State-Owned Acute Care Teaching Hospital Disproportionate Share Hospital \(DSH\) Payments](#) (Comments Due July 29, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for Medicaid Payment Rates for Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children \(PMIC\)](#) (Comments Due July 29, 2021)

[Public Comment Period for State Plan Amendment \(SPA\) 1915\(i\) HCBS Habilitation](#)(Comments Due July 29, 2021)

Success Story



MCNA Dental Smile Tour

MCNA Dental is hitting the road this summer with the Smile Tour.

The Smile Tour has visited Des Moines, Indianola, Fort Dodge, and Story City already and has many more stops planned across the state this summer.

The goal of the Smile Tour is to educate and excite kids and their families about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, especially oral health.

For more information, and tour stops, visit MCNA's [website](#).

IA Health Link Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Amerigroup Iowa](#)

1-800-600-4441

[Iowa Total Care](#)

1-833-404-1061

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Amerigroup Iowa](#)

1-800-454-3730

[Iowa Total Care](#)

1-833-404-1061

Dental Wellness Plan Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Delta Dental of Iowa](#)

1-888-472-2793

[MCNA Dental](#)

1-855-247-6262

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Delta Dental of Iowa](#)

1-888-472-1205

[MCNA Dental](#)

1-855-856-6262

Iowa Medicaid Contacts

MEMBER SERVICES

[Iowa Medicaid Member Services](#)

1-800-338-8366

PROVIDER SERVICES

[Iowa Medicaid Provider Services](#)

1-800-338-7909

IA Health Link Success Stories

IA Health Link is a managed care program that works to make sure members get the health care they need. Click the image at the right to read IA Health Link success stories.

